The World Refugees Made
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The World Refugees Made: Decolonization and the Foundation of Postwar Italy.

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Henry Miller famously wrote, “One’s destination is never a place but rather a new way of looking at things.” This book represents the end point of a long journey, one that has led me to a new way of seeing Italy and what I call its “long decolonization.” In making my way to that destination, I have been given much assistance and support along the way by colleagues to whom I owe sincerest thanks for their inspiration, good humor, and invaluable directions. The process of conceptualizing and researching this study began while I was teaching in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at Bowdoin College. A semester-long fellowship in 2006 at the Italian Academy at Columbia University allowed me to begin digging into the United Nations archives. Monies from Bowdoin’s Faculty Resources Committee made possible various short research stints in Italy, as well as consultation of the IRO documentation at the Archives Nationales in Paris. Sabbatical funds from Bowdoin supplemented a fellowship at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University (CASBS) in 2009–2010. Many thanks to my colleagues at Bowdoin, CASBS, Stanford, and Columbia who helped me begin to think through the place of the refugee in Italian history: Kanchan Chandra, J. P. Daughton, Victoria de Grazia, Barbara Faedda, Estelle Freedman, Pekka Hämäläinen, Simon Levis Sullam, Saba Mahmood, Gregory Mann, Devin Naar, Marilyn Reizbaum, Tanya Richardson, Cabeiri deBergh Robinson, Aron Rodrigue, Arielle Saiber, and Margaret (Peggy) Somers. I am also appreciative of the help provided by librarians and archivists at the Hoover Institution.

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