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Activity: European identity

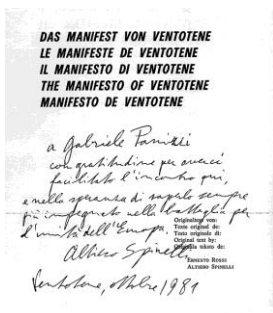
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Altiero Spinelli (1907 –1986) was one of the founding fathers of the European Union. He was an Italian politician and political theorist of European federalism.



He was arrested when he was 20 for opposing the National Fascist Party. He spent 10 years in prison and 6 years in confinement on the island of Ventotene.



In 1941 Spinelli and fellow prisoner Ernesto Rossi, while in confinement, drafted the 'Ventotene Manifesto', a document that called for the establishment of a European federation by the democratic powers after the war.

The proposal was a reaction to the destructive excesses of nationalism that had led to war. The aim of the federation was to tie European countries so closely together that they would not be able to go to war with one another in the future.

The 'Ventotene Manifesto' is considered a precursor of the European integration process.

After the war, Spinelli played an important role in the European integration. He was a member of the European commission from 1970 to 1976. In 1979 he was elected member of the European Parliament.

In honour of his work a building of the European Parliament Complex in Brussels was named after him.



Sources: <http://www.raiscuola.raai.it/speciale/altiero-spinelli/1656/3105/default.aspx>

<http://www.raiscuola.raai.it/speciale/altiero-spinelli/1656/-1/default.aspx>

https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Altiero_Spinelli

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