

Summary

Giuseppe Barone

Urban Systems and the Bourgeoisie in Contemporary Southern Italy

Urban expansionism in 19th and 20th century Western Europe happens through many forms of transition from the *ancien régime* city to the capitalistic one; any definite correlation between urbanization and industrialization becomes therefore not plausible, thus making impracticable any pre-ordained correlation between urbanization and industrialization. In Southern Italy the growth of an urban system was first activated by the administrative reforms enacted after the country's unification, the creation of a railway system and the open market trade policy. The Author here retraces both the chronological spanning and the demographic pattern of such a process up to the present time. In the second section of the article he highlights the social role played by the local bourgeoisie in building up the political and cultural egemonism of the city during the Giolitti's administration, and outlines the main features of democratic municipalism during the same age.

Silvio Lanaro

Does the Country Organize the City?

The article maintains that the city is an eminently preindustrial social expression, a product of the *ancien régime*. Industrialization is a successive phenomenon and is something different from the city, above all if one refers to Italy. Today, in any case, cities have lost the functions for which they were created and seem to be more ruling centers than centers of possibility and liberty. The article further proposes, by partly turning upside down the famous thesis of Carlo Cattaneo, that it has not been so much the city in Italy that has organized the countryside as the countryside to give impetus, resources and culture to civic life, that has been in this way able to show itself in all its riches. Rural areas have not been either less productive or less active as moving forces than cities.

Paolo Macry

Some Observations on the Southern Urban Middle Class

The Southern urban system is seen, following the unification of Italy, to be rather variegated: from the case of Calabrian cities that withdraw feebly from the surrounding rural environment to the case of Apulian cities that are developing striking economic functionality and the case of the imposing former capital, Naples, that possesses European demographic dimensions. Inside the cities, the composition of the various elites is rather heterogeneous and the functions that they play are naturally diverse. Generally, the figure of the *rentier*, a proprietor of lands or houses, who spends his income in the city is dominant, next to professionals and

the diverse figures of the lower middle class who rise on the resources of politics, that is, on the increasing administrative duties of the liberal government. The entrepreneurs, however, are not lacking, the so-called «retailers», halfway between manufacturing enterprise and commerce, according to an uncertain situation that is connected to the position of the South in the international market.

Gian Giacomo Ortu

Closed City and Open Country in Modern and Contemporary Sardinia

Sardinia has long been represented primarily as a uniformly rural island almost without cities. There have been few historical studies recently to correct this stereotype. In effect, it is a question of stereotype, since for much of the modern period cities like Cagliari and Sassari, competing for hegemony on the island, have dominated the countryside, subordinating it to their own alimentary needs. Primarily bureaucratic and administrative centers, they have with time formed and produced a cultural and political elite which is essentially urban, with varying results for the island. Economic development in this century has given life to and permitted the growth of old and new cities, such as Nuoro, Oristano, Iglesias and so on, that in this post-war period have become progressively stronger because of the administrative autonomy of the island.

Lorenzo Bellicini

In Periphery. Topics, Ways and Images

The urban periphery today constitutes more than ever, in the sphere of the competitive processes of transformation that characterize the city of the 1980's, and will perhaps characterize the city of the 1990's, a hard knot. Given the unbalanced formalities which seem to show this change, concentrated only in some urban areas, in some cities, or regionally dispersed in certain urban systems considered privileged — in particular one notes the ample strips of residential periphery without public services or exceptional construction, characterized by social degradation — it seems that a true urban emptiness is being progressively constructed, an area overlooked or forgotten by the processes of transformation. If the periphery is a problem that can be generalized in terms of the homologous character of its contemporary city, the greater territorial dimensions that it covers in Southern cities constitutes a strong element of handicap in the economic competition, both national and international, that is played on the roles and the functions of the city.

Daniela Lepore

Old arguments, new projects: on the Naples city center

A project of 1988 to renew and improve the historical center of Naples has caused harsh polemics. The article considers two of the most discussed themes: first, the role that the building contractors — promoters of the project — have played during the periods of the greatest transformation of the city, in particular the end of the 19th century, the years around 1950, and those following the earthquake of 1980; second, the possibility of transforming the historical center, which has not been exposed to significant renewal projects since those of the last century. The present city plan sees the historical center as an area to be protected; the new pro-

posals insist on considerable transformations, of the kind defined in urbanistic literature as «gentrification».

