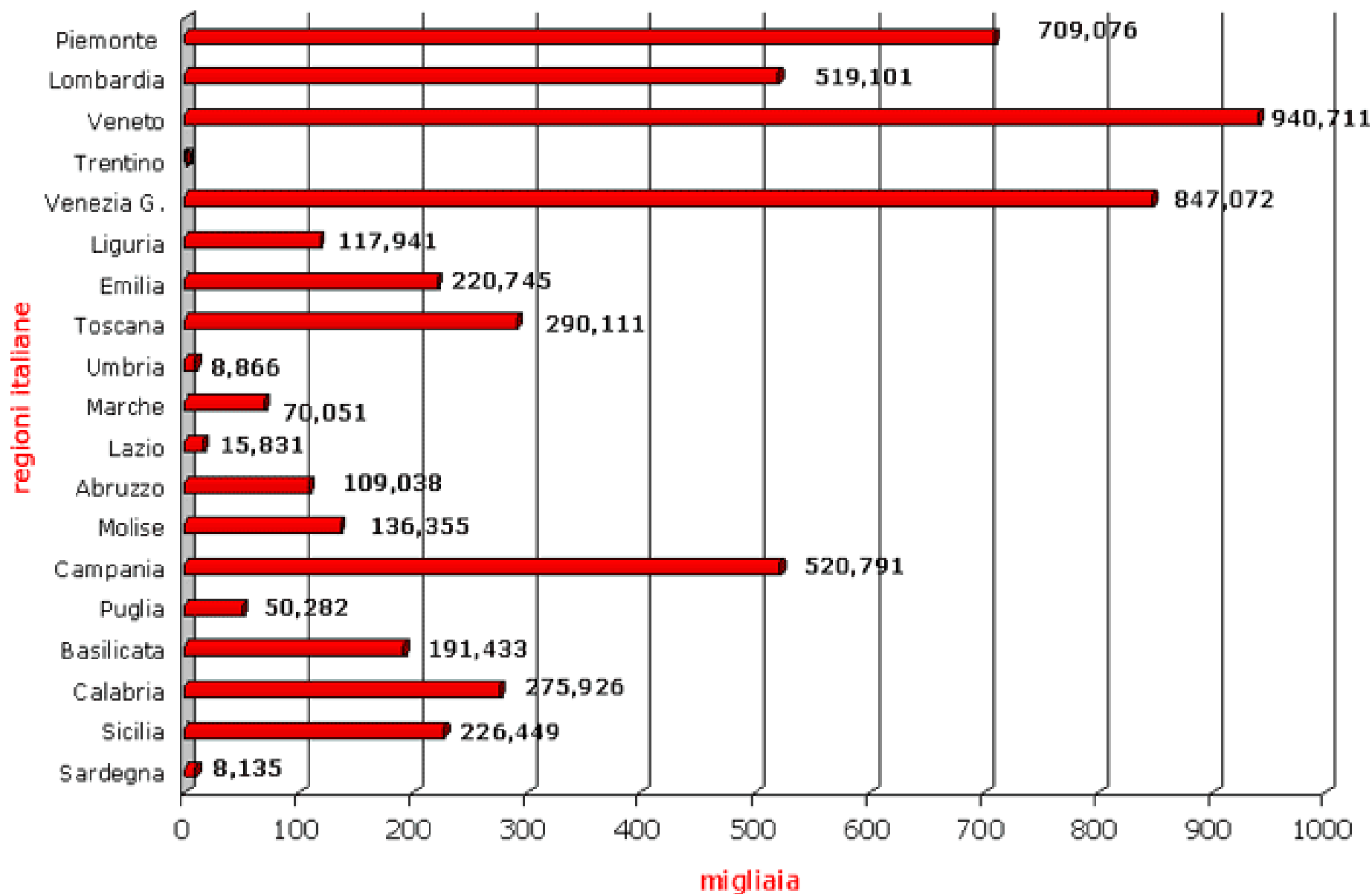


**Prof. Bruno Pierrri**  
**History of Italian Foreign Policy**

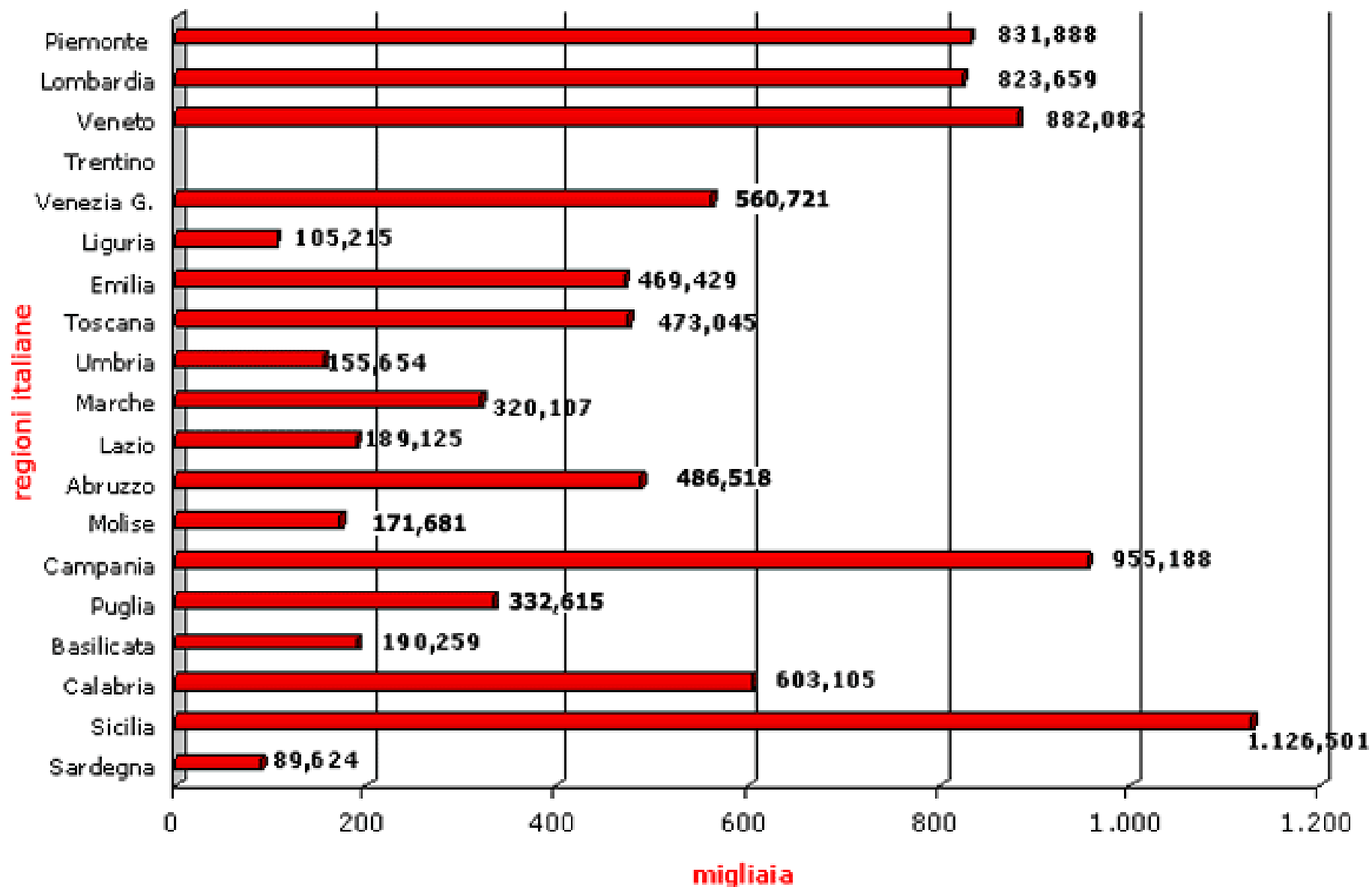
**Italian Emigration: A  
Historiographical Analysis, 1860-  
1960**

