

## Summary

### *Political Circles.*

The monographical part of this edition looks at the theme of the local dimension of politics through a series of essays which illustrate various aspects of the Italian «Mezzogiorno» and embrace a chronological arc ranging from halfway through the 19th Century almost to the present day. In itself, the local situation does not assume the characteristics of a *small space*, reserved and isolated, a place far from the suburbs, which finds its identity only if contrasted with the size of the *Nation*. Rather the local situation represents the rediscovery of a new materiality of human behaviour for power gain, for the control of resources, within an ambiguous border-line moving obliquely from the elementary aggregations of society (family, relatives, groups, clientele) through the institutions, political parties and central or dispersed parts of the State.

In the «Mezzogiorno» the outskirts do not appear, as elsewhere, to be distant from the Centre and opposed to the political sphere. But instead they are communicating entities, in continuing osmosis thanks to the *political circles* activated by the incessant mobility of casual or professional mediating figures.

### Salvatore Lupo

#### *Between core and periphery: political aggregation in Modern Southern Italy.*

The Bronte Insurrection of the summer of 1860 is generally considered the emblematic symptom of the impossibility of a positive relationship between the ideals of the Italian Risorgimento and the problems of the agricultural masses. This episode, however, represents an early attempt to mobilize the masses on the part of a fraction of the liberal élite, very limited but disposed to meet the peasants' request for a subdivision of the State Lands. The State Land question subsequently became an important moment in the coming together of radical élites and popular masses. These latter, although still excluded from voting, were equally involved in the political struggle, outlining a model of interclass political union interested in the redistribution of somewhat modest public resources. This model was to grow in the 1900's when, as a result of the struggle against landed property, a composite democratic-radical political world was to try to confirm the power of one part of the élite by means of the control of the channels of social mobility.

Luigi Masella  
*Private, Local and State Dimension;  
A Short History of the Rossi Family in Canosa di Puglia.*

Canosa di Puglia, a small town in the province of Bari, is the setting for the story of Fabrizio Rossi and his son, two representatives of the local élite who occupied the position of Mayor continuously for the whole second half of the 19th Century. This essay tells of the birth and development of their political clientele network. This was constructed and in time reinforced by marriages, alliances, favours and political support given to various parties and different political figures. But the author also describes the specific local political choices made by the mayors for their city. These were aimed at guaranteeing an enormous base of consensus between the popular classes and the agricultural masses for the land-owning élite.

Luigi Musella  
*Clientele and Political Relations in Southern Italy  
Between 19th and 20th Century.*

This article examines several interpretative contributions to Italian political historiography. In particular, the marxist «Power-block» concept worked-out by Emilio Sereni, and the Paolo Farneti reconstruction of the Giolittian political system, are reconsidered in a critical light. Then, in the light of the most recent analyses of the formation of the State and the organisation of political representation, Musella tries to outline several research hypotheses for the study of the political history of Liberal Italy.

Vittorio Cappelli  
*Political Power and Local Society during the Fascist Period:  
Mayors and Municipalities in Calabria.*

This essay examines the transformation process of the Calabrian political classes during Fascism. In the examination of the links between central State power and the regional situation, it points out an unheard-of politicisation of local society, a vigorous and equally unheard-of State economic intervention, and a diffuse public presence in the fields of culture, recreation and welfare. In particular, the establishment of the «podestà» (mayors nominated by the central power) and the municipal governments of a Calabrian city and two provincial towns demonstrate an accentuated urbanisation process and an explicit, even if conflictual and contradictory, modernisation process of political and social life.

Fortunata Piselli  
*The Mafia and political circles.*

This essay outlines the phenomenon of the symbiosis between Mafia and Politics in two Calabrian situations within the context of the largest integration

process of the region in national politics in the post second world war period. Two different forms of the «Mafia» are developing inside two local situations, with different socio-economic characteristics; and these, whilst showing many common aspects, are each developing at their own pace and with a different result.

The Campolongo Mafia, born of the break up of capitalist landed property as far back as the 1940's, is developing in symbiosis with the clientele practices of the Ovs (Organisation for the Valorisation of the Sila) and the government parties, inserting itself right from the start into political circles. The Olivara Mafia, the expression of the regularizing element of market forces, maintains a relative autonomy from national political forces. Only since the 1960's, in relation to the massive penetration of capital and «central» powers, has it sought out direct and systematic instruments of political control over local situations.

