

## Summary

Domenico Cersosimo and Carmine Donzelli

*Reality, representations and tendencies of the Southern change*

To study the society of the *Mezzogiorno* means to distinguish reality and myth. Through an analysis of the productive system, of the work market, of the main cultural values and of the political system the article shows the complexity of the theme. Under the *Mezzogiorno* many diverse Southern societies grow.

Maurizio Franzini

*Less transfers, more development?*

*Politicians, institutions and Southern backwardness*

During the last thirty years huge transfers of income in favour of the *Mezzogiorno* took place through the intermediation of the Welfare State. This policy has been blamed, among other reasons, for hampering economic development. This essay critically examines the theoretical foundations of this assertion and comes to the conclusion that the enduring economic backwardness in the South is mainly to be charged on the lack of effective developmental of such policies. Institutional reforms are advocated on this ground.

Gianfranco Viesti

*What happens in Southern economics?*

*The economic change 1990-1995*

What is happening in the economy of *Mezzogiorno*? Some of the main post-war economic trends are changing since the beginning of the 1990's. The new Italian fiscal policy, the crisis of the State Owned Enterprises System, the reform of regional policy, new competition policies and the wave of liberalization measures coming from EU are powerful forces behind this shifts. Nowadays the *Mezzogiorno* is in a deep economic crisis, with production falling and unemployment booming. But prospects for the future are not necessarily dark: with the collapse

of parts of the subsidized economy, a new pro-market, competitive economic structure can emerge, if correct policy measures are implemented.

Guido Fabiani

*Southern Italian Agriculture at the Cross-roads:  
Development or Regression*

The Author points out that agriculture in the South of Italy has seen significant developments over the last few decades. The gap between Centre-North and South remains wide, but far-reaching changes have brought an end to the backwardness and poverty traditionally marking this area, promoting the sector to an important role in the complex of Southern Italy's economy. However, two factors weigh down heavily on development. In the first place, development in the South's overall economic system is meagre; in particular, the industrial sector has failed to give a needed boost to the general economy. Secondly, the agricultural structures are particularly shaky in the area of food-production, with the result that the primary sector is poorly integrated with transformation industries, distribution and advanced services.

The Author takes various aspects into consideration to conclude that, without appropriate intervention in these two directions, even the positive results so far achieved may come in for serious reappraisal.

Andrea Naldini and Guglielmo Wolleb

*Why the EEC politics should not fail in Southern Italy*

The paper analyses the structure and implementation of Community interventions in Italy during the 1989-93 and 1994-99 periods, with a special focus on the Objective 1 Community Support Framework (CSF) and comparison of Italian experiences with those of Spain, Greece and Portugal.

The first part of the paper discusses the various institutional and administrative problems during the implementation of the Community interventions in Italy; these led to serious delays in the utilization of available resources, and to the failure of several programmes. It concludes that removal of these administrative constraints is the most important condition for the success of the programmes.

In the second part of the paper the financial resources of both CSFs are evaluated, relative to GDP and to total investment expenditure for development. It then proceeds to analyse the development strategy pursued by the CSFs, as indicated in the allocation of resources between different priorities. It then concludes with the identification and discussion of important innovative elements of the national and regional programmes within Italian and European regional policy.

*An interview to Antonio Bassolino, mayor of Naples*

This interview, managed by Carmine Donzelli, Piero Bevilacqua and Ada Becchi, tries to rethink the Italian society and the Southern problems from the point of view of an extraordinary experience, that of mayor of Naples. The attempt to give identity to the neapolitan society is in this sense the attempt to ex-

plore deep contradictions, enormous difficulties but also the great, urgent need of hope. In other words a way to change the whole country.

Gaetano Gucciardo  
*Illegal housing in the Valley of Temples*

This essay talks about illegal housing in Agrigento's Valley of Temples. It is the first survey ever published about this phenomenon which has developed mostly during the seventies and in the early eighties. The survey gives the first estimate about the phenomenon, its distribution in time and space and marks the use of these buildings as first or second houses, and mainly aims to define the social profile of the illegal builders.

This phenomenon under scrutiny has grown during the years in which the expectation of a whatsoever amnesty for illegal builders was widespread. When expectation failed the phenomenon stopped. People belonging to different social classes have been involved in illegal housing. This heterogeneity proves that illegal housing is not related with the difficulty of some social classes to get a house through the legal market or public support. Illegal housing seems to be related to a form of particularistic regulation which shapes the relationship between citizens and the common good.

Francesco Benigno  
*Damned at dawn.*  
*Some hypotheses on gender mortality in South Italy (XVII-XX centuries).*

The article shows the existence of a very strong imbalance in the sex-mortality ratios disfavoured to men in the Southern regions during the modern age. The explication of this supermortality refers to the gender division of labour in the area of the *latifondo* and to its consequences; amongst them the greater exposition to malaria. This sex-mortality pattern has deeply shaped the social structures of the Southern society.