

Civil commemorations: a comparative analysis between Portugal and Italy –
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In the main European countries were through the patriotic mobilisation of mass of summer 1914 in support of the declarations of war that the ideology of the nation was manifested in the public sphere. The war radicalized the tendency to sacralize the nation. To politics one decided function of moral and spiritual regeneration was attributed, with symbolic and ritual representations that announced modern mythologies of mass. In Europe and the western culture, was through the sacrifice of the life of the soldiers and the myth of the experience of war that the process to sacralization of politics would have invested the shapes of the representations of the nation. In the within of the processes of legitimacy of the ruling class and the institutions, the elaboration of the war mourning assumed the contours of a collective phenomenon, regarding which the State was induced to carry out an unknown role of participation. Declined like representations of a choral patriotic feeling, the rites of the war memory were exposed to a continuous political use, with strong nationalistic accentuations and the configuration of true and own political religions of state in the dictatorial regimes of years between twenty and thirty.

In the European countries the redefinition of the civil calendar represented rising of mirror of the dilemmas leaves in inheritance from the war, the sense of a losing identity and the requirement to find again it in the symbolic space of the nation. Two were the tendencies: the institution of one commemoration in honour of the fallen soldiers in war and the prefigure of a new relationship between the civil festivities and the religious liturgies. In the first case, in the great part of the European countries and of beyond the ocean (Canada, United States, Australia), generally the indicated day was that one of 11 November, anniversary of the armistice. The exception had in those countries where the choice fell on dates that appeared mainly in tune with the national war vicissitudes. In Italy the characterized date was that one of 4 November, the day that in 1918 recorded

the armistice. In Portugal the day of the 9 April was chosen because anniversary of a war event in which the soldiers sent to the war forehead had tragic human losses.

These topics can find punctual replies in a comparative surveying on the Portugal and Italy, in the years of the crisis of liberal State. The positioning of the two national cases in a perspective of comparative analysis on the memory of the patriotic mobilization helps to delineate which was the change factors that they would have produced to the crisis of the liberal institutions. It will be insisted on the role of the State in the affirmation of the myth of the war experience, but in relation to the commemorative policy produced from the competitive cultures (republican and socialist lefts, liberal and nationalist rights).