

**CLASS
CONFLICT
IN ITALY**



KARL WALTER

first years of political unity, through Anarchism, Socialism and Syndicalism, the author having taken part in the movement in those days, living among the workers there, as he is to-day. In a detailed description of the later evolution and constitution of the workers' organisations, he attributes the present changes taking place in the Fascist regime to a continuance of the revolutionary impetus in them which is making them the foundations of a co-operative trade union state.

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THE CLASS CONFLICT IN ITALY

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BY
KARL WALTER

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Much that one people called good, another called scorn
and dishonour; thus I found it . . .

Keep your eye pure from their FOR and AGAINST!

Thus spake ZARATHUSTRA.

Ever men say: Here lies the ³ truth; there lies the truth—
Take this, cast that aside . . .

Yet I feel that in the end I must accept all,
And shall be content with nothing less than all.

EDWARD CARPENTER.

For myself, I do not believe overmuch in these ideals;
but I do not exclude them; for I do not exclude anything.

BENITO MUSSOLINI.

FOREWORD

THIS work was prompted by George Lansbury's visit to Rome last year, the first gesture of goodwill and faith in the Italian people to come from English labour quarters in many years. It seemed to indicate that the time was ripe for an account of what labour has been doing here, meanwhile, behind the hate-screen of anti-ideologies. My qualification for undertaking it is that of a resident in the country, and among labouring people, during several years under both past and present regimes. My interest in reporting their social and political movements dates from 1904, when it was stimulated by such visitors as Grinling of Woolwich, Keir Hardie, and Edward Carpenter, here in our home in this picturesque slum to which we returned after an interval of some years in America and England. I wish to express my gratitude to many Italian friends, old and new, Fascist and otherwise, who have helped me in these recent years to renew my intimacy with their people and my faith in their democratic genius, and especially to Odon Por, veteran comrade of many social experiences.

K. W.

BORDIGHERA VECCHIA,
Easter, 1938.

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