

## Violence against women and the racist discourse during the WWI in Italy

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### Summary

In September 1917, a book written by a gynecologist and the president of National Federation of Anti-German Leagues, Luigi Maria Bossi was published with the title: *In difesa della donna e della razza* [For the defense of the women and the race]. In experiencing the first Great War and its huge damage, he accused here the inherent violent tendency of *razza tedesca* [German race], especially against women as a organized attack to the national/racial collectivity. In 1916, Bossi addressed the issue of the right of abortion of the women who would get harmed and pregnant raped by enemy soldiers on the socialist-interventionist newspaper *Il Popolo d'Italia*, founded by Benito Mussolini before the occurrence of mass wartime sexual violence in Italy. He later reprinted the argumentation and some of the responses appeared on the newspaper in his book. Through analyzing this chapter and the other response that was not reprinted in the book, I argue how the rhetoric of early racism was entangled with nation and gender, how it was established appropriating the women's bodies and how some women resisted it.