**February 17th, 2016**

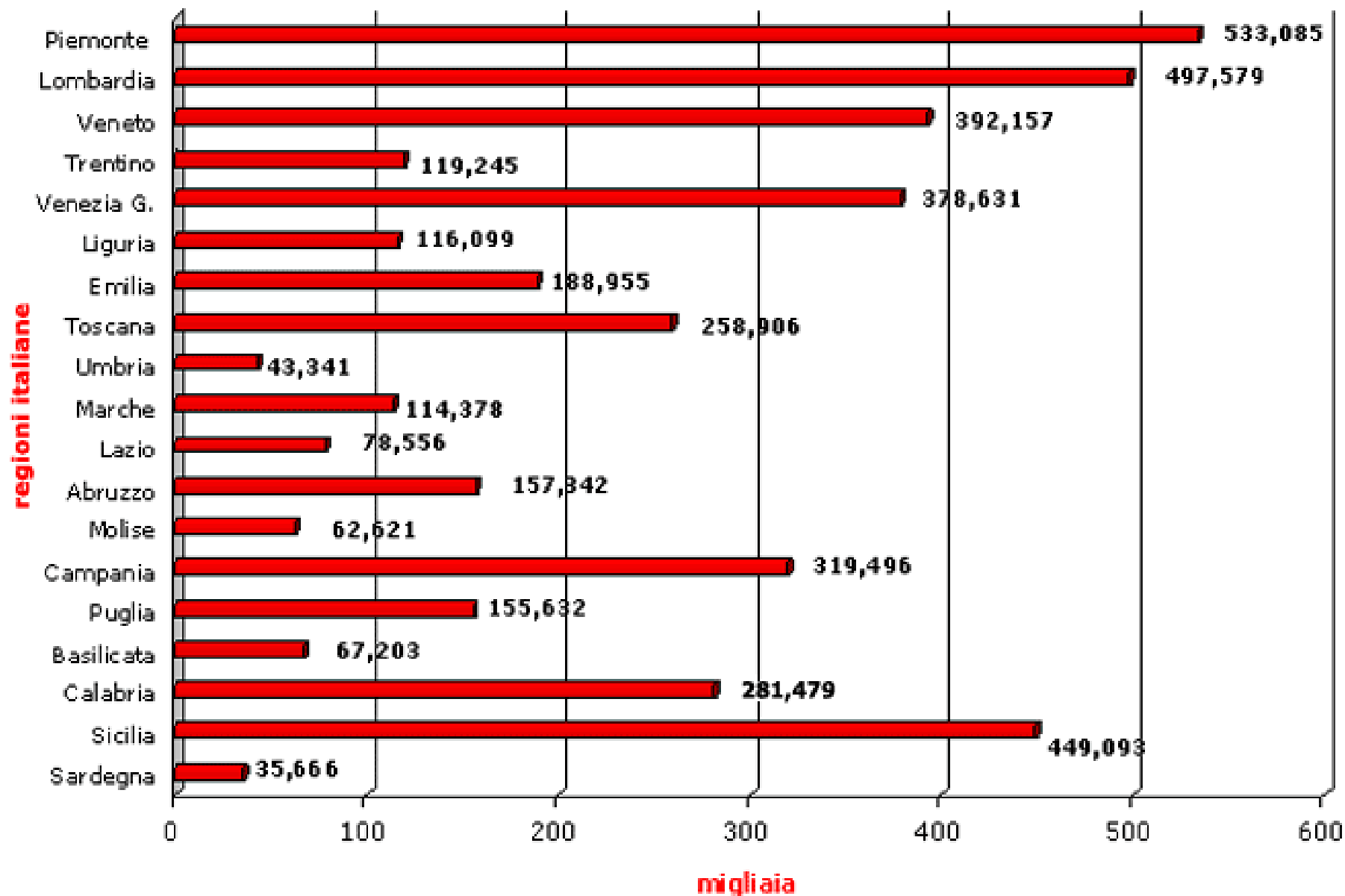
# 1876-1900



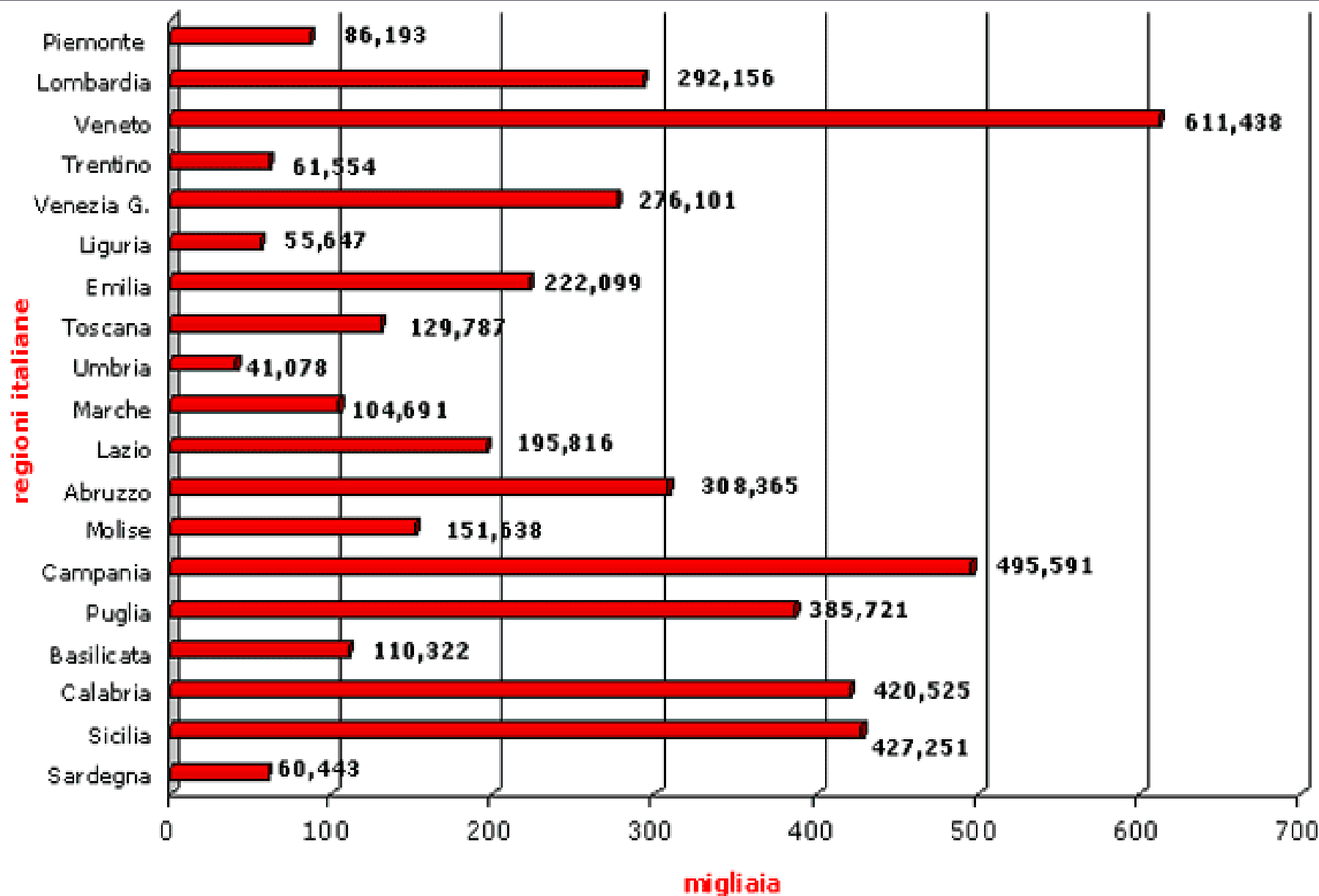
# 1901-1915



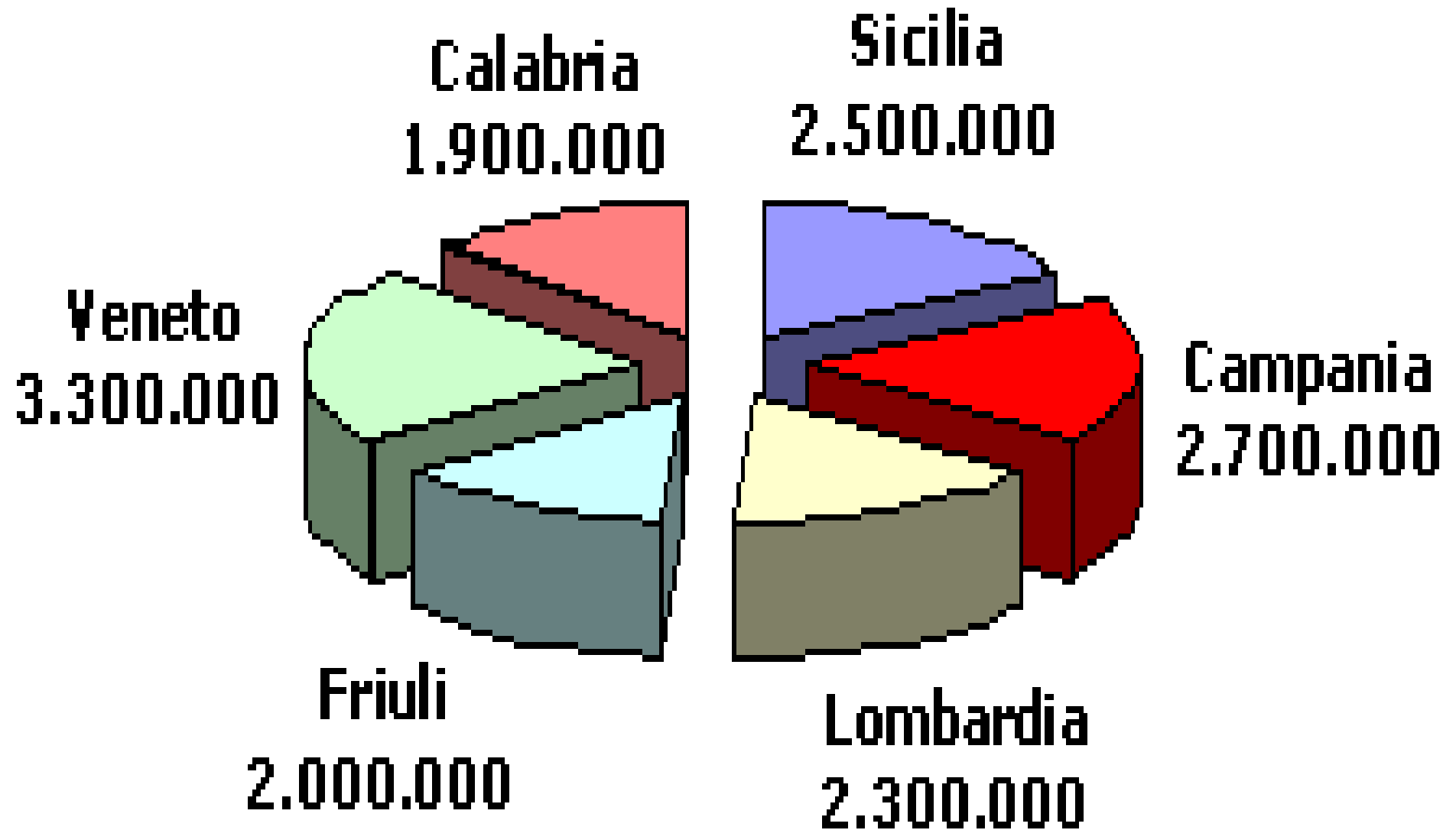
# 1916-1942

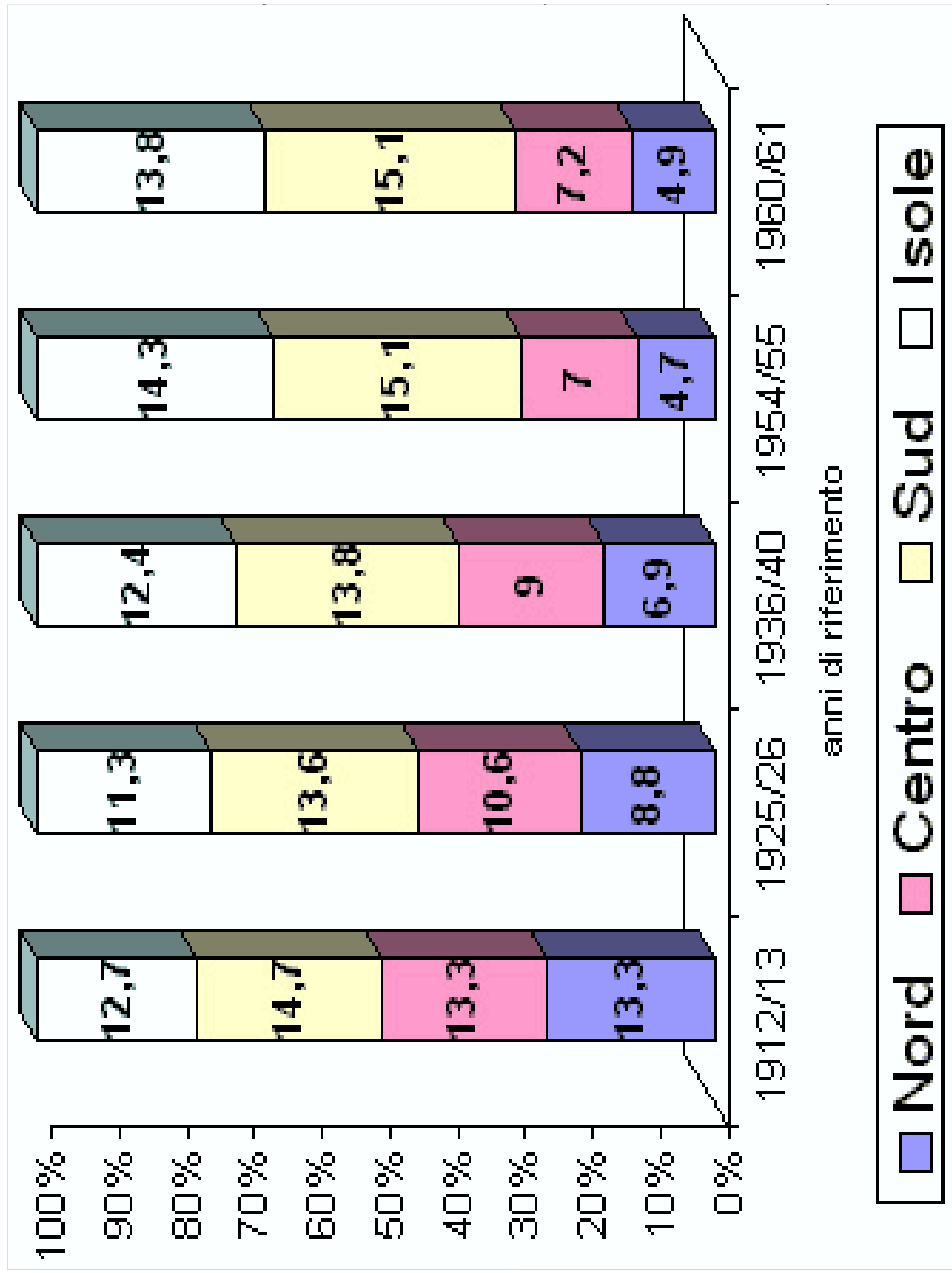


# 1946-1961



# 1876-1976





## **A few numbers**

- ▶ **By outbreak of WW2, some 20 million Italians had been involved in emigration process since 1860, of whom 14 million remained permanently domiciled outside Italy**
- ▶ **Flux restarted after 1945**
- ▶ **Further 7million left in following 20 years**
- ▶ **1950s:10 million moved within Italy, or Europe, or overseas**
- ▶ **1970s: birthrate declined, emigration practically halted and Italy turned into a country of immigration: some were “Italians” coming back, others were from other ethnicities**



# Emigration for Liberal Italy

- ▶ **Most obvious failure of State**
- ▶ **Emigration showed that pretension to feed and defend population was limited**
- ▶ **For Liberals, emigration was a problem**
- ▶ **Laissez-faire ideology: Govt not to intrude too far into lives of people – Britain had never blocked emigration and this commitment to liberty was secret of success**
- ▶ **Success did not come in Italy: growing numbers of emigrants – 100,000 left in 1876, 293,000 in 1895, 872,000 in 1913**
- ▶ **Distant destinations: Americas**
- ▶ **Before WW1, emigration focus shifted from North to South**
- ▶ **Sardinia: emigration counted little due to pastoral economy**
- ▶ **Emigration counted less wherever industrialisation, full-scale agriculture, modernisation and socialism were strong**
- ▶ **Emigration counted less for great estates labourers and much more for peasants into whose lives market economy was intruding and where land sales were occurring**

# Issues for Politicians

- ▶ Should many forms of exploitation on emigrants (before, during and after arrival) be curbed or policed by Italian Govt?
- ▶ How could Italy best benefit from emigrants? Money from emigrants to families in Italy helped balancing national budget
- ▶ What did emigration mean for Italian reputation and power? – were emigrants lost souls and bodies whose blood to be absorbed to benefit of others, or were they like drops of rain in the sand?
- ▶ Were emigrants conscious of their nationality, or did they need to to be instructed in *italianità*?

# Legislation

- ▶ **Since 1873 Prefects obliged to keep accurate statistics of departures**
- ▶ **Crispi: only empire could solve emigration problem**
- ▶ **Giolitti: emigration as safety valve**
- ▶ **Italophobia in host societies**

