

Impariamo a imparare

un articolo

La condanna a morte di Sacco e Vanzetti

Nel 1923 gli Stati Uniti furono turbati da un clamoroso caso giudiziario, che si concluse con la condanna a morte di due anarchici italiani immigrati: Nicola Sacco (1891-1923) e Bartolomeo Vanzetti (1888-1923), accusati di un duplice omicidio avvenuto nel Massachusetts. Sacco e Vanzetti furono giustiziati dopo tre processi, da cui non emersero prove decisive sulla loro colpevolezza.

Vi fu una vasta campagna internazionale per evitare l'esecuzione, come risulta dall'articolo riprodotto (*The New York Times*, 23 agosto 1927), ma fu tutto inutile.

Solo nel 1977 la Corte del Massachusetts avrebbe riconosciuto l'innocenza dei due immigrati italiani.

1 BOSTON, Aug. 22 — Four final appeals to Governor Fuller for delay in the execution of the death sentences on Sacco and Vanzetti were based on the following grounds:

1. Willingness of the Department of Justice to open its files to the Commonwealth authorities.
2. The official docketing of the appeal for a writ of certiorari in the United States Supreme Court, which could not be acted on by the court until October.

3. A specific request from Arthur D. Hill, chief defense attorney, to allow alienists to examine Sacco and Vanzetti.

4. A request from Mr. Hill, dated last Friday, to delay until the matter of the Supreme Court and the Department of Justice files had been cleared up.

Governor Fuller, after a full day's consideration of these pleas, announced that he would take no further action.

The New York Times.

SACCO AND VANZETTI PUT TO DEATH EARLY THIS MORNING; GOVERNOR FULLER REJECTS LAST-MINUTE PLEAS FOR DELAY AFTER A DAY OF LEGAL MOVES AND DEMONSTRATIONS

COOLIDGE PERCHES GOVERNMENT'S SEAT ON PEAK IN ROCKIES

He Reaches Yellowstone Park
and Begins at Once His
Sight-Seeing Trips.

VISITS CAMP ROOSEVELT

President Passes First Night in
a Cabin Surrounded by

*Cains Word 'Avigation'
For Directing of Aircraft*

*Spoken to The New York Times.
WASHINGTON, Aug. 22.—The suggestion that the term "avigation"
be used in connection with
aviation has been made by
Lieutenant Edward Maitland,
who piloted an army plane in the
first successful non-stop flight
from San Francisco to New York.
His idea has found favor with officers
of the Navy Bureau of Aeronautics.*

*Lieutenant Maitland suggested
that "we use the term 'avigation'
for the directing or operating of
aircraft from one place to another."*

*The combination of the Latin
roots av (to fly) and agere (to move)*

(to move) is not only synecdochically

WALKER JOKES WITH BEEFEATER GUIDE IN TOWER OF LONDON

Thinks He Could Find Use for
Headman's Block in
New York.

RECEIVES STATE WELCOME

Rides With Mrs. Walker From
Station to Hotel in Lord

*Society Gets Old Irving Home
For Centre of Patriotic Work*

*The old home of Washington
Irving at Greenwich Street and
Irving Place became the property
of the National Society of Patriotic
Workers of America yesterday.
Mrs. William Cummings Story,
President of the society, received
the title from Alexander Bell,
the former owner.*

The dwelling will be the head-

quarters of the society. It was

selected because it was a type

coincident with the aims of the

society. The buildings, Mrs.

Story, are "to preserve historic

places, support the Constitution

and uphold old American

ideals."

Mrs. Story said the society

would endeavor to broaden

FULLER HEARS PETITIONERS

Governor Is Under Steady
Pressure Until the
Final Hour.

WOMEN LAST TO APPEAL

Mrs. Sacco and Miss Vanzetti
Leave Him and at 11:03
P. M. He Gives Decision.

DECISION TAKEN CLOUDY BY

*Four Final Legal Pleas Made to the Governor
That Failed to Detain Execution of Death Sentence*

*From a Special Correspondent of The New York Times.
BOSTON, Aug. 22.—Four final appeals to Governor
Fuller for delay in the execution of the death sentences on
Sacco and Vanzetti were heard yesterday, the following grounds:*

1. Willingness of the Department of Justice to open its files to the Commonwealth authorities.

2. The official docketing of the appeal for a writ of certiorari in the Supreme Court, which could not be acted on by the court until October.