Carlo Trigilia

*Defence of Local Society and Economic Development:  
Research Problems regarding the South of Italy.*

The article presents some research problems regarding the Southern regions of Italy in a sociological perspective. These problems arise from a comparison of the economic development of the South and that of the Central and North-Eastern regions, characterized by a strong dynamism on the part of small firms. It is argued that the limited growth of small firms in the South has hindered endogenous development and the economic autonomy of this area. The comparison with the Centre and North-East also suggests that such a result was, to a large extent, influenced by the institutional context of the South. Attention is particularly drawn to the role played by mechanisms of political regulation (legal and illegal). The scope and the strength of these regulations historically grew to defend local society against the social costs of market penetration, but, in turn, they hindered market institutionalisation and discouraged entrepreneurial formation. Today they are probably the main constraints which affect the social and economic development of the South.

Piero Bevilacqua

*Territory History or Nature Novel?*

The article takes its starting point from the volume *Insedimenti e territorio* (Settlements and Territory, Annual N. VIII of the Einaudi «History of Italy»). By criticizing the formulation of this work, which proves to be a casual collection of essays, the originality of the nature of Italian history and territory is pointed out. The wide domination of the peninsula's mountains and their strong correlation with the plains means that the latter is an area perennially subject to damage originating from above.

Thus, it has always been difficult, historically, for the population to govern and exploit the low ground. In general, the communities based on Italian territory have been forced for centuries to struggle to free the plains from the rivers (as in the case of the Padana plain) or to battle against the marshes and malaria along the coastal areas. Such a history of the relationship between man and territory in Italy

does not therefore permit a reading of the past in ecologically romantic terms; according to which the natural surroundings would have been an uncontaminated paradise if they hadn't been destroyed by the hand of man.

Rosario Mangiameli  
*«Serial Mafia», between fiction and reality.*

This essay deals with recent television productions (journalistic investigations and films) about the Mafia, and examines their contents. Television encounters considerable difficulty in presenting the Mafia phenomenon; preconceived ideas somewhat dominate, which derive from folklore and mythical elements taken from the literary tradition. On this point, it is interesting to note the continual reference to «history» with the emphasis on the honorific and protective aspects of the Mafia of the past, in contrast to the entrepreneurial and violent vocation of the new criminality. The past reliance on the folklore elements certainly results in an underestimation of the Mafia threat, but also blocks an understanding of certain aspects of continuity in the Mafia affair (e.g. the link between the market economy and the use of violence). These are important if we are to understand the criminal manifestations of today's Mafia.

Nino Recupero  
*Honour and History in Mediterranean Societies:  
a Conference in Palermo.*

This article gives an account of the Conference on «Honour and History in Mediterranean Societies» which took place in Palermo (3rd-5th December 1987) and which saw the participation of numerous historians, sociologists and anthropologists of Mediterranean Societies. These ranged from John Davis to Peter Schneider, from Giovanna Fiume (Palermo) to Sophie Ferchou (Tunis), from the Palestinian Kamrieh Kasmieh to the Israeli Ibrahim Muhavi. The code of honour was defined as a system of social stratification – what is judged is the person in the entirety of his behaviour and not Man divided into moral, economic and sexual classifications. Included in this code is not only the defence of one's own honour, but also the successful challenging of the honour of others – and, of course, men's honour is particularly vulnerable on one point: the behaviour of women. But even if these are the general terms of the Mediterranean language of honour, many and varied, in space and time, are the several «dialects» of this language, which were amply described at the Palermo Conference.

Luciano Cafagna  
*«Active» and «Passive» Modernisation.*

The author, one of the most prestigious Italian economic historians, once again takes up and elaborates his argument about the «dualistic» development of contemporary Italy. In this short and original article, he introduces an important

distinction between «active» and «passive» modernisation. Both forms presuppose the necessity of a process of adaptation of traditional situations to the new face of development, imposed or suggested by outside. But «active» modernisation is that in which there is a local subject, a collective political and/or social figure who welcomes the challenge of modernism. In other contexts, however (and, according to Cafagna, this is the case of Southern Italy) the modernisation process is «passive», because it is controlled substantially by collective subjects external to the region in question.