

Four constitutional scholars, who are foreigners or Italians established abroad and who closely follow the evolutions of the Italian system, comment the process of constitutional reform and the outcome of the referendum from a comparative point of view. All of these contributions question the appropriateness of asking the people to decide, by means of a referendum, such a technical issue as constitutional reform. In this regard, Peter Leyland draws a comparison with the referendum held in June 2016 on the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union; in the same vein, Pasquale Pasquino sees, in constitutional referenda, both a formal deference to popular sovereignty and a demise of the principle of reasonableness. Jason Mazzone, instead, focuses on the impact of the rejection of the constitutional reform, and, comparing the Italian and the US experiences, expresses the fear that an enduring 'amendmentphobia' will be the ultimate result of the 2016 referendum. A similar concern is emphasized by Dian Schefold, who, although conceding that Italy needs reforms, questions whether there is a real need for *constitutional* reforms.