

DRIVING MODERNITY

Technology, Experts, Politics, and Fascist Motorways, 1922-1943

Volume 3, *Explorations in Mobility*

Massimo Moraglio

Translated from the Italian by Erin O'Loughlin

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Summary:

On March 26th, 1923, in a formal ceremony, construction of the Milan–Alpine Lakes autostrada officially began, the preliminary step toward what would become the first European motorway. That Benito Mussolini himself participated in the festivities indicates just how important the project was to Italian Fascism. *Driving Modernity* recounts the twisting fortunes of the autostrada, which—alongside railways, aviation, and other forms of mobility—Italian authorities hoped would spread an ideology of technological nationalism. It explains how Italy ultimately failed to realize its mammoth infrastructural vision, addressing the political and social conditions that made a coherent plan of development impossible.

“Based on prodigious archival research, Driving Modernity explores how the Italian autostrada project grew out of a somewhat fantastic idea by a coterie of Milan businessmen into an internationally recognized technological icon of Fascist Italy. This book speaks clearly and convincingly about the political values embedded in infrastructures.” · **Thomas Zeller**, University of Maryland, College Park

“Moraglio’s work is a deep dive into a grandiose and distinctively modern project in interwar Italy. Never before has the complex ideological character of these motorways been so clearly analyzed, from the moment of their conception to the widespread adoption of the automobile.” · **Mathieu Flonneau**, Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne, LabEx EHNE

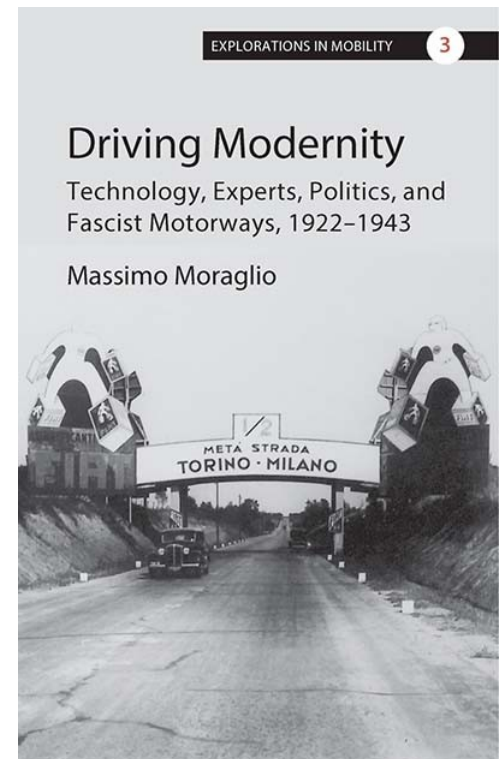
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Massimo Moraglio is a senior researcher at the Technische Universität Berlin. He has received an EU Marie Skłodowska Curie IEF fellowship and is editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Transport History*. He has coedited the volumes *The Organization of Transport: A History of Users, Industry, and Public Policy* (2015) and *Peripheral Flows: A Historical Perspective on Mobilities between Cores and Fringes* (2016).

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