

ITALIAN INTERNAL MIGRATION

1946-1970

In the two decades following the end of Second World War more than 2 million people left Italy's south. Between 1958 and 1963 almost 1 million men and women moved to the north of the country, the number rising to 1,637,512 by the end of the 1960s.

During the period 1955-1970, 25 million changes of residency between municipalities occurred, 10 million of which involved a movement between different regions.

The principal sending regions with regard to total population numbers were **Basilicata** with 131,500 emigrants and **Calabria** with 346,700.



Internal emigrants were fundamental actors in the radical and rapid changes that transformed Italian society and its economy during the years of the so-called "economic miracle". Peasants from all over Italy became either unskilled manual workers in the assembly lines of northern industries. Southern peasants moved to central and northern Italy to work in the fields left empty by local families who had migrated to urban centers, as well in the factories. Household appliances and cars became the symbol of Italian families' participation in the joy of mass consumption.



The emigration to northern Italy (more precisely to the city of Turin) represented an important alternative to emigration to Europe. The city of Turin during the fifties and sixties of the 20th century was hit by a large flow of migrants coming from southern Italy. Italians from southern Italy went to Turin to look for a job, a home and a better future.



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