

THE CASES THAT MADE AMERICA

Sacco and Vanzetti were two anarchists from Italian origin. They were convicted of murder in 1920 in a context of social and economic crisis. The two men were judged twice and finally sentenced to death. This case was adapted for the cinema in 1971. They were rehabilitated in 1977.

BARTOLOMEO VANZETTI: What I say is that I am innocent, not only of the Braintree crime, but also of the Bridgewater crime. That I am not only innocent of these two crimes, but in all my life I have never stolen and I have never killed and I have never spilled blood. That is what I want to say. And it is not all. Not only am I innocent of these two crimes, not only in all my life I have never stolen, never killed, never spilled blood, but I have struggled all my life, since I began to reason, to eliminate crime from the earth, the crimes that the official law and the moral law condemn, but also the crime that the official law sanctions and sacrifices-- the exploitation and the oppression of the man by the man.

Adapted from the Trial of Sacco and Vanzetti, 1977