

EBU Coproduction GRASSROOTS - Contribution RAI Educational

The Most Important Rule

1992 - 1994: "Clean Hands" – An Investigation on Political Corruption in Italy

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Program Synthesis

In the early 90's, after a decade of generous public spending, Italy is facing its the greatest political scandal after WW II.

Our film tells the story of "Clean Hands", an investigation and series of trials concerning political corruption which would lead to the crack down of the most important political parties in the country.

Throughout the 80s, politicians and political parties had constructed a bribe system at all levels of public administration in Italy, and all parties had taken enormous amounts of money from the industry, in change of political favours and public construction commissioning. Italy had become "Tangentopoli - Bribeville", but it is only now, in the new political situation after the fall of the Berlin wall in 89, that public prosecutors really succeed to go ahead with their investigations.

Even though not a "movement" in the grassroots sense, along with the investigation "Clean Hands", a majority of Italiens get incredibly moved and upset about their political leaders: mass manifestations in many cities, and a fundamental change in voting habits are one way of expressing protest.

The film shows the fundamental role of mass media, and especially the role of television in this completely unique "movement", with extensive daily TV reporting - and even a daily life transmission of an important trial from the Milan law court.

A story about the interaction of mass-media and public opinion, about the sense of justice and the importance of rules being respected by everybody in society.

A story told by Gherardo Colombo, former public prosecutor at the Milan Law Court, and Maurizio Losa, RAI TV reporter covering "Clean Hands" for the countries major evening News show.

For further background information, start your research best at:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mani_pulite

"La Storia siamo noi" – We are History is a daily 60' – History Program produced by RAI Educational. Our documentaries on Italian Post WW II History are available online at:

www.lastoriasiamonoi.rai.it