

ROME: OPEN CITY

OVERVIEW

- History
- Politics
- Neorealism
- Characters
- Message
- Ideology



HISTORY

- Origins of Fascism
- Fascism
- Fascism and Nazism
- September 8, 1943
- Rome as an “open city”
- Partisan warfare, differences across Italy, north-south
- Just as in 1860, Italy is an open question after the war

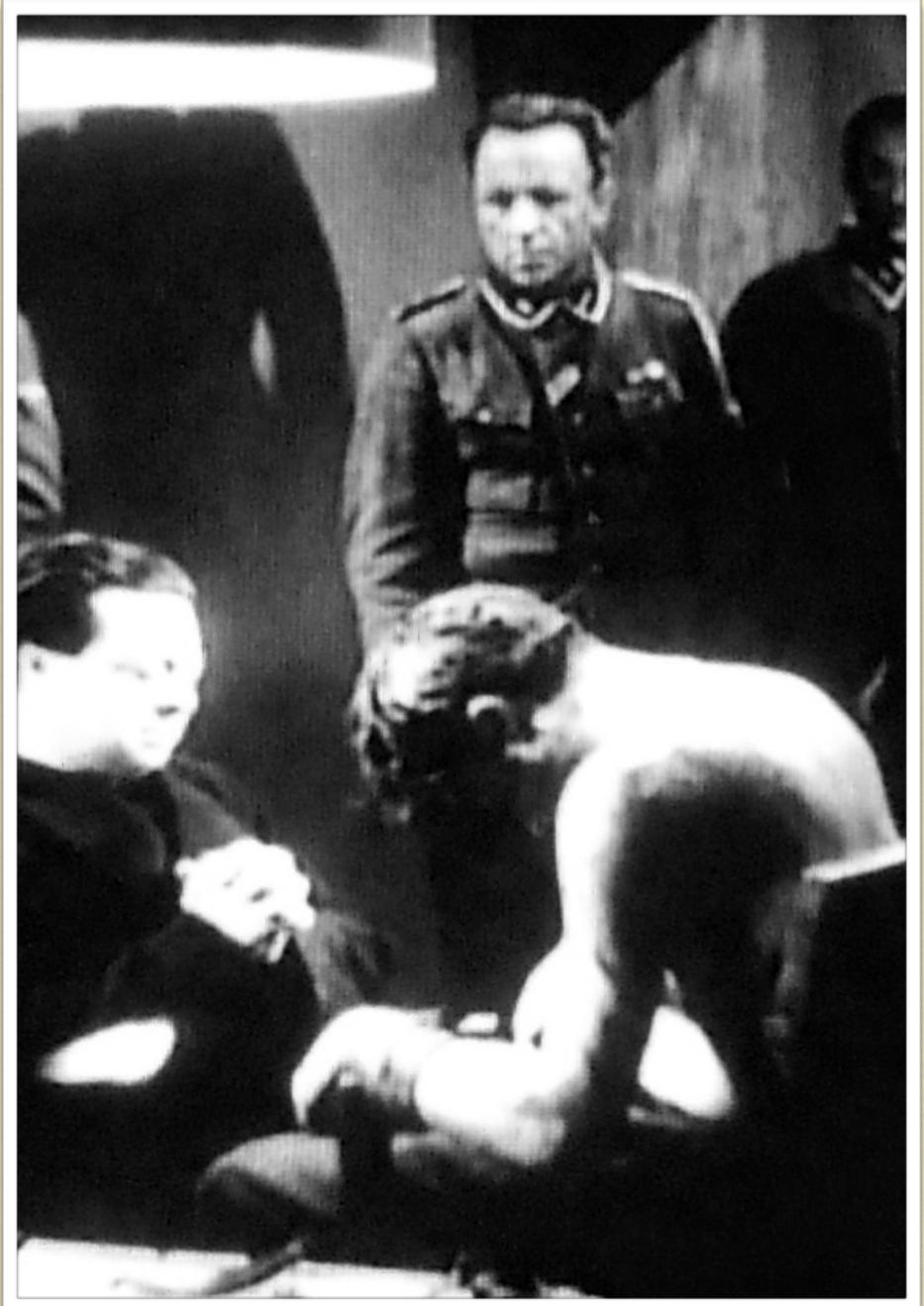






POLITICS

- At the end of the war, major factions included:
 - Fascists
 - Monarchists
 - Non-fascist conservatives (generally identified as “Catholic,” although there are also ‘red Catholics today)
 - Communists
- As this film suggests, monarchists were the big losers; as collaborators with the regime, they were seen by both left and right as, in many ways, worse than the Fascists



