

Mandatory Military Service: Still Useful Today?

Published on 20/05/2025

The topic of **mandatory military service** cyclically returns to the center of public debate in Italy. Despite its suspension in 2005, the draft was never formally abolished, and it is often treated as a relic of the past, to be shelved in the name of modernity. But is it really so? Or perhaps today, more than ever, could the draft play a significant role for Italian society?

The Idea of Mandatory Service Today

In an era where war mistakenly appears as a remote event and natural emergencies are increasingly frequent, some argue that a return to the draft, albeit in a renewed and not exclusively military form, could be useful. According to many experts, the draft was not just a period of marches and training, but a laboratory of **civilization**, where young people learned values such as **discipline**, **collective sense**, **solidarity**, and the ability to face crises. Moreover, the draft also represented a moment of social unification, where young people from different social classes, from the North to the South of Italy, met. It was an opportunity for **social leveling** that was not punitive but formative. It was not just about physical training, but

a true **symbolic passage** towards civic maturity and belonging to the community. In a context where many families struggle to transmit life rules and civic sense, the draft could represent an important opportunity to form a new generation aware of their **duties** and **responsibilities**, beyond rights. [caption id="attachment_19177" align="alignnone" width="1376"]



Mandatory Military Service: Still Useful Today? - brigatafolgore.net[/caption]

The League's Proposal for Mandatory Service

The debate becomes even more current thanks to the recent motion by the League for the introduction of a **mandatory civil and military service**. Roberto Bet, regional councilor of Veneto, proposed that all Italian citizens between the ages of 18 and 26 undertake a **mandatory 6-month service**, preferably in their own region. The proposal includes both military training and civil service, with particular attention to civil protection, the protection of natural and cultural heritage, and public rescue. According to Bet, the introduction of mandatory service also responds to a series of urgent **social challenges**, such as the high rate of **youth distress**, the alarming number of **NEETs** (Not in Education, Employment, or Training), and the increase in **criminal phenomena** among young people. A **universal mandatory service** could not only reduce these problems but also serve as an investment for the economy, creating young people who are more prepared, disciplined, and ready to face professional challenges. In conclusion, the proposal is not limited to a simple resolution of social problems. It represents an opportunity to **strengthen the sense of community** and **belonging** to an Italy that today needs more than ever to rediscover a **collective bond**. The return of the draft, whether civil or military, could not only offer young people practical preparation to face life's difficulties but also a **human formation** capable of transmitting essential values such as

solidarity and **service to the community**. According to Bet, the introduction of mandatory service represents an opportunity to form **more aware** and committed young people, capable of responding to the challenges of a rapidly changing world, preparing them to build a stronger and more cohesive Italy.