WIKES - MONTEC  
WIKES - MONTEC  
WIKES - MONTEC

# Tanz-Musik

Eintritt  
Einfach

Es gibt  
2000  
2000

WIKES - MONTEC  
WIKES - MONTEC  
WIKES - MONTEC



PROIBITO  
ingresso  
per  
Militari

Eintritt  
für Militärs  
verboten

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WIKES - MONTEC

AB 15

Freischippert

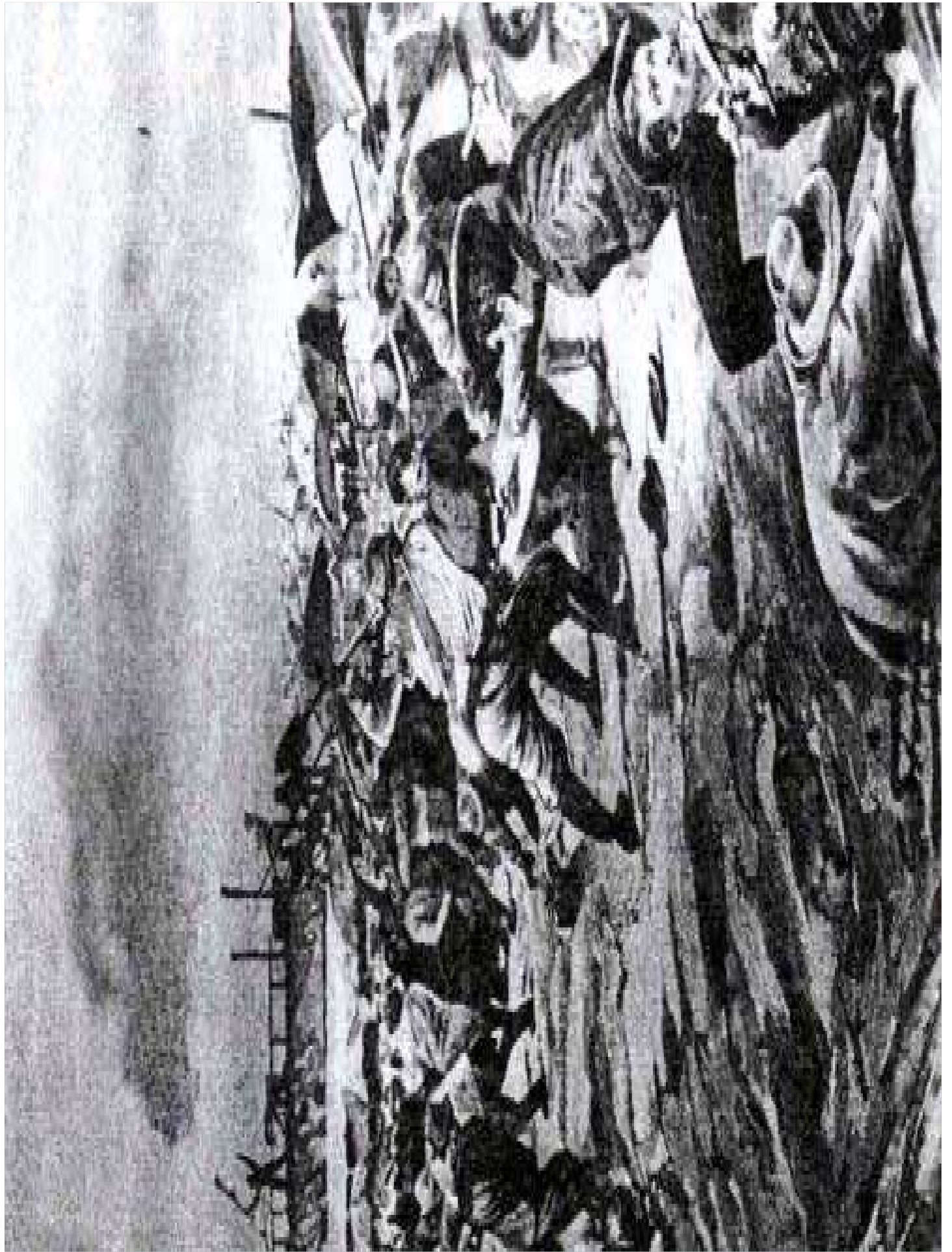
PROIBITO





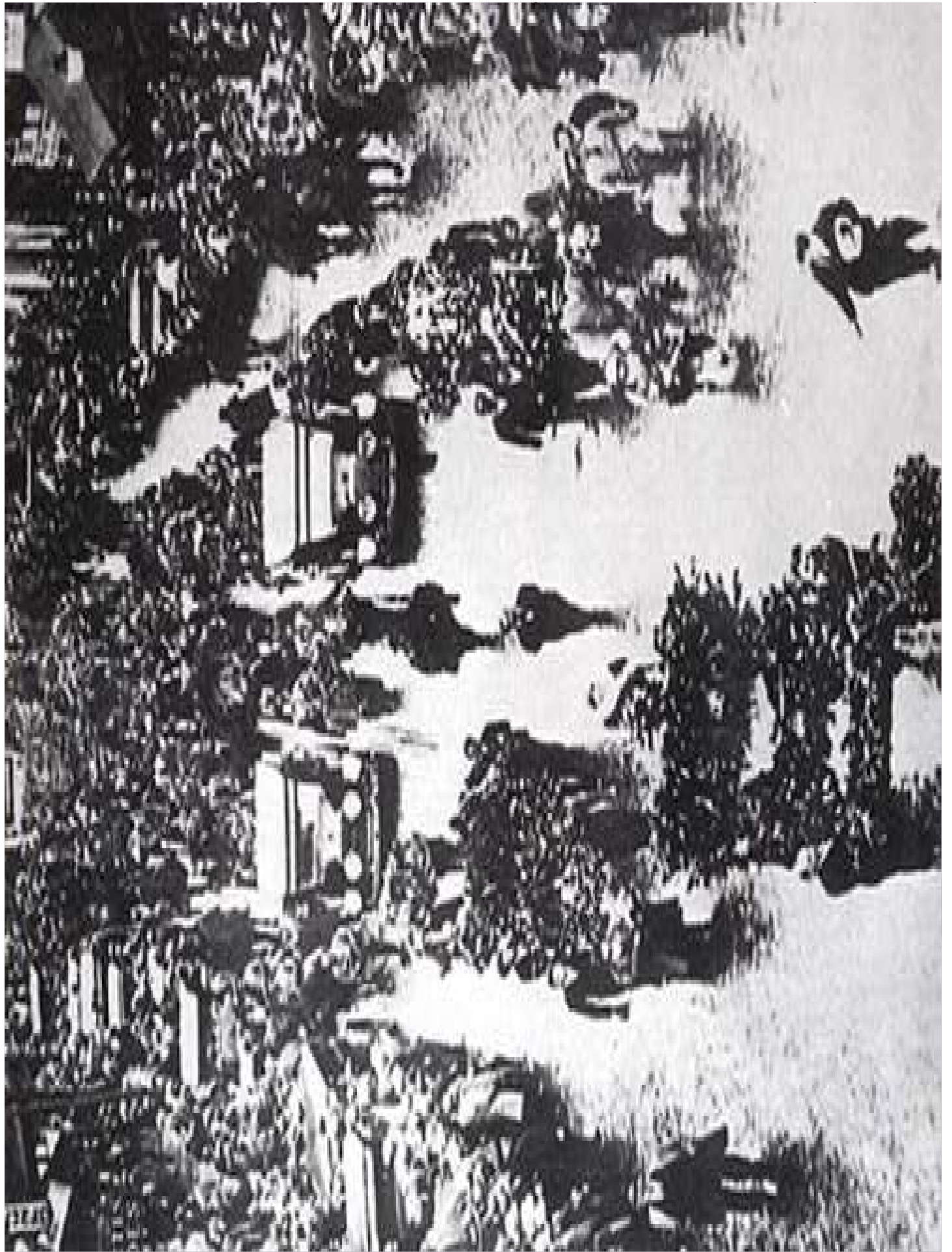
The Unrestricted Dumping-Ground.

