

# Contents

List of figures	ix
Introduction	1
Concepts	2
Contents	9
I. Background	
Chapter 1: A country under construction	17
Pushing Italy (and the world) aside	24
Nations and <i>patrie</i>	30
Languages of Italy	40
Chapter 2: The importance of being erudite	53
The Muratorian moment	55
Antiquarianism and political identities	66
Erudition and society	76
Chapter 3: Institutional settings	91
Public policies of communication	95
Aristocratic circles	112
Communication short circuits	127

## II. Difficult transitions

Chapter 4: Naturalizing sovereignty: law and history	137
“The national king”	140
Conflicting kings	145
National laws	152
A century without Rome	174
Chapter 5: The land of Italian nations: space and history	189
Geography and politics	192
Chorographic debates	197
Antiquarian cartographies	209
Ritual geographies	219
Chapter 6: Historical representation: collective memory and history	231
Hard times for state historiography	233
New media: heroic genealogies	244
National history on stage	261
Conclusion: an unfinished transition	281
Bibliography	287
Index	329

## List of figures

- Figure 1: The Italian states in the middle of the eighteenth century. 18
- Figure 2: Borders between the Kingdom of Sardinia and France (1713–1760). 215