

Summary

Salvatore Lupo

History of South, Southern question, and «Meridionalismo».

The article shows that the history of South Italy should not be thought as the history of the so called «Southern question»: that is to say the last should be considered only as an aspect (and an interpretation) of the latter. In its turn the «Southern question» is something different from the «meridionalismo», a cultural tradition that should be distinguished from the general question of the southern relative backwardness.

Vittorio Cappelli

Local identities and national State in fascist Italy.

The author takes into account the development of the relationship between the local identities and the national one, during the fascist period, and maintains that while the State centred regime deprives the local autonomies, nevertheless it follows a cultural and social policy which emphasizes the local identities.

The process of an authoritarian nationalization of the Italians and the modernization of the country are also due to the utilization of the municipal cultures.

Stressing the necessity to continue further comparative investigations of the author considers both the self referential case of Tuscany and the peripheral and secondary areal of South Italy. In the former, the renewal and the development of local traditions put together Conservatives and Modernists; and the handicraft and the folklore are able to match the tourism and the mass society. In the Appennine south, mechanisms of integration are present and these involve fragmented territories and archaic cultures in a new and centralized national dimension.

Luca Baldissara

Conflicting identities.

Municipalism, localism and political integration in «padana» area.

The author starts dealing with the issue of local and regional identities, pointing out its different uses and meanings in contemporary history, and focusing the historical debate on economic growth and political integration models in «padana» area, which is briefly reviewed. The author assumes that the process of defining regional and local identities owes to the interrelation among State policy, political

parties policies and economic development in a territorial framework. He also points out that, on the other hand, the process of defining local identities is influenced by municipal policies to support urban development, so that the complex centre-periphery relationship that raises as a result leads to exclude a sharp counter-tension between local and national identities. He concludes revisiting the recent historiography on national identity, in agreement with the authors which consider it an historical issue and not a new «ideology».

Gabriele B. Clemens

The local history societies and the regional identities.

The paper deals with the Italian history societies in the 19th century pursuing the questions of how these societies were able to create local or regional identities. The analysis focuses on the social composition of the society members, their research activities, their cooperation among themselves, their conception of history and, finally, the way the protagonists see themselves as part of the intellectual élite.

Francesco Ramella

*The «Red» Subculture:
Between Apathy and New Civicness.*

Over the last few years many things have been changing in Italian politics. The only area that seems not to have been affected by these changes is that of the «red» regions of central Italy. In a period of great political challenges and rapid transformations, the electoral behavior of these regions has emerged as a strong element of continuity with the past. Not surprisingly, the electoral result has been seen as an indicator of the persistence not only of political fidelity but also of a «red subculture». The article addresses this interpretation critically on the basis of research carried out with Paul Ginsborg between 1994 and 1997 in Valdelsa, a «red area» of Tuscany. The study shows some indicators of continuity and many of change. On the one hand, the capacity of the local society to promote an intergenerational reproduction of leftwing convictions is quite clear. On the other hand, modifications in the political culture and in the links between civil society and the political system are even more clear. The objective of the essay is to demonstrate that even in those regions in which we assume that the mass organizations show a greater persistence, the foundations of political delegation have undergone a great transformation. The author tries to make clear that: 1) the vote for leftist parties has increasingly become more autonomous from traditional forms of identification and mobilization; 2) there is a change in the relationship between the integration in the political subculture and the civic orientation of citizens; 3) a diversification of the local civic culture, based on age, is emerging.

Augusto Placanica

Southern identity.

The identity of Southern Italy – the original inhabitant of Southern Italy- it is not a natural assumption, but rather a cultural product, a construction of history.

Southern Italy, from the seventeen to eighteen century, has been admired and dreamed of by a part of the European intellectual that in the advancement of modernity and the operation of reason and investigation, there was a search for ideological indemnity founded on the primitive view of a population with archaic values, and on memories of a ancient and glorious civilization. But the facts show that the south of Italy had been and continued to be only a reign, a state like many others, too vast in its interior. Therefore, that identity, in the measure in which it was at one time, had fully developed through the centuries and it had nourished new ideas. Only from the beginning of the modern period did the reign of Southern Italy and the south of Italy reveal to be united, the representation of a happy outcome (of nature, history and positive environment). It was also the auto-representation of work of its intellectuals in its awareness of widespread belonging. But this did not happen when the south of Italy. It was no longer the ancient mirage presented, but the cruel reality of the under-developed (nature, history and negative environment), placed in comparison with other surroundings much more fortunate. The «Southern Italy question» has had an ulterior point of force in the suitable presumed identity of a universe that, from the nineteenth century, has been humiliated in respects to the north of Italy. That which is Southern Italy has been always a strong ideological identity and at times functional in historical interests.

Piero Bevilacqua

History and Southern Italy in Rossi-Doria's work.

In what sense we can speak about a particular and privileged relationship between Rossi-Doria and history: that is between the agrarian economist, politician and reformer with the dimension of the past and the specific discipline which studies it? The author, surveying the wide work of Rossi-Doria, shows the different features in which he used the knowledge of the past in order to analyze the present and to discover the deep causes of some results of economic and social process. He himself was an acute historian of territorial and agrarian transformation of Southern Italy. But, above all, Bevilacqua emphasizes the central role that Rossi-Doria assigned to historical study as integral part of a way of making out in the social reality with ends of reform.

Leandra D'Antone

Manlio Rossi-Doria and «the job politics».

The work of Manlio Rossi-Doria is a perfect example of the intimate interconnection between scholarship, a constant development of the method, and a civic and political activism. This mixture has made Rossi-Doria into the most innovative protagonist of the post-war Italian agrarian policy, while at the same time, into the most intelligent interpreter of the contemporary history of the Italian South. Rossi-Doria formulated a vision of territory, and particularly of the Italian Southern territory, as a system of specific internal and external connections. The conditions for a lasting and balanced economic development, he claimed, were peace, free trade, administrative de-centralization and an efficient public administration. He had always interested in experiences of other countries; in the Usa, he valued the cooperation between scientific and political institution in favoring and promo-

ting local development. The very originality of Rossi-Doria, his own character, together with his flexibility in up-dating his analyses and his proposals with the changing historical circumstances, all this can account for the lasting his «meridionalism» and for his «politica del mestiere» (his political practice based on scientific and empirical knowledge) still serving as an example for today's leadership.

Daniela Giangiulio-Elena Carletti

The quota regime for milk:

which equilibrium between regulation and competition?

The goal of this article is to analyze the reasons for the unsatisfactory working of the quota regime for milk production in Italy. We also attempt to identify some possible corrections to the way the regime is implemented in Italy. The problems with the quota regime for milk stem from the difficulties in balancing competition and the quantitative limits to be imposed on production in order to avoid a fall in the price of milk, and so of farmer's income. We show that problems we experience have been exacerbated by the policy protecting national milk producers. Protection has created loss of efficiency and incentivated opportunistic behavior on part of producers. Geographical and temporal constraints to the possibility to create a market for quotas, introduced by several laws, have worsened the efficiency losses.