June 6, 1952

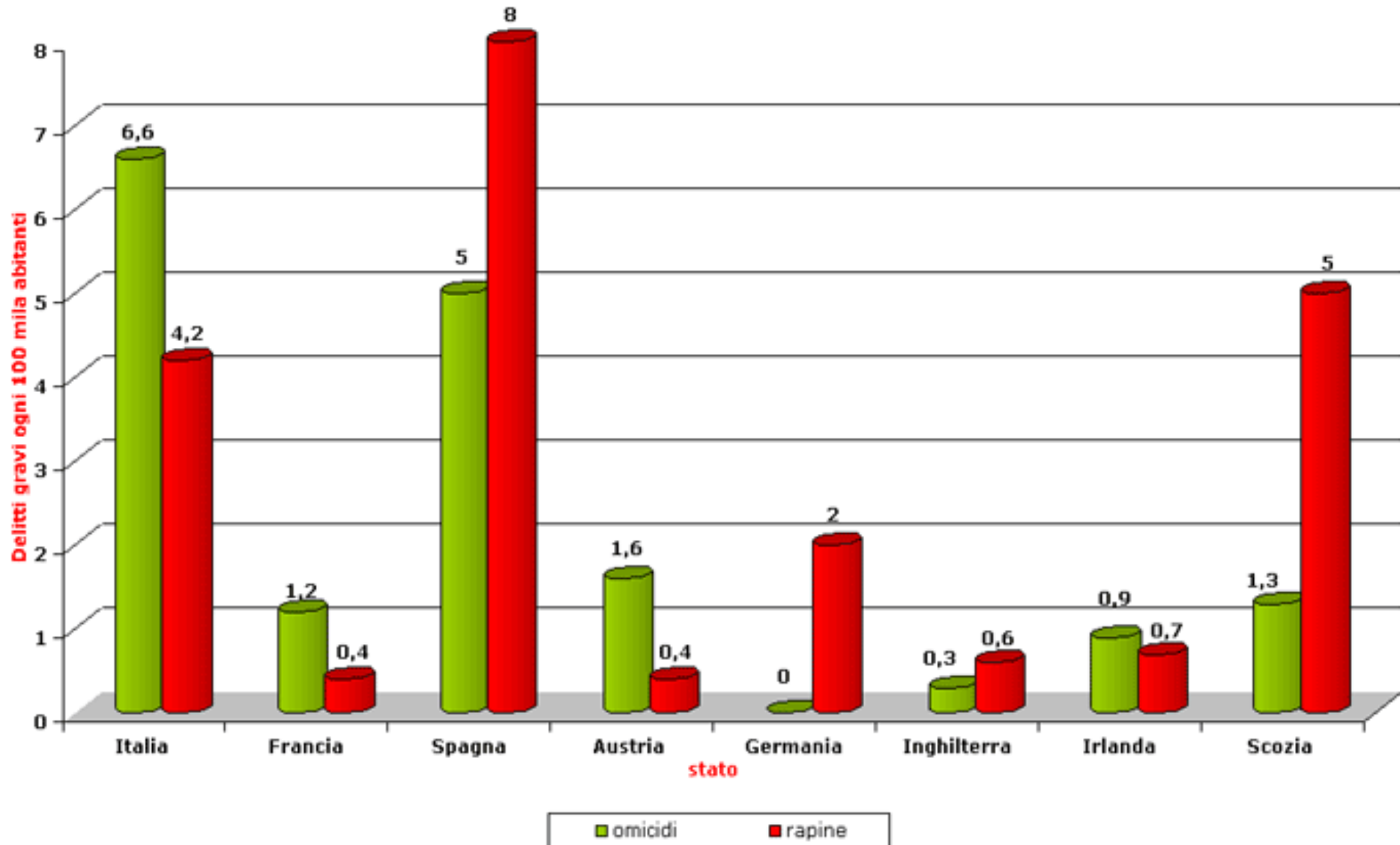




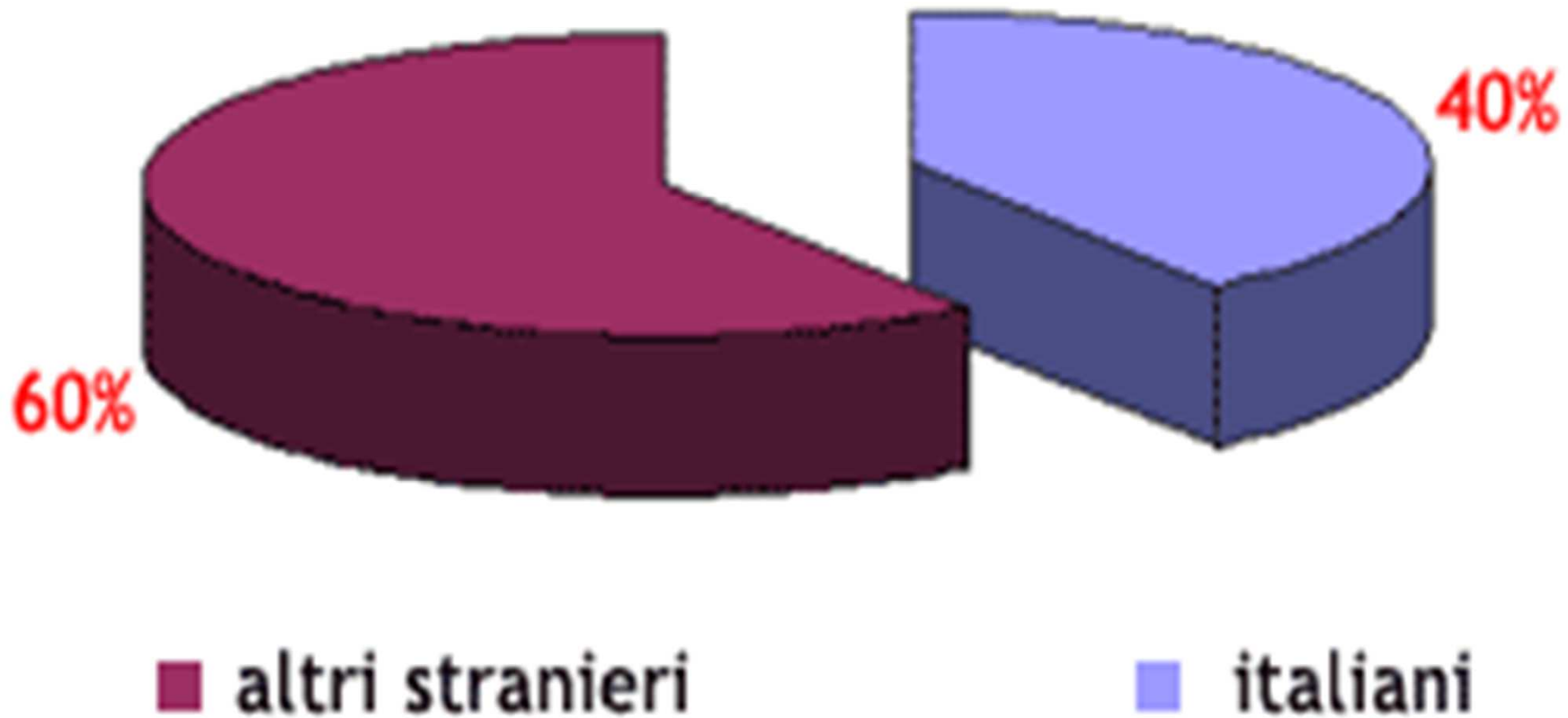




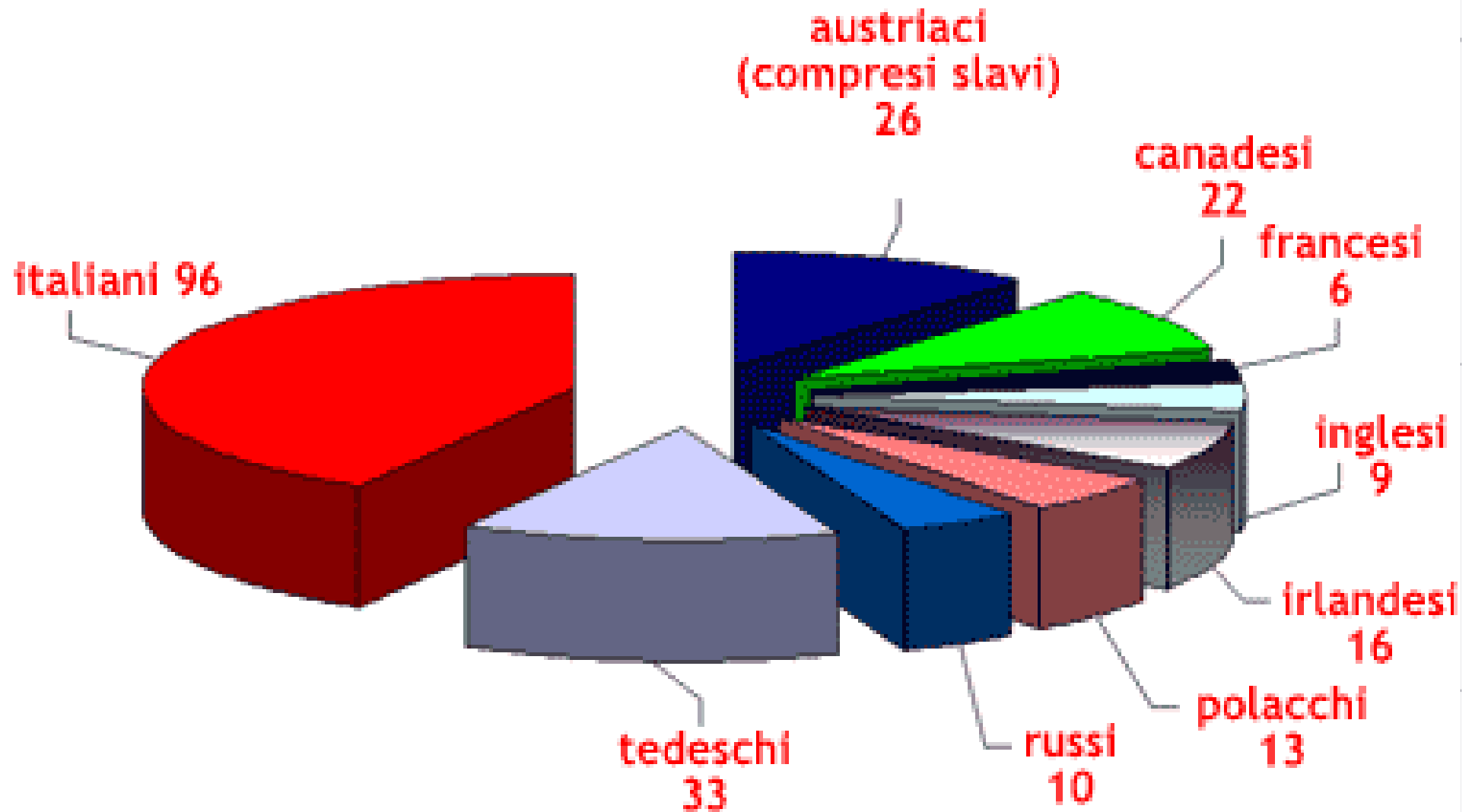
# Criminalità in Europa 1861-1955



# Carcerati USA 1920



# USA 1904 Italiani arrestati per omicidio



# Catholics

- ▶ **Some Bishops bewailed fate of poor emigrants exposed to Protestantism or godless materialism**
- ▶ **Catholic welfare among emigrant communities**
- ▶ **Collaboration with local consuls and lay intellectuals**

# Socialists

- ▶ **By 1900 socialist chiefs still advised Italian workers abroad to join local unions and forget nationalist particularism**
- ▶ **Togliatti and Gramsci silent about emigration, but general message was “do not emigrate”, in order for workers and peasants to stay unite and fight against bosses**
- ▶ **Left wing has traditionally had limited appeal among Italians abroad**

# Fascism

- ▶ **1927: word emigrant abolished**
- ▶ **Regime committed to win battle of births and encouraged rapid increase of population**
- ▶ **1928: legal restrictions on permanent emigration**
- ▶ **a) prohibition of stable emigration;**  
**b) tolerance only for temporary emigration, as profitable for economy**
- ▶ **c) qualified emigration of professionals, technicians, and students**
- ▶ **d) emigration towards Italian colonies**
- ▶ **e) return of emigrants from abroad**

