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the urban lower middle class and the intellectuals.

If the political crisis ripens into a civil war, the solution will be with the working class, and there will be either a democracy or a dictatorship according to whether the Socialists or the Communists gain the upper hand among the workers. The party of the petite bourgeoisie is the weakest, being heterogeneous and disorganized and lacking a leader, if Sforza could get himself accepted as leader of this party, he could serve as intermediary between the Catholics and the Socialists and work towards a Democrat - Catholic - Socialist political coalition, which could play a certain part in the transition period. More than this Sforza cannot do. He cannot be accepted as leader either by the Catholics or by the Socialists, which at present are the two strongest parties in Italy; he could, I repeat, as leader of the Liberal - Democrat - Republican current, bring about an agreement with the other currents.

For different but not less serious reasons, no Catholic (for example Don Sturzo) can hope to become the leader of Free Italy, although Italy is a Catholic country - indeed, precisely because Italy is a Catholic country, and seat of the Papacy, a priest cannot become Head of the State - whoever fails to grasp this fact at once knows nothing of Italy. From Dante to Mussolini, politics in Italy - this Catholic country - have always been essentially secular. The Papal