

Around the '68: Italian memory between fills and gaps

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As the fiftieth anniversary comes close, in Italy there isn't yet a shared memory over the so called "68", as we generally refer to protest movements put forward in our country from 1966 to 1969 by young people, students and workers.

Indeed, along the past decades the 68's history was unfairly used in political debate and this happened because of diverse features.

At first place the generous publishing of ex-activists' memoirs, split in apologetic ones and attackers about the values of that historical season.

At second place the 68's memory transmission has been affected by later facts and thoughts, as both the "Long Resistance"'s myth which spread at the beginning of seventies and the political violence of the Years of Lead in the following decade.

The paper means to retrace knots and historical reasons for such a memorial framework and point out the memorial gaps.

According to a historical point of view '68 was an uncontestable political lab of participatory democracy. Nevertheless it lacks a public memory of protests and battles actually held, with their original values, which involved overall young people and students.

Anniversaries have been useful occasions for historiographical insights, but they failed in transmitting documents' memory to a large audience.

In the Italian civic calendar there is not a common date to relay on to recall reflections over the '68.

Finally a less partisan memory of the '68 could be useful in inspiring a comparison between '68's activism and movements of nowadays young people, who also enhance generational battles, of social, cultural and political innovation.