# United States Legislation

- ▶ Literacy Act
- ▶ 1917: non admission of illiterates
- ▶ 1921 Quota Act: immigration of only 3% of fellow nationals resident in America in 1910, reduced to 2% of 1890 component in 1924
- ▶ Italian emigration obliged to deviate towards France, Argentina, Brazil, Australia...
- ▶ Mussolini 1922: "Se ci si desse la possibilità di mandare in America un centomila dei nostri sobri ed operosi emigranti, io credo che ne trarrebbe vantaggio tanto gli Stati Uniti quanto l'Italia" - no answer from American Administration
- ▶ Mussolini, May 24, 1924: "Noi non vogliamo mandare negli Stati Uniti la nostra gente ammalata, pazza o pericolosa. Noi pensiamo agli italiani sani quando discutiamo di immigrazione col vostro paese"
- ▶ Mussolini Nov 15, 1924: "Siamo oggi stati colpiti rudemente dall'Immigration Bill. Non basta dire da parte dei popoli che sono arrivati: "stiamo tranquilli", perché se noi non sappiamo dove mandare il nostro dippiù di umanità, se non sappiamo dove trovare le materie prime che ci devono far vivere all'interno, questa è una pace di aguzzini"

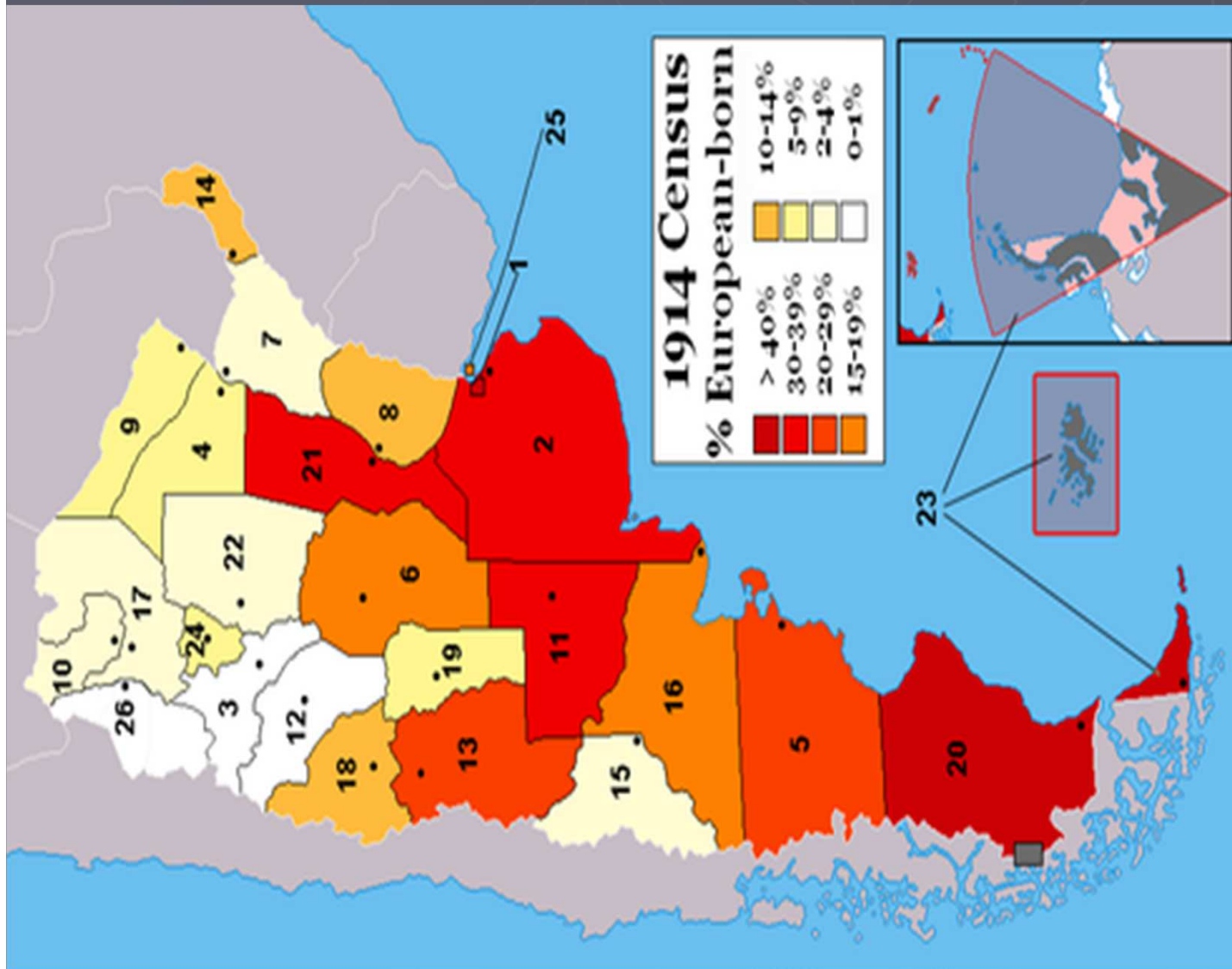


# Fuoriusciti

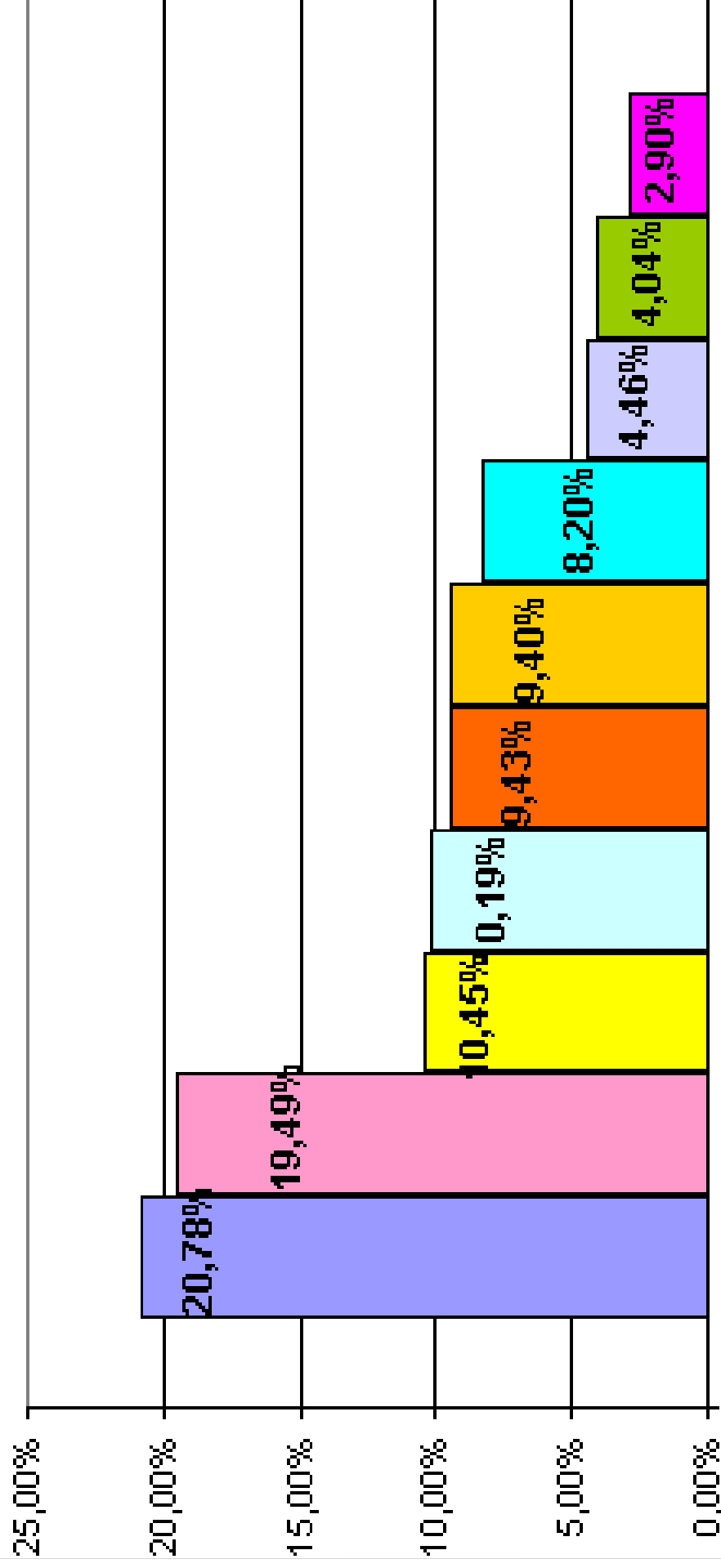
- ▶ They launched political movements – Giustizia and Libertà
- ▶ They negotiated among themselves to found anti-Fascist popular Front
- ▶ Except from communists, they lacked genuine popular base
- ▶ WW2 gave them chance to end irrelevance and leave their exile – F. Parri 1945
- ▶ Despite this, emigrants abroad had been little affected by anti-Fascist intellectuals
- ▶ Emigration began again soon after war
- ▶ Alcide De Gasperi – best solution for poor Italians is to learn a language and go abroad
- ▶ M. Rumor – emigration as a process able to safeguard domestic balance against pressure of masses
- ▶ Emigration as necessary tonic for social problems
- ▶ Nationalists and neo-Fascists: change of regime did not alter national interests; unfair to lose colonies