NEOREALISM

- A school of filmmaking in Italy, c. 1945-1955
- Very few films are entirely neorealist; many felt the influence
- A laundry list of typical features, including: real locations, natural lighting, ordinary speech, non-professional actors, everyday life, documentary or photojournalist-like camera work, anti-Hollywood aesthetic
- *Open City* is the first; provoked a tidal wave of criticism, adoration









CHARACTERS

- Pina (Francesco, Marcello)
- Manfredi (Marina)
- Don Pietro
- Major Bergmann, Ingrid, Captain Hartmann
- Nameless Italian Fascists

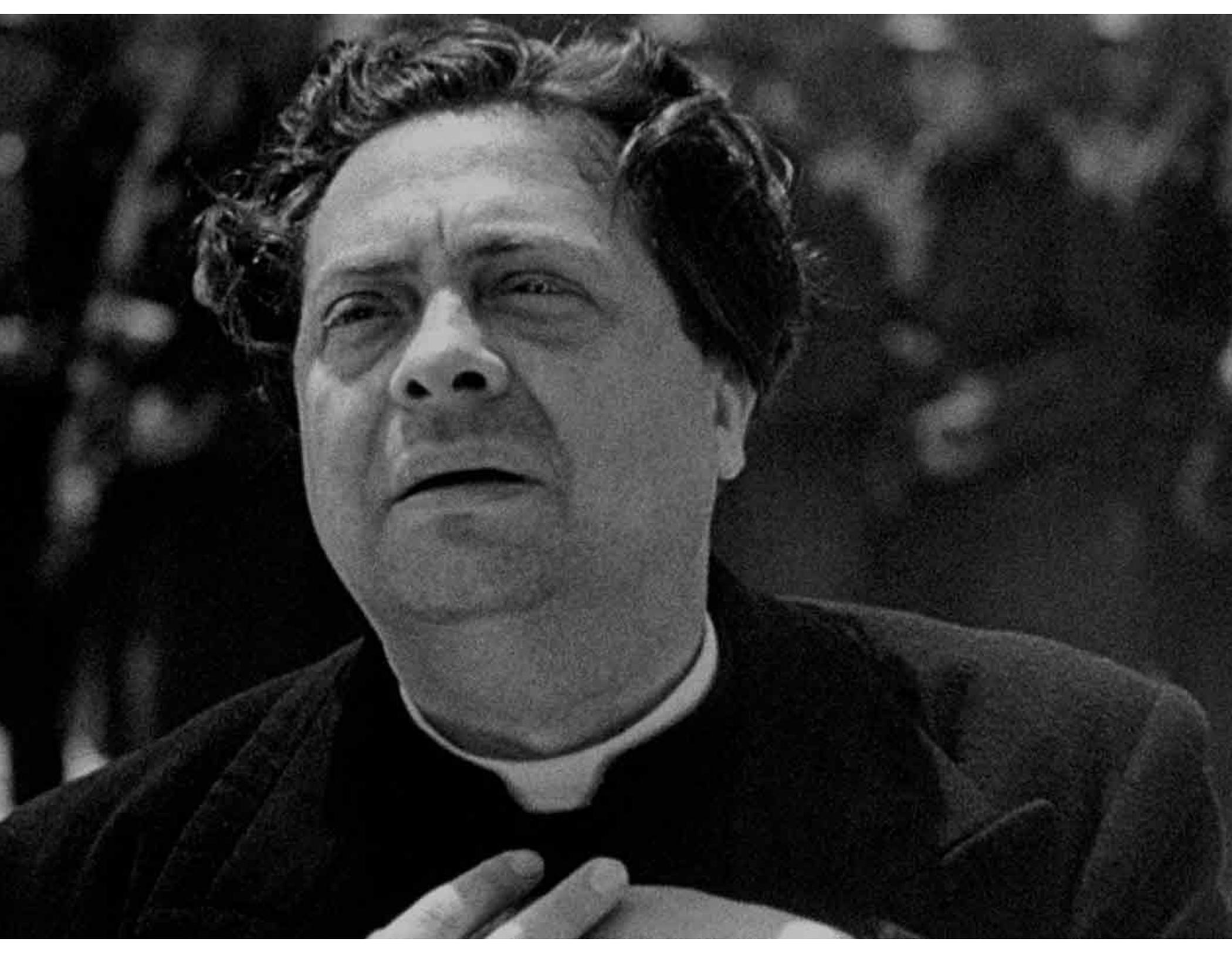






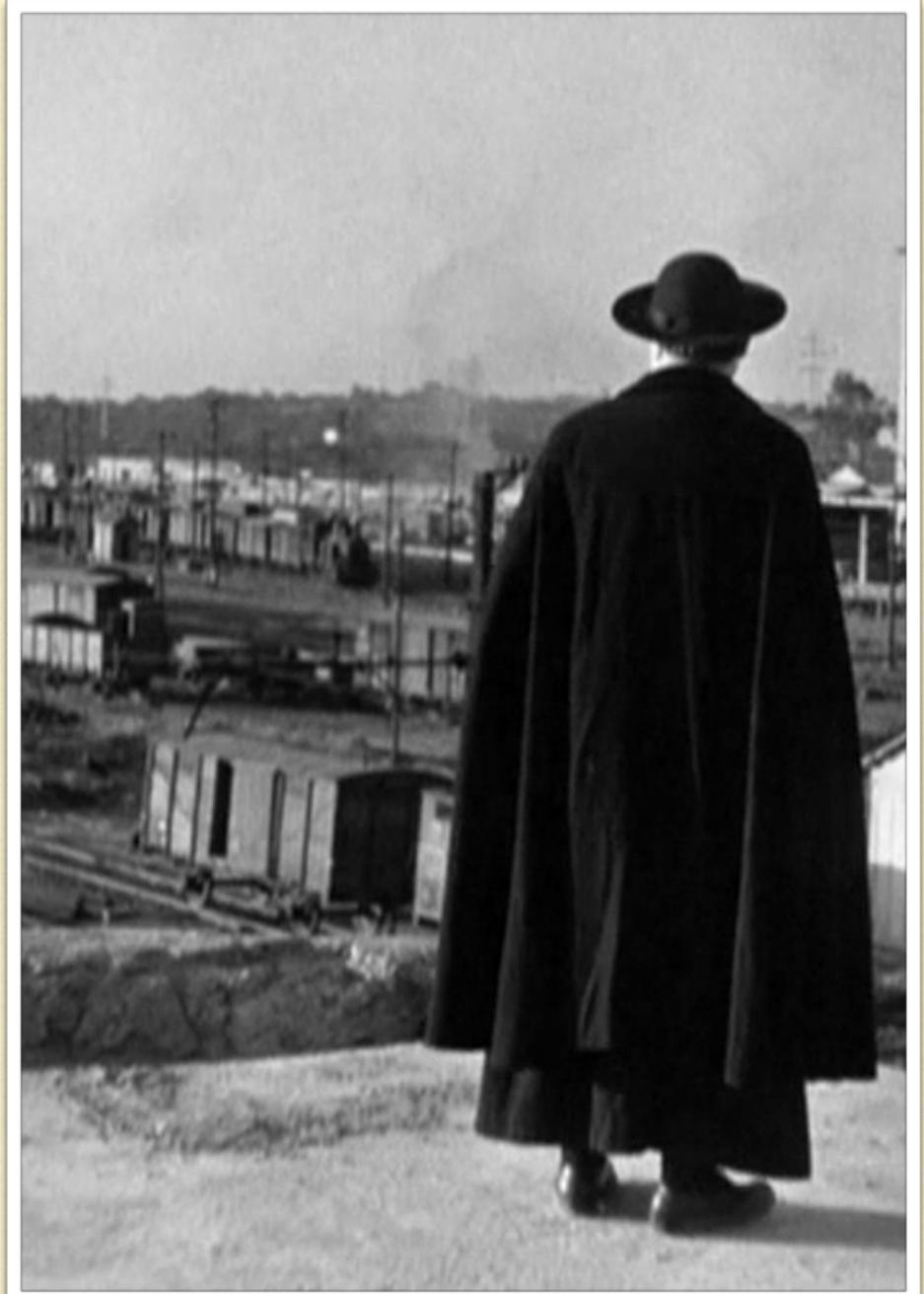






MESSAGE

- What message is the film trying to send to Italian audiences in 1946?
- What message is it trying to send to European and American audiences in 1946?
- And what message do we perhaps hear today?



IDEOLOGY

- We might define ideology as “what you believe without consciously knowing that you believe it”; it’s what seems ‘only natural’; we also say ideology to mean the general outlines of your world view, conscious or not
- For a film, we mean something like “what the film is saying without, perhaps, quite realizing it”
- For *Open City*, we might think in particular about gender (especially women and girls); a larger view of history; and about politics and religion







YOUR VOICE

YOUR VOTE



IF EVEN 30% OF THOSE UNDER 30 VOTED, THEN...

- Recreational marijuana would be legal in Illinois
 - Universal background checks on firearms sales would be in place
 - Action on spiraling college tuition would have been taken long ago
 - Someone else would be President
 - Keep in mind that even statewide elections are now frequently decided by a few hundred, or even a few dozen, votes
 - Illinois is one of three states in the US where same day registration is the law
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FINNE

