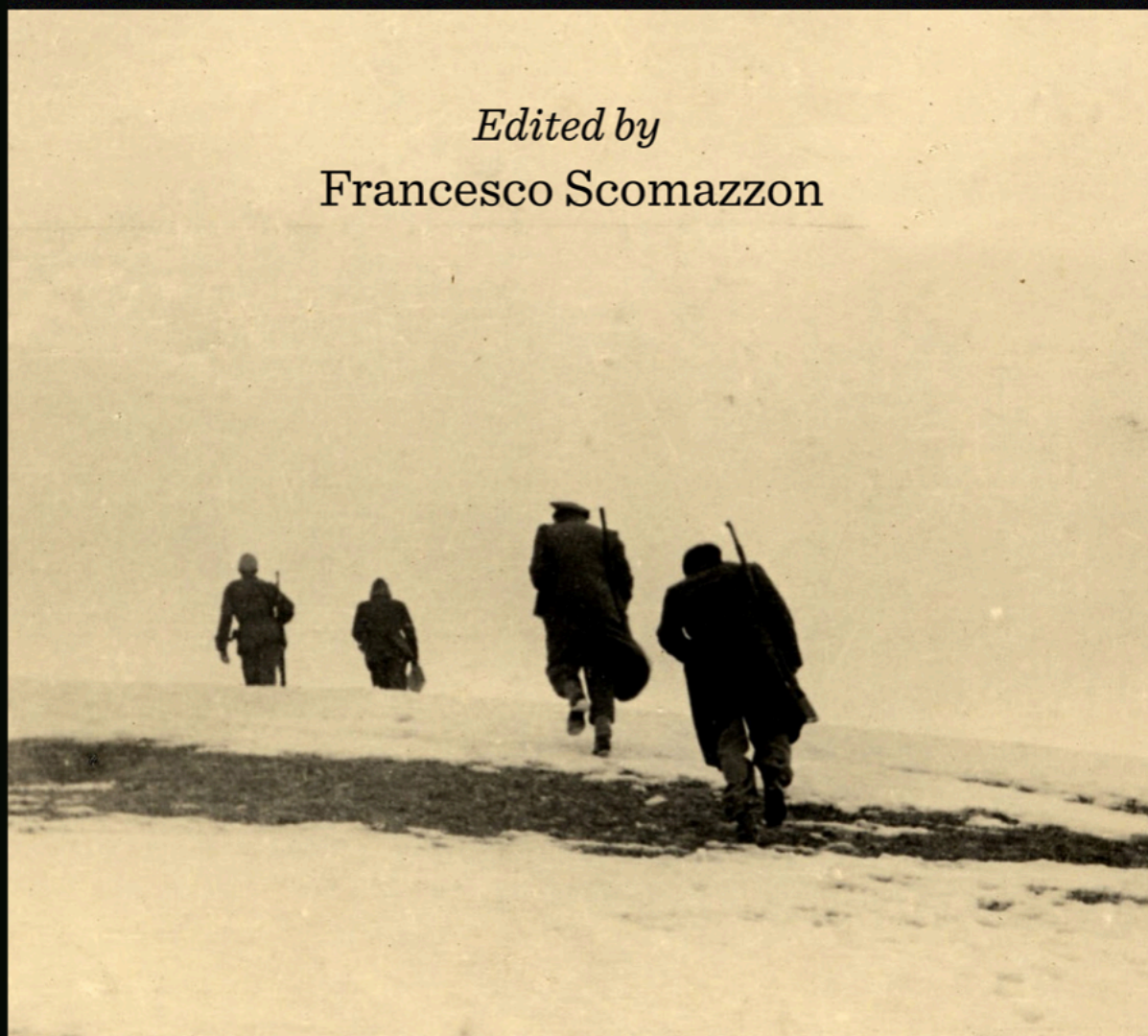


The  
Alps and Resistance  
(1943-1945)

*Conflicts, Violence  
and Political Reflections*

*Edited by*  
Francesco Scomazzon



# The Alps and Resistance (1943-1945):

*Conflicts, Violence  
and Political Reflections*

Edited by

Francesco Scomazzon

**Cambridge  
Scholars  
Publishing**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments .....	vii
Introduction .....	viii
<i>Francesco Scomazzon</i>	
Chapter One.....	1
Through the Alps toward freedom: the escape of Jews from the Province of Como to Switzerland	
<i>Roberta Cairoli, Elisabetta Lombi, Lauretta Minoretti</i>	
Chapter Two .....	20
The role of the Italian-Swiss border in the partisan history of Middle and Upper Valtellina (1943-1945)	
<i>Andrea Paganini</i>	
Chapter Three .....	48
Nazi-fascist Alpine warfare in Ossola and Lake Maggiore, 1943-1945	
<i>Raphael Rues</i>	
Chapter Four.....	65
A community in the Carnic Alps: Villa Santina from the fall of the fascist regime to Liberation (1943-1945)	
<i>Luca Marin</i>	
Chapter Five .....	83
Italian antifascism Resistance in Switzerland after the 8 <sup>th</sup> September 1943	
<i>Toni Ricciardi</i>	
Chapter Six .....	96
Federalist thought in journalistic refugees initiatives in Canton Ticino (1943-1945)	
<i>Fabrizio Panzera</i>	

Chapter Seven.....	116
Giovan Battista Rusca and the struggle for democratic and European ideals during World War II <i>Sonia Castro</i>	
Chapter Eight.....	131
Swiss purgatory during the Italian Social Republic (RSI): three different transitions to the post-fascist Italy of the black shirt elite <i>Domenico Guzzo</i>	
Chapter Nine.....	152
Christian Democracy in the Alps: the Swiss exile of Amintore Fanfani and the forge of a new Catholicism <i>Francesco Scomazzon</i>	
Contributors.....	163

## CHAPTER TWO

# THE ROLE OF THE ITALIAN-SWISS BORDER IN THE PARTISAN HISTORY OF MIDDLE AND UPPER VALTELLINA (1943-1945)

ANDREA PAGANINI

Until the Italian armistice of 8 September 1943, the population of Valtellina, although suffering the adverse socio-economic consequences, felt rather distant from the hot fronts and the crucial events of the Second World War. From then on, however, this border experienced extraordinary turmoil for three main reasons: the substantial wave of fugitives seeking asylum in neutral Switzerland, the growing resumption of smuggling after a period of partial stalemate and the beginning and gradual intensification of partisan resistance. In addition to these reasons, in the last months of the conflict, there was also the project – never really implemented – of “Ridotto alpino repubblicano”, with which fascists intended to exploit the natural stronghold of Valtellina in order to attempt an extreme defence and perhaps rally around the Duce<sup>1</sup>.

The present article – a small foretaste of a larger work in preparation<sup>2</sup> – intends to offer a contribution to the understanding of the so-called “longer resistance”<sup>3</sup>, with particular attention to the role played by the Italian-Swiss border in partisan activities.

The formations of the Valtellinese resistance were divided into distinct blocks and were not always in harmony with each other. In the lower