**Italians’ Unknown Soldier**

In this text I am going to explain how the ritual of the Unknown Soldier was developed. In Italy the idea of an Unknown soldier was developed by Giulio Douhet, Corporal of Italy of the 13th army corps in Valtellina and Val Camonica. Firstly his idea was that the soldier who died in the First World War would be remember with a Memorial and a Monument. The idea was that the soldiers who died would be celebrate as a hero for the nation and so the Fascism support Douhets’ idea to a propaganda purpose. His idea was that the soldier who would be buried in Rome was chose by a widow among the Unknown Soldier and that he would be buried in the Pantheon, where were buried the most important Italian people.

The law was discussed into the parliament and with a “Decreto regio” it was approved by the king and the parliament. The Ministry of War then formed a commission in which was given the task of identifying eleven corpses of unidentified Italian soldiers. Among them would be the one chosen to be buried solemnly Altar of the Fatherland in a tomb would become a monument to the Unknown Soldier.

The choice of the eleven corpses was not accidental; each body came from a precise area of the Italian front of World War I (Rovereto, the Dolomites, the highlands, the Monte Grappa, Montello, the Lower Piave, Cadore, Gorizia, the Isonzo Low, Mount St. Michael and Castagnevizza Karst).
Eleven coffins were then taken provisionally in Gorizia and then be transferred to Aquileia. Meanwhile, inside the monumental complex of the Vittoriano in Rome, the tomb was built that would house the Unknown Soldier; the body of the Italian Unknown Soldier was buried under the statue of the goddess Roma.

The choice of the body was entrusted to Mary Bergamas, mother of Antonio Bergamas, missed during the First World War. The body of the soldier was chosen on the 28 October 1921 in the Basilica of Aquileia and he “chose” the 10th coffin. The coffin was placed on a gun mount of cannon and placed on a railway hearse. The train departed from Aquileia proceeding with a moderate speed so that people could honor the memory of the Unknown Soldier. The train arrived in Rome, were the coffin was hosted by the regiments of the Italian armed forces and representatives of the combatants, widows and mothers of the fallen, with King Victor Emmanuel III of Italy. He was finally buried into the Vittoriano with an inscripton that says: “Ignoto il nome - folgora il suo spirito - dovunque è l'Italia - con voce di pianto e d'orgoglio - dicono - innumeri madri: - è mio figlio”.

**Similarities and differences between English memorial and Italian Memorial**

There are lots of similarities and differences between English memorial and Italian Memorial. For example, the journey is similar: train transported both coffins (and the English’s’ one also travelled in a ship) and the journey was a “pilgrimage” for the citizens of the two countries. Also their function are similar: both memorial has the function to remember the soldiers’ of their nation. Also their function are different: Italians’ memorial have the function of honoring honor the heroic deeds of soldiers, instead the English memorial have the function of remember all unknown soldiers of the first world war. The idea of a war memorial was developed in two different moments: English memorial conceived in 1916 (so at the begging of the first world war), while Italian memorial was developped in 1919 (so at the end of the war).