

Synopsis of the opera *Gramsci*

I. Prison Antonio Gramsci is imprisoned. He reflects on the prosecutor's threats to suppress his thoughts and vows to turn his mind into a tool of resistance. A fascist doctor appears, showing superficial empathy while wishing for his death.

II. Ghilarza In a conversation with his brother Gennaro, Gramsci recalls their childhood in Sardinia and their father's imprisonment for political reasons, as well as the current separation of their family.

III. Distance 1 Gramsci dreams of his wife, Julia, who lives in Moscow. Her absence and silence torment him. In a soliloquy, he questions her love and role as a mother.

IV. Closeness 1 Tatiana, Julia's sister, visits Gramsci. She brings news from Julia and comforts him. In an intimate duet, comfort and unspoken affection intertwine.

V. The Mother Gramsci reminisces about his mother and her support during his childhood. In an imaginary dialogue, they discuss kindness, education, and the transmission of values to future generations.

VI. Mussolini In the Italian parliament, Gramsci publicly confronts Mussolini, denouncing fascist violence. Mussolini unsuccessfully attempts to manipulate Gramsci. The scene ends with a powerful duet highlighting their ideological and personal contrasts.

VII. Moscow Gramsci discusses the Communist International's policies with Stalin and Togliatti. His proposals for strategic alliances are mocked by Stalin, while Togliatti warns him against returning to Italy.

VIII. Writing is Life 1 Gramsci receives writing materials in prison. He decides to dedicate his time to writing. The chorus illustrates his thoughts on culture, education, and society.

IX. Cripple Gramsci reflects on his childhood and the pain caused by his physical disability. His mother consoles him while his brother mocks him.

X. Distance 2 Julia writes to Gramsci, describing her feelings of helplessness and despair over their separation. Her words highlight the contrasts in their circumstances.

XI. Closeness 2 Tatiana brings Gramsci hope, but he laments the incompleteness of his work and his isolation. Her presence offers a brief moment of comfort.

XII. Writing is Life 2 The chorus presents Gramsci's reflections from his prison notebooks, criticizing fascist propaganda and analyzing mass manipulation.

XIII. The Brother Separated, Gramsci and Gennaro grapple with isolation. Gennaro hides their mother's death to protect Gramsci.

XIV. Death Gramsci succumbs to his illnesses. A doctor coldly describes his condition. Shortly before his death, Gramsci receives news of his imminent release.

XV. Legend In a symbolic final scene, Gramsci's funeral is portrayed. A witness reflects on his intellectual and moral legacy.