Ada Becchi

Naples vs. Naples: A City as Economy and a City as Power

The story of the city of Naples seems to be dominated by two antithetical tendencies: one that tends to see it as a city of production, that is, of industrial development and modernization, and another that sees it as a city of administration, that is, of power which aims, parasitically, to confiscate and control the incoming flow of resources from elsewhere. In the course of time, these two tendencies have alternated, giving to Naples very diverse characteristics, even though the two spirits have always lived together there. In recent years, after a period of discrete economic development, Naples experienced changes and events that favored the rise of administrative bodies intent on managing public resources arriving from outside: disindustrialization and earthquake. The first caused disoccupation; the second, the need for reconstruction: both helped construction speculators who, with the help of local politicians, hoped to be awarded contracts so as to get at public funds.

Maria Iolanda Palazzolo

The Three Eyes of the Publisher: Culture and the Book Trade in the South (1840-1920)

The study describes the development of printing firms and of the culture market in Southern Italy. In the years of the Bourbon government, Neapolitan editorial houses, fortified by protectionism, had a clear preeminence over the printing firms in other southern territories: their production was based on reprinting and on commissions from governmental bodies.

After the Unification, one witnesses the decline of the Neapolitan firms and the growth of firms in areas earlier considered peripheral: in Palermo one sees the birth of the firm of Pedone-Lauriel, connected to the group of Sicilian positivists and anthropologists, and the firme of Sandron, specializing in pedagogical and scholastic publications, while in Catania there is Giannotto, specializing above all in contemporary literature.

At the beginning of this century, while a modern publishing industry is slow to get under way in Naples, in Bari the publishing house of Laterza opens, and, with the incentive of the personality of Benedetto Croce, a serious ideological project develops and becomes the reference point of antifascist intellectuals.

Giovanni Falcone

The Mafia in the Middle of Crime and Culture

An interview with one of the judges of longest experience and most direct commitment in the fight against the Sicilian mafia furnishes a picture of the problems posed by organized crime today. Falcone does not believe that over the organization heads of the Sicilian mafia there is still another: some political super-power, a *sanctum sanctorum* in which it would be possible to discover personages of lawful power above suspicion. The mafia is a criminal organization whose aim is money, and which has connections with political power for instrumental purposes, all aimed at increasing profits. For this reason, he does not believe that the mafia inter-

venes to an extreme degree in influencing election results. Today, instead, the mafia appears to be moving into new territories that allow it to recycle dirty money by means of legal activities. It is for this reason that the organization tends to favor relations with entrepreneurs and banks.

Raffaele Brancati

Money at a Dear Price: Reflections on Access to Credit in Southern Italy

The article examines some problems regarding bank credit which have recently attracted the attention of economists, especially in Usa and in Italy. The interest rates that banks charge their clients are not uniform in the various economic areas of Italy. On the contrary, where there is greater economic development, as in northern industrialized Italy, the cost of money is lower than in the South, where the rate of interest is notably higher than average. For this reason, the banks, that should constitute an incentive to development in the South, in reality offer entrepreneurs financial conditions relatively less advantageous than in other parts of Italy. This economic gap, that characterizes Italy, tends to reappear also in the financial policy of the banks in an historical phase in which, moreover, exceptional financial incentives in the South have markedly decreased.

Manlio Rossi-Doria

Five Public Lectures on Italian modern History (Berkeley, 1964)

A year after his death, Manlio Rossi Doria, professor of Agriculture Economics, University of Naples, leaves a great record of his work on Southern Italy. «Meridiana» want to honour his memory by publishing here a set of unpublished public lectures pronounced at University of California (Berkeley) in winter 1964, and concerning the last hundred years of Italian history. Here is the English «outline», written by Rossi Doria, of the five Lectures:

«Italy, which in the first half of the nineteenth century, was subdivided in to five larger and several smaller states, achieved her political unity with the “Risorgimento” between 1848 and 1870. Her economic, social and cultural unification began even earlier but was achieved much later and can not be considered complete even today.

The political history of the “Risorgimento” and the years following it is well known. But knowledge of the more complex economic and social history is scarcer and more fragmentary. Yet it is of interest — not only to the specialist — to understand the phases and the conflicts through which a country of ancient civilization has passed, in its transformation from an agricultural to an industrial economy.

The lectures listed under the five titles of this outline are intended as a guide to these complex processes of change, that unfolded slowly until the second world war and have become very rapid during the last 15 years. The conflicts following unification, building of the new state, birth of industry, the rise of socialism, the great overseas emigrations, problems of the south, the democratic state prior to 1914, social agitations between 1915 and 1922, the victory and twenty-year rule of fascism, the effects of the great depression and their outlet in the Ethiopian and Spanish wars and the world war, defeat and reconstruction, the affirmation of western democracy in a country with a powerful communist party — these are some of the events that compose the modern history of Italy and that the lectures will try to illuminate».