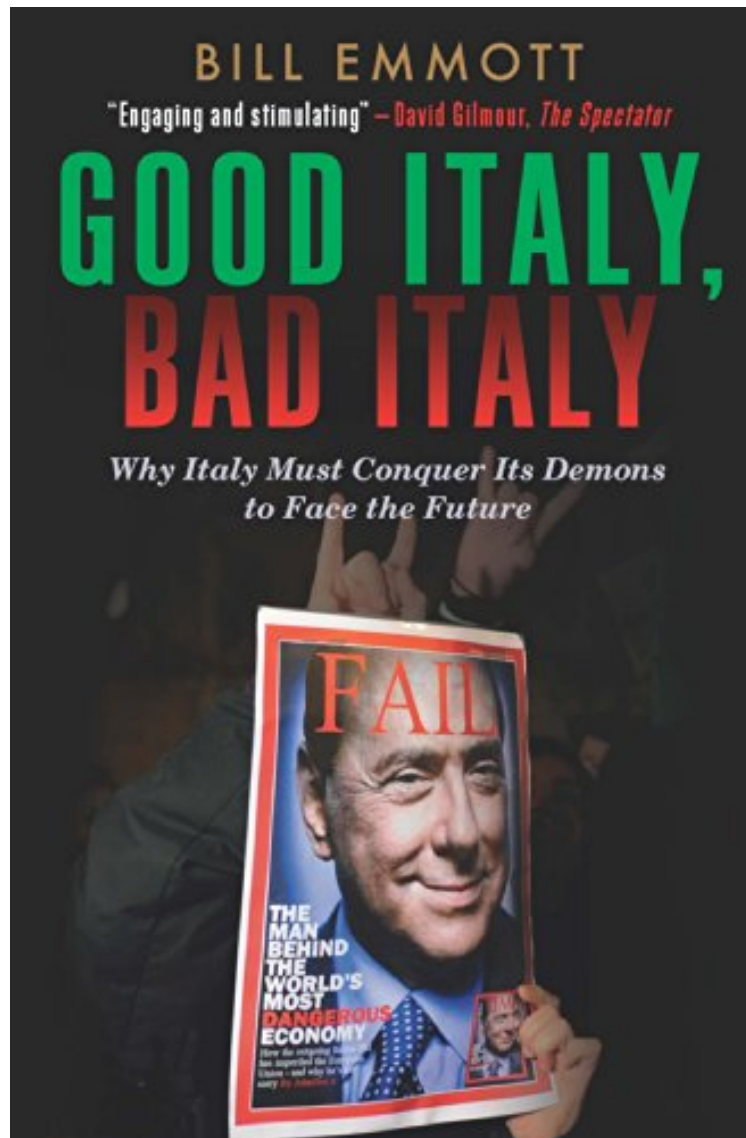


## Good Italy, Bad Italy

Bill Emmott

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**Bill Emmott : Good Italy, Bad Italy** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Good Italy, Bad Italy:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. some good content, but badly written and a chore to read By Michael VI too was attracted by the author's role at The Economist, and by an interview with him on NPR. However, the book is disappointing. It was first written in Italian -- by the way, being able to write in Italian does not make one an expert on Italy -- and then translated into English. The translation is terrible -- for example, "The modern character of Italy's new democratic crisis is its mediatic nature ...". What the heck does "mediatic" mean? It's not in my dictionary. Apparently it means "media-centric" or something similar. But the sentence as a whole is poorly constructed; what

does "modern character" refer to? Does the crisis have a character that is not modern? This may sound pedantic, but the reader is often required to do a lot of work to understand what the author is saying (and sometimes it's not really clear what that is). Many sentences are very long -- this is a feature of articles in Italian newspapers, but has no place in a book in English. By "long" I mean ten lines or more, phrase piled upon phrase, requiring much more effort to untangle than the content warrants. The author must be able to write clear, straightforward English -- he worked at a leading magazine for more than 25 years. It is a shame that he did not rewrite his own book in that straightforward way.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. DisappointedBy Customervery disappointed in the book that I purchased! The book appeared to have been chewed on at the bottom and there was mold at the top. Also some pages were previously wet.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very informative, lovingly writtenBy AthanI bought the book expecting it to read like one of those pull-outs from the middle of the Economist.It doesn't.This is a series of profiles of thriving Italian companies, institutions and initiatives. Large multinationals like Luxottica who sell every pair of premium sunglasses you've ever owned, less well-known successes such as Planeta wines who are transforming agriculture in Sicily, anti-mafia initiatives such as Addio Pizzo who are standing up to entrenched interests and the Egyptian museum in Turin that show us Italian institutions need not remain ossified. There are tens of institutions profiled here.The twist is that the profiles are there with a purpose: to prove that there is hope for a country that has been in political, social and economic decline. The author spends a good hundred pages going through what's wrong in Italy today. Not just the stuff we all read about in the papers such as the high debt, the corrupt politics or the mafia and the black economy, but more fundamental issues: a justice system that was designed to provide innocent people a fair hearing but gets twisted into allowing crooks to avoid punishment; an electoral system that was designed and re-designed to provide strong leadership but has only brought chaos; labor laws that were designed and re-designed to guarantee good working conditions but have limited the size of corporations and kept the young out of work in the past decade.It is within this context that all the companies are looked at, and it is all extremely convincing and lovingly written. Also, the author seems to have interviewed pretty much every Italian citizen who matters. The acknowledgment section reads like the who-is-who of Italy, with the one notable exception of Silvio Berlusconi, who apparently has two lawsuits pending against the author's previous employers at the Economist.The story that wants to come out of here is that we all know what the problems are and people on the ground are doing amazing things despite them, with many of them actually doing good work to stop the rot. With that said, the book also contains a stern warning. The time to act is now. Italy cannot afford another botched reform like the one that was undertaken ca. 1992. This time it has to stick.Fingers crossed, then!

Not long ago Italy was Europe's highly touted emerging economy, a society that blended dynamism and super-fast growth with a lifestyle that was the envy of all. Now it is viewed as a major threat to the future of the Euro, indeed to the European Union as a whole. Italy's political system is shorn of credibility as it struggles to deal with huge public debts and anemic levels of economic growth. Young people are emigrating in droves, frustrated at the lack of opportunity, while older people stubbornly cling to their rights and privileges, fearful of an uncertain future.In this lively, up-to-the-minute book, Bill Emmott explains how Italy sank to this low point, how Italians feel about it, and what can be done to return the country to more prosperous and more democratic times. With the aid of numerous personal interviews, Emmott analyzes "Bad Italy"mdash;the land of disgraced Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, an inadequate justice system, an economy dominated by special interests and continuing corruptionmdash;against its contrasting foil "Good Italy," the home of enthusiastic entrepreneurs, truth-seeking journalists, and countless citizens determined to end mafia domination for good.

ldquo;hellip;a lively and readable analysis.rdquo;?The Bookseller nbsp;