

Summary

Franco Mercurio

Imagined territories and really landscape: travel notes around an interpretation.

The Author analyzes the representation of territory as landscape by the ruling classes of Europa in Modern and Contemporary Age. The changing economical and social orders of territory are represented by intellectuals, artists, poets in aesthetical forms which sublimate the material elements and produce consent. Landscape is therefore not only the conceptual representation of territory, but also the metaphorical expression of economical powers and their antagonists.

Maria De Paola

Limits to innovation and growth constraints. The results of an empirical investigation on a sample of Calabrian firms.

This paper (part of a more general research project on SMEs in Calabria, Italy, within the Regional Innovation Strategies Programme, financed by European Union and Calabria Region) analyses the behaviour of Calabrian firms toward innovation referring to the empirical evidence collected from a sample of 72 local companies in different industrial sectors. The first part of the paper describes the innovations realised by firms and the obstacles they met during the realisation process, while the second part examines the main common features shown by the most innovative firms and the effects of innovation on some economic indicators. It emerges that most of the firms considered realise very few innovations. Besides also the most innovative firms seem to find a great difficulty in transforming their innovative effort in market advantage. On the basis of the main results of this study we propose some general guidelines for local and national policies aimed to favour the growth of local firms.

Rosario Mangiameli

Cooperative societies and mass parties in the experience of Francesco Marino.

This paper examines the question of the formation of the governing classes in the South of Italy during the 20th century. We study the case of Francesco Marino, a communist who was active in the agricultural village of Lentini in the province of Siracusa in the period following the World War One until just after WW2. Marino was an organiser of co-operatives who managed to direct a large mass movement during the twenties, starting the process of splitting large land holdings into quotas and into citrus orchards. With the advent of fascism, he was able to keep his organisation active despite great difficulties. In the aftermath of

the second War, the agricultural worker and peasants movement in Lentini found its political expression in the Communist Party. This paper poses the question of the relationship between the local and national dimensions in the formation of governing classes: in the case under consideration, this process was not interrupted by the advent of fascism and this fact helps us read the processes of the nationalisation of politics in a larger timescale.

Andrea de Panizza e Stefania Rossetti
Professional training and labour demand in the Mezzogiorno.

This paper deals with the regional features of the Italian vocational training system in terms of efficiency and effectiveness. The analysis undertaken in the first part of the paper considers some aggregated indicators of effort and cost-effectiveness. Its results partly confirm the common perception of a lower administrative capability of the Italian high-unemployment Mezzogiorno, but at the same time shows wide differences among Southern Italy's regions themselves. The second part of the paper focuses on the case study of four regions of Southern Italy, matching their publicly sponsored vocational training schemes with the employment opportunities signalled by firms. This can be regarded as an innovative and still in progress attempt. Indeed, the lack of a standard classification of vocational training courses has implied a burdensome reclassification in order to allow their matching with vacancies, while the coverage of employment opportunities both by vocational training courses and the vacancies archives is incomplete. In spite of these shortcomings, wide differences among regions are again found, which only in part could be attributed to different responses to diverse labour market conditions. These findings emphasise the need of a systemic research on the 'best practices' by local authorities and, in some cases, of a thorough changing of their vocational training schemes.

Salvatore Vinciguerra
*Territorial scenes and communication ways between
the XVIIIth and XIXth century in Sicily.*

The Industrial Revolution of Northern Europe produced great but unequal effects on sicilian landscape due essentially to dishomogeneous territorial development. Between the XVIIIth and XIXth century, the pressure exercised by industrial developing countries – France and England among all – on sicilian production structures brought on either deep land changes, especially in the south-eastern coast and plane areas, or, in the inland districts (Caltanissetta, Agrigento), fast re-conversion of some areas from cereal to sulphur production. At that time south-eastern Sicily was already characterised by a consolidated urban network, medieval inheritance. These elements, together with well-watered and arboreal growings development, helped in the realization of the thickest road system in Sicily during the pre-unification period. On the contrary, in the inland part of Sicily, the choice of concentrate all the communication ways around the sulphur mines increased dramatically the difference between these areas and the ones that were not involved in the new international market.