# Destinations

- ▶ **Massive presence in Argentina**
- ▶ **81% of workforce**
- ▶ **One third of urban population of Buenos Aires**
- ▶ **Massive contribution to music, literature, arts, science, politics, military...**
- ▶ **In S. America, Italians were appreciated as workers, but were aristocracy of labour**
- ▶ **1914: argentinisation of immigrants to be accelerated**
- ▶ **Italianità remained a nebulous matter, except where subsidy encouraged its disclosure**
- ▶ **Latin, but not so Italian**



# Mete privilegiate dall'emigrazione italiana negli anni 1946 / 1960



Paesi di destinazione statisticamente rilevanti

- Francia
- Venezuela
- Inghilterra
- Argentina
- Belgio
- Germania Occ.
- USA
- Australia
- Canada
- Brasile

# Destinations

- ▶ **Britain**
- ▶ **By the 1870s the main regional origins of Italian emigration to Britain were the valleys of Parma in the north, and the Liri valley, half way between Rome and Naples.**
- ▶ **The people from Parma were predominately organ grinders, while the Neapolitans from the Liri valley (now under Lazio) made ice cream.....**
- ▶ **After this date all itinerant employment crossed regional demarcations....**
- ▶ **But the announcement to side with Germany in 1940 had a devastating effect. By order of parliament all aliens were to be interned. Some had married British women and even taken British citizenship.**
- ▶ **The Italians were now seen as a national security threat. All Italian men between the ages of 17 and 60 were arrested. They were transported to camps across the country.**
- ▶ **In the 1950s Italian immigration started again. It was made mainly of southern Italians. But in the 1960s it tapered off and practically stopped in the 1970s.**
- ▶ **Now London hosts around 400,000 Italians**

# Destinations

- ▶ **USA**
- ▶ **The early arrivals were scattered throughout the country, with the largest concentration in the northeast. It was there that recognition of their common Italian roots and culture was the greatest.**
- ▶ **The first Columbus Day celebration was organized by Italian Americans in San Francisco in 1869. Italian American involvement in politics was already underway**

# Destination USA (1880-1914)

- ▶ Italian unification in 1861 caused economic conditions to considerably worsen for many in southern Italy. A number of major contributing factors were responsible for the large exodus from southern Italy and Sicily after unification, including: political and social unrest; the government's allocation of many of its resources to the industrialization of the North; inequitable tax burden on the South; tariffs on the products of the South; soil exhaustion and erosion; and military conscription lasting seven years.
- ▶ From 1880 to 1920, an estimated 4 million Italian immigrants arrived in the United States. Once in America, the immigrants faced great challenges. Often with no knowledge of the English language and with little formal education, many of the immigrants were compelled to accept low-wage manual-labor jobs
- ▶ About a third of the immigrants, so-called "birds of passage", intended to stay in the United States for only a limited time, followed by a return to Italy with enough in savings to re-establish themselves
- ▶ In time, the Italian immigrants and their descendants adjusted to life in their adopted country, and began making contributions to mainstream American life and culture.

# Destination USA: World War I and the Interwar period

- ▶ **By 1920, the Little Italies had stabilized and grown considerably more prosperous as workers were able to obtain higher-paying jobs. English was now the language most commonly heard on the streets of the Little Italies**
- ▶ **The Italian American community wholeheartedly supported the war effort**
- ▶ **In the post-war years, jobs as policemen, firemen and civil servants became available to Italian Americans; while others found employment as plumbers, electricians, mechanics and carpenters. Women found jobs as civil servants, secretaries, dressmakers, and clerks**
- ▶ **Italian Americans of the post-war years contributed significantly to American life and culture.**
- ▶ **In business, Italian Americans were the nation's chief supplier of fresh fruits and vegetables**
- ▶ **Also in California, Italian Americans were leading growers of grapes, and producers of wine**

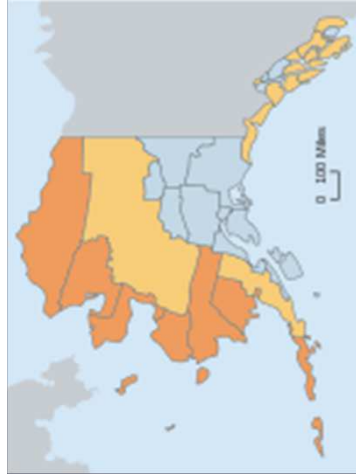


# Destination USA: World War II and the post-war decades

- ▶ At least half a million Italian Americans served in the various branches of the military in World War II
- ▶ In spite of this display of loyalty, hundreds of Italians viewed as a potential threat to the country were interned in detention camps
- ▶ The post-war period was a time of great social change for Italian Americans. Many aspired to a college education. With better job opportunities, and better educated, Italian Americans entered mainstream American life in great numbers. The Italian enclaves were largely abandoned by the younger generation. Many married outside of their ethnic group, most frequently with other ethnic Catholics, but increasingly also with those of diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds
- ▶ Italians continued to immigrate after the war, and an estimated 600,000 arrived in the United States in the post-war decades. Many were well educated

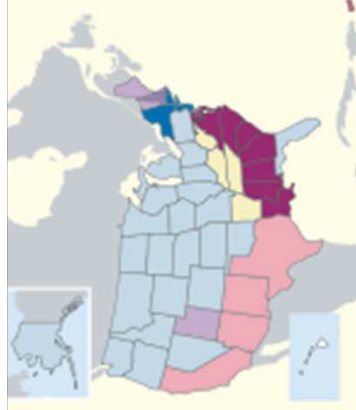
# Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952

- ▶ The Act defined three types of immigrants:
  - A) immigrants with special skills or relatives of U.S. citizens who were exempt from quotas and who were to be admitted without restrictions
  - B) average immigrants whose numbers were not supposed to exceed 270,000 per year
  - C) refugees.
- ▶ The Act allowed the government to deport immigrants or naturalized citizens engaged in subversive activities and also allowed the barring of suspected subversives from entering the country.

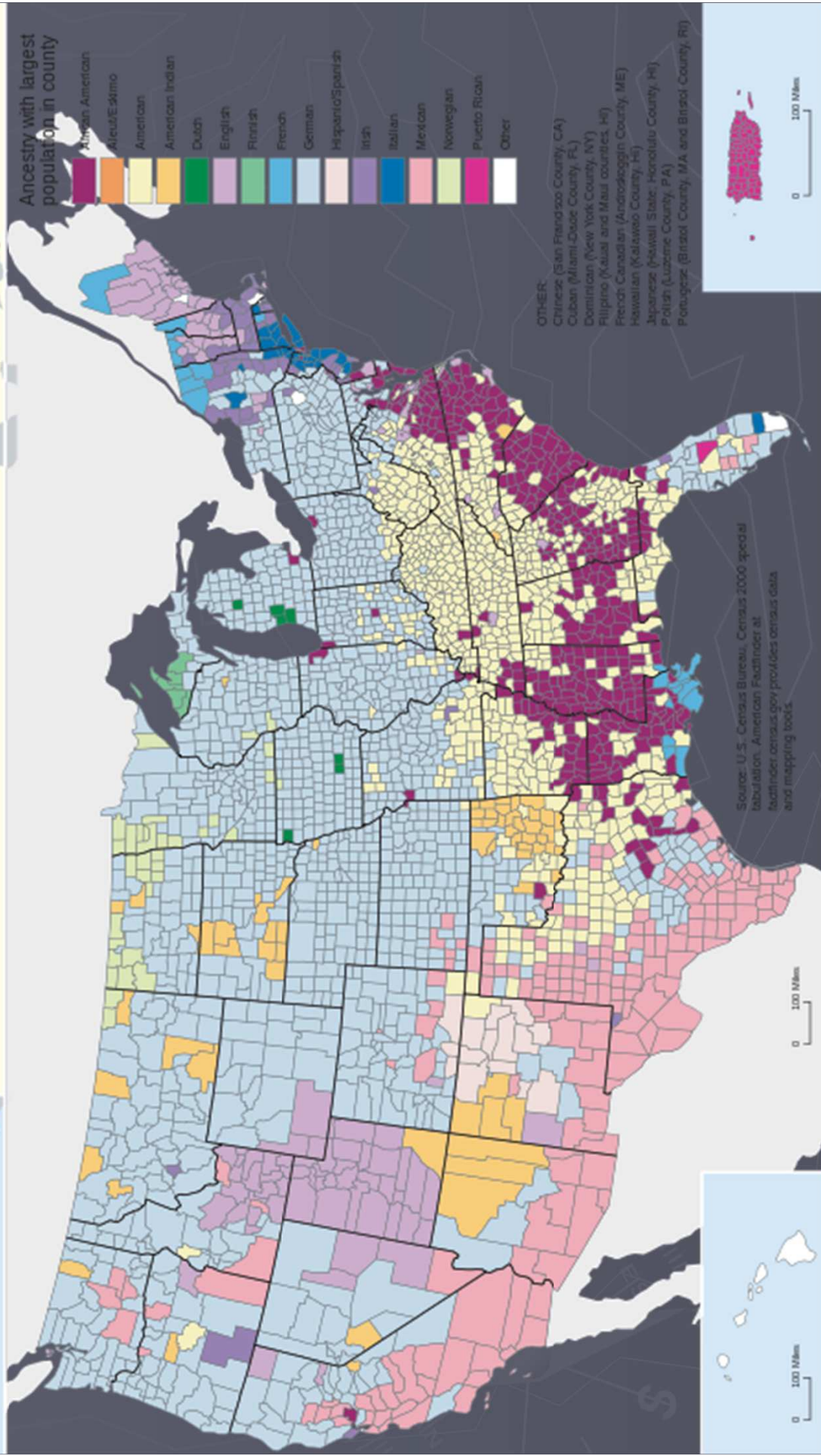


## Largest Ancestry: 2000

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/br02/c2k00/c2k00.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/br02/c2k00/c2k00.pdf))



