INTRODUCTION BY THE EDITORS

This volume is the ideal continuation of a previous research that one of the editors published several years ago¹. While that volume related to Eritrea, the present one is devoted to Somalia, chronologically the second Italian colony.

In this case, as more researchers have been involved, the scope of the political and legal analysis is broader. The participation of three Somali scholars is particularly welcomed, as it allows to understand the events in a perspective different from what could result only from a eurocentric approach².

It is true that, as remarked in the foreword, not all the relevant aspects of Italian colonialism in Somalia have been covered. However, this volume should be seen as a step on the way towards more interest for studies on an important subject of the history of the two countries involved.

The editors are much indebted to a number of people who have contributed to the completion of the research project. They wish to thank, in particular, H. E. Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf, the President of the International Court of Justice, who encouraged the development of the research project since its inception and found the time to write a substantive foreword to the volume. Sincere thanks are given also to Mr. Christopher Callan, who reviewed the English correcteness of texts written by authors whose mother tongue is another, and to Mr. Abdullahi Abdi, who checked the transliteration of the Somali names of persons and localities according to a uniform criterion. A special thank is given to the contributors who, besides engaging themselves in this project, were kind enough to understand the unexpected delays in the editorial work. The editors finally wish to acknowledge the generous support by the "Dipartimento di Giurisprudenza" of the University of Milano-Bicocca that included the volume in its collection of books and financed the publication of this research.

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¹ SCOVAZZI, Assab, Massaua, Uccialli, Adua – Gli strumenti giuridici del primo colonialismo italiano, Torino, 1996 (1st ed.), 1998 (2nd ed.).

²Even though, in the last decades, some distinguished Italian historians have not followed the parochial and apologetic approach that was common in the past.