3. A specific request from Arthur D. Hill, chief defense attorney, to allow alienists to examine Sacco and Vanzetti.

4. A request from Mr. Hill, dated last Friday, to delay until the matter of the Supreme Court and the Department of Justice files had been cleared up.

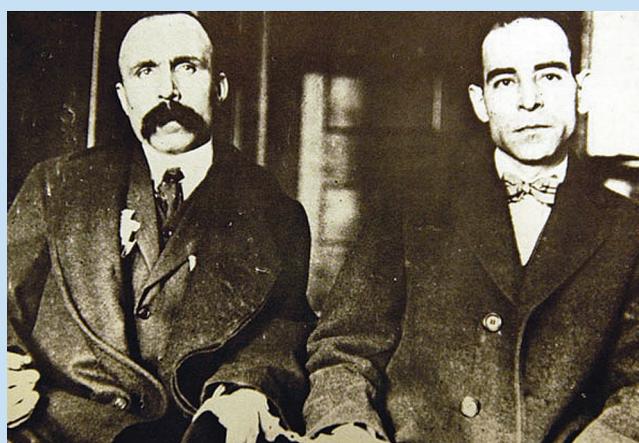
Governor Fuller, after a full day's consideration of these pleas, announced that he would take no further action.

WALK TO DEATH CALMLY

Sacco Cries 'Long Live
Anarchy'; Vanzetti Insists
on His Innocence.

WARDEN CAN ONLY WHISPER

Much Affected as the Long-
Delayed Execution Is
Carried Out.



A sinistra, Bartolomeo Vanzetti e Nicola Sacco, accusati ingiustamente di aver ucciso un contabile e una guardia del calzaturificio «Slater e Merrill», furono giustiziati sulla sedia elettrica il 23 agosto 1927. Nel 1971 la vicenda ritornò d'attualità con il film *Sacco e Vanzetti*, di Giuliano Montaldo, con due protagonisti di eccezionale bravura: Gian Maria Volonté e Riccardo Cuccolla (a destra).

Sintesi

Dopo averlo tradotto, identifica il principale problema trattato nell'articolo appena letto e fai un riassunto (non superiore a 4-5 righe) che ne sintetizzi l'idea essenziale.

Comprensione del testo

Spiega il significato delle espressioni che seguono (tratte dall'articolo riportato).

Final appeals
Delay in the execution
The death sentences
Department of Justice
Commonwealth authorities
United States Supreme Court
Chief defense attorney
Governor

Qualche riflessione

Sulla base del brano appena letto rispondi alle seguenti domande.

- 1** La pena di morte è tuttora in vigore negli Stati Uniti?
- 2** Quali sono i poteri della «United States Supreme Court»?
- 3** «Four final appeals to Governor Fuller for delay in the execution of the death sentences on Sacco and Vanzetti». Perché tanto interesse per due immigrati italiani nell'America degli anni Venti?
- 4** L'avvocato Arthur D. Hill avanzò:
 - «a specific request to allow alienists to examine Sacco and Vanzetti»;
 - «a request to delay until the matter of the Supreme Court and the Department of Justice files had been cleared up». Perché furono rifiutate?
- 5** «Governor Fuller announced that he would take no further action». Quali furono le conseguenze di questa decisione?

Approfondiamo

- 1** Documentati su Nicola Sacco e Bartolomeo Vanzetti, cercando di differenziare le due figure che vengono sempre identificate.
- 2** Sacco e Vanzetti furono riabilitati 1977 dalla Corte del Massachusetts. Ricerca quella sentenza.
- 3** Joan Baez, mitica cantautrice degli anni Sessanta, dedicò una canzone a Sacco e Vanzetti. Ascoltala coi tuoi compagni.
- 4** Il Governo italiano, o meglio il regime fascista, fece qualche intervento diplomatico nei confronti degli Stati Uniti per tutelare Sacco e Vanzetti?
- 5** Ricerca il numero delle esecuzioni, avvenute nei 36 Stati federati americani che ammettono la pena di morte dal 1980 a oggi.