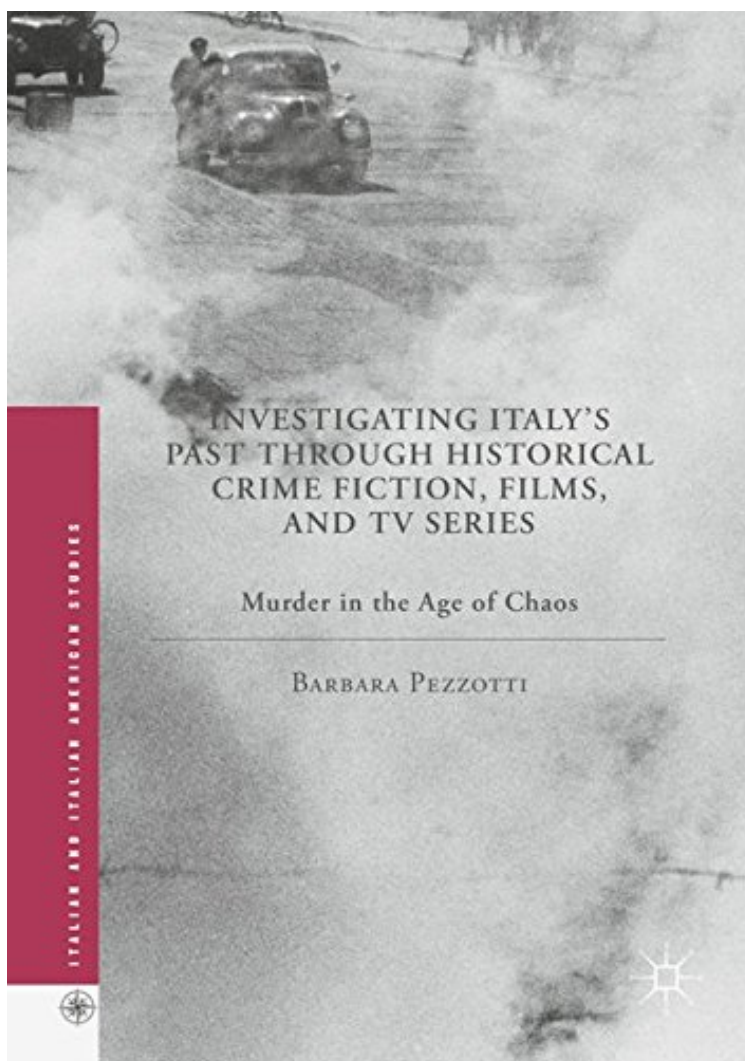


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## Investigating Italy's Past through Historical Crime Fiction, Films, and TV Series: Murder in the Age of Chaos (Italian and Italian American Studies)

*Barbara Pezzotti*

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Series: Murder in the Age of Chaos (Italian and Italian American Studies):

This book is the first monograph in English that comprehensively examines the ways in which Italian historical crime novels, TV series, and films have become a means to intervene in the social and political changes of the country. This study explores the ways in which fictional representations of the past mirror contemporaneous anxieties within Italian society in the work of writers such as Leonardo Sciascia, Andrea Camilleri, Carlo Lucarelli, Francesco Guccini, Lorian Macchiavelli, Marcello Fois, Maurizio De Giovanni, and Giancarlo De Cataldo; film directors such as Elio Petri, Pietro Germi, Michele Placido, and Damiano Damiani; and TV series such as the Commissario De Luca series, the Commissario Nardone series, and *Romanzo criminale* series. Providing the most wide-ranging examination of this sub-genre in Italy, Barbara Pezzotti places works set in the Risorgimento, WWII, and the Years of Lead in the larger social and political context of contemporary Italy.

With this book, Barbara Pezzotti completes a trilogy of sorts begun with *The Importance of Place in Contemporary Italian Crime Fiction* (2012) and continued with *Politics and Society in Italian Crime Fiction* (2014). Considering the vast production of historical detective fiction in Italy, she argues that the genre serves to consider the past from alternative perspectives from those of official historiography, and to give a voice to those on the margins of mainstream historical accounts. Pezzotti is a superb close reader, and balances an attention to the text with complex theoretical and historiographic questions such as the role of memory in shaping individual and collective identity, and individual responsibility in the face of the collective crimes of the Fascist regime. (Luca Somigli, Professor of Italian Studies, University of Toronto, Canada)