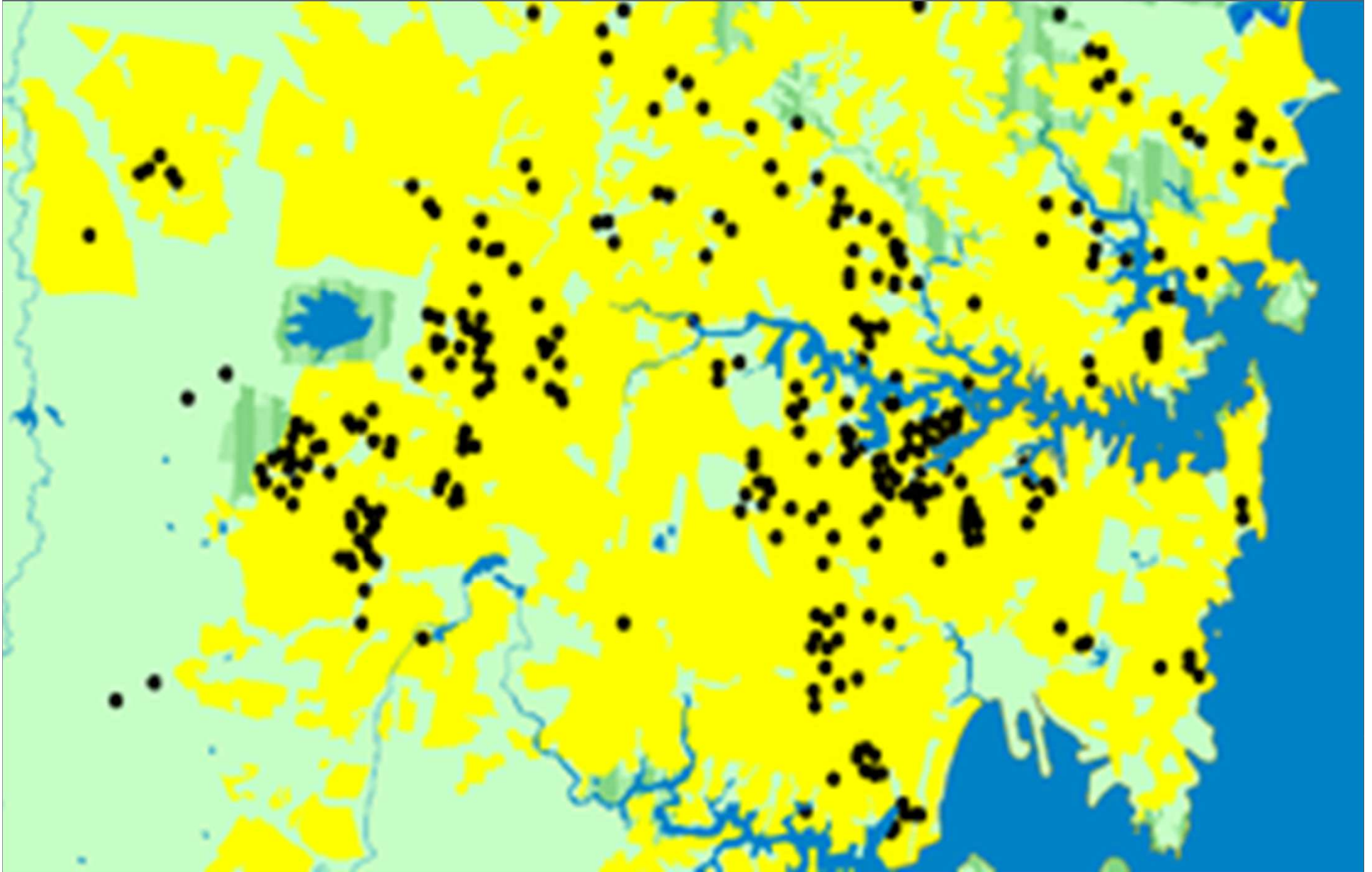
Ancestry with largest population in state see categories below



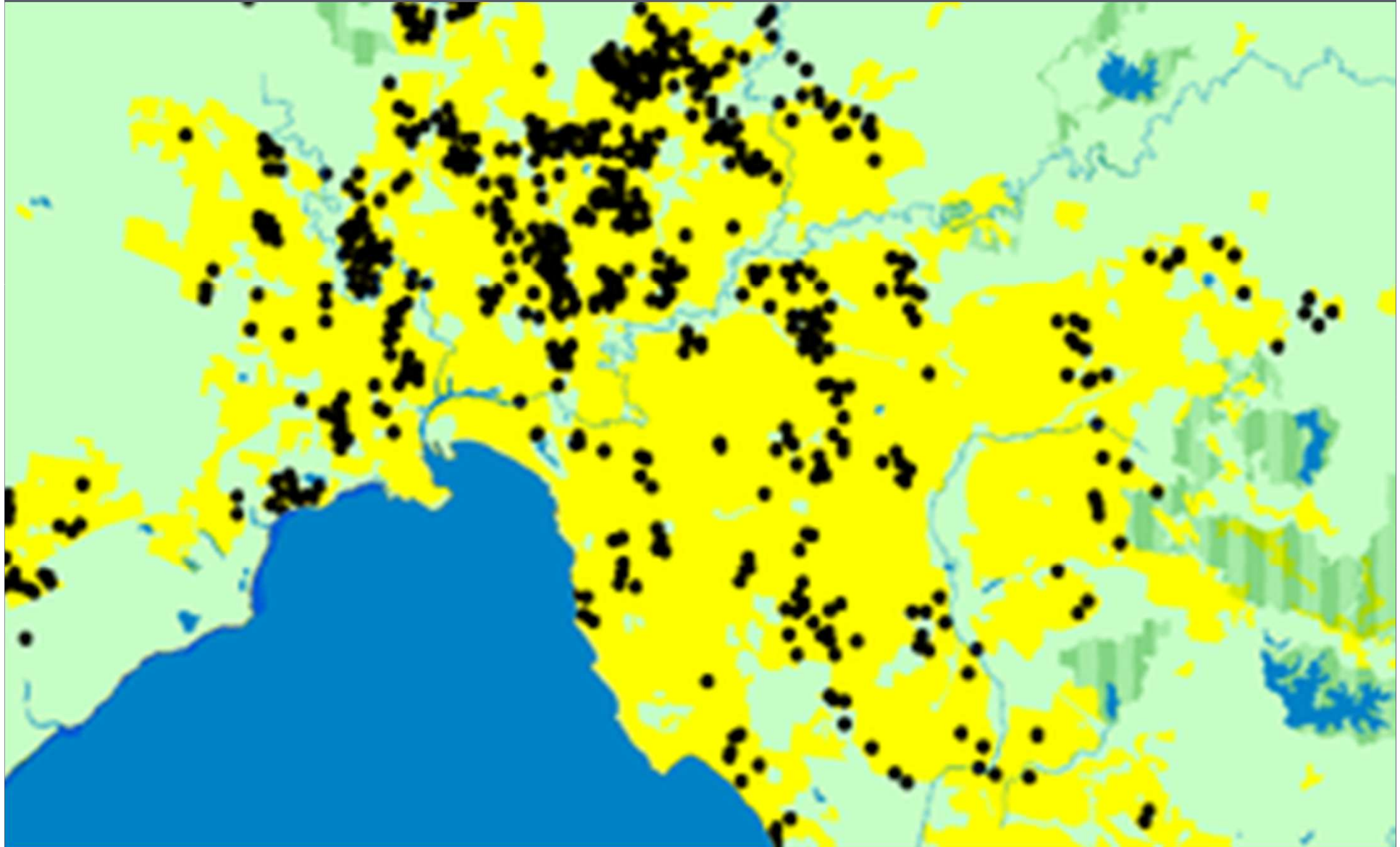
# Destination Australia

- ▶ **Italian Australians are the fourth largest ethnic group**
- ▶ **By Italian Government estimates, fully two-fifths of its emigrants to Australia were from Veneto and another two-fifths were drawn from Piedmont, Lombardy, and Tuscany**
- ▶ **Only one-fifth were from Sicily and Calabria**

# Sidney



# Melbourne



22 ←

