

ABSTRACT

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Title: AN ANALYSIS OF ITALIAN HIGHER EDUCATION REFORMS: THEIR AIMS AND OUTCOMES

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This paper will examine the plethora of government-initiated reforms to higher education institutions that Italy has seen in recent years and their impact on the Italian higher education system and Italian students. The analysis starts with the beginning of the reform period in 1989 and extends to student movements and protests occurring at the present day. This paper aims to analyze in what ways some of these reforms are flawed and the impact they have had on the Italian system of higher education, as well as how they are or are not related to the issues students face today. Many issues that these reforms hoped to alleviate still remain prevalent in Italian society, and some entirely new issues in the realm of education have arisen in recent years. Furthermore, this paper will examine how the plight of the Italian student has been helped, hurt, or neglected by the government reforms, as well as how students are expressing their views towards education and the government's reform policies, whether it be through protests, demonstrations, or other forms of expression. Finally, the overarching goal of the paper is to make a claim as to what general aspects of the reforms are rendering them ineffective or causing them to be met with dissatisfaction from students, and, to make some recommendations as to what changes should be made at the federal level to alleviate some of the large-scale issues with the Italian higher education system.