

## Summary

Leandra D'Antone

*The «extraordinary» interest for the Mezzogiorno (1943-60)*

In this article, the result of a fresh research based on an impressive new set of sources, Leandra D'Antone illustrates the birth of the politics of help and special intervention in favour of the southern regions during the first years of the postwar period. The article shows that the men who led this politics were the same who projected the plans for the recovery of the industrial Italian system in the thirties and directed successfully its following development. The effects of this help politics were, on the short term, positive, and it may be said that they contributed to the Italian economic «boom» in the fifties. On the long run, however, a model of intervention such that, based on «extra-ordinary» process of decision-making, will show progressively greater deficiencies.

Lucy Riall

*Martial law, popular protest and the Palermo revolt of 1866*

This article is concerned with the uprising in Palermo in September 1866. The first part looks at the pattern of popular participation in the revolt, relying on the records of the military courts which until now have remained unnoticed in the Archivio Centrale in Rome. The article examines the historiography of the revolt and assesses the extent to which these new sources alter existing historical perceptions of the revolt. It argues that while, on the one hand, these court records confirm the strength of anti-government feeling in Palermo in 1866, on the other, they also raise new and different questions about the socio-economic basis of the crowd. The second part of the article looks at the repression of the revolt. It argues that the harshness of the repression in Palermo was largely the result of decisions taken by the military in conjunction with local officials; the central government, which proposed a more lenient policy, was more or less excluded from decision-making. Partly as a result of the disagreements between the central government and local officials, the repression of the revolt was a failure and further undermined government authority in the area. The article concludes that a study of government action in 1866 adds weight to recent interpretations of the *destra storica* which emphasise its political weakness.

Carlo Fumian  
*The wisdom of nations*

This essay focuses on the short-lived experience of the «Congress degli scienziati» (1839-1875) from a comparative point of view, relating the national case-study with the world-wide imitative development of the Associations for the Advancement of Science. The research allows to discuss the politically-oriented traditional interpretation, reconstructing the peculiarities of the Italian organization in comparison with the general process of professionalization of scientists during the XIX<sup>th</sup> century.

John Dickie  
*Francesco Crispi's «sicilianity»*

In liberal Italy a field of ambivalent stereotypes were generated around the South, which was seen both as Other to the national political culture, and as essentially or extremely Italian. Many of these representations converge on the figure of Francesco Crispi, whose *sicilianità* is analysed in this essay as a set of representations rather than as a biographical fact. Crispi's *sicilianità* was perceived by both friends and enemies, northerners and southerners, as the mark of a barbarian outsider *and* as the guarantee of his patriotism and nation-building credentials. It reveals itself to be the projection of acute social fears by the «patriotic classes». In particular, Crispi's Sicilian or southern public image offered an easy way of thinking the threatening political moments of 1893-94 and Crispi's own response to them.

*A debate on Federalism*

The possibility of a reorientation of the Italian state towards a federal direction is a new major item of the Italian political agenda. It is published here a discussion on this theme recorded the 21<sup>th</sup> of July 1995 in Rome. The theme is debated by Francesco Benigno, Raffaele Brancati, Carmine Donzelli, Salvatore Lupo and Carlo Trigilia.

Ramon Garrabou and Enric Tello  
*Wage as cost, wage as income*

Using aggregate series of agricultural wages in Catalonia from 1727 to 1935, and considering the role played by wage labour in an agrarian structure where small peasants carried out most of the agricultural jobs, this article examines the dynamics of agrarian wage in a precapitalist labour market during the Ancien Régime. Then it analyses the first symptoms of emergence of a new model towards the half of the nineteenth century. Following this analysis during the agrarian crisis at the end of the XIX<sup>th</sup> century, it turns to the double process that consolidated both the prevalence of small peasants and a capitalist labour market. It then considers the main factors which brought about the rise of real agricultural wages in 1880-95 and, once again, from the First World War to the Second Spanish Republic. In 1910 the Catalan agricultural wages, measured with their wheat equivalent, were similar to the Italian ones but smaller than the level of West European agrarian wages. However, during the 1920 decade, Catalan agricultural wages reached the level of West European ones.