

Summary

Paolo Malanima

*Between two energy systems.
Energy consumptions in Europe (1600-1800)*

The aim of the paper is to reconstruct the energy system of pre-industrial Europe, together with its changes since the end of the XVIIth century. While the European energy system allowed the economic and demographic growth of the late Middle ages, its lack of important novelties was the main reason for the relative stagnation from the end of the XIIIth century to the XVIIth both in economy and population. The new extensive and intensive growth that followed was just based on a new energy system.

Marco Armiero

Economy and environment in Abruzzo (1800-1860)

In which way the woods interacted with economic activities in the first half of the XIXth century? And how different segments of the society interpreted the relationship between environmental resources and economy? The author tries to answer these questions using the Abruzzo region as a case study.

Pinella Di Gregorio

*The «Campi Elisi» of power.
High Chambers and Senates in Nineteenth Century Europe*

The essay focuses on the political role of the Senate in Nineteenth-Century Europe, beginning from the analysis of some recent studies on the topic. Through a comparative investigation of three kinds of Senates (in Great Britain, France, and Italy) the author means to verify the frequently suggested thesis about the persistence of the aristocracy at the top of the political and economic power in Europe between the end of the XIX and the beginning of the XX century. The essay suggests a different role played by the Senate, less conservative and self-protective and more involved in the political struggle, tending to experiment and update a different form of non-elective representation, tightly connected to «merit» and «competence» than «blood».

Gabriella Corona
*Productive territory and developmental models.
 The new research contributes*

The article sketches the principal agrarian characters in different areas of Italian peninsula between XVIIIth and XXth centuries through a comparison among some fundamental aspects: environmental question characters of the agriculture people residence and composition of investments. The article also analyses the influences that these historical aspects have exerted upon the principal economic development ways during the last decades.

Bernardino Palumbo
Rhetorics of History and Conflicts of Identity in an Sicilian Town

Through the analysis of some rhetorical strategies and of a few symbolic objects which, in the ethnographic context of a Sicilian town, make it possible to manipulate history and identity, playing with architectonic and monumental times and spaces, this paper tries to interpretate a peculiar «historical imagination». To which ideas about history, time, memory, monuments and patrimony and to which «historical imagination» some poetics and politics of talking about and acting by «artistic» and/or «religious» objects give shape? Do these local ideas completely overlap with the official historical imagination of the State and of the Catholic Church, and with current debates about «tradition», «modernity» and «post-modernity» in anthropology, sociology and history?

Enzo Fantò
Mafia and entrepreneurial groups

In this article, the author follows the strategy adopted by the Mafia to extensively penetrate the economic and productive tissue of Northern Italy. The copartnership with legal enterprises is comprehensively documented and shown to be the pathway predominantly followed. Paradoxically, this allows the Mafia to gain control of the economy without the use of mafiosi. Within this framework the author formulates a hypothesis to explain the mysterious disappearance of Cosa Nostra from the Milan markets. This strategy of copartnership was used even with some of the most prominent entrepreneurial and financial groups. Many indications suggest that this is the favourite pathway for the internationalisation of the Mafia economy. The article provides an analytical background in order to discriminate a financial partnership aimed at increase the capital value from a deeper integration between the Mafia's capital and the legal one; a pattern that goes towards a real «enterprise with Mafia copartnership».

Percy Allum
*The Dc in the North and in the South:
 Two Models of Patron-Client Parties*

This article discusses the nature of Christian Democracy and its local power structure. Its main thesis is that, for a series of historical and social-economic rea-

sons, it was constituted initially of two types of party held together by generic anti-Communism and State patronage. Moreover, as a result of a succession of crucial developments (party reorganization in 1950s, Vatican II in 1960s) it became a sort of catch-all party ante litteram or more accurately a national «syndicate of political machines».

Leandra D'Antone

The Agency for the South: not a southern question

Only five years after the suppression of extraordinary measures and of the Agenzia per il Mezzogiorno, the Italian Government has instituted a new public agency for the South. An analysis of the ongoing public debates reveals the existence of many actors who are interested in the Agency for a variety of reasons. Among them are the managers and the employees of public agencies presently undergoing privatization and thus seeking new roles in the emerging context. Moreover, political parties and labour unions have to adapt to the new rules of the game. More specifically, the European Union imposes its regulation: a rise in the prestige of the expert-component of the government responsible for bringing Italy to Euromoney; the mayors of both large and small towns have also gained considerable political weight; the decentralization of collective bargaining is giving rise to a new labour law. Within this framework, the leaders of the declining mass parties and the leaders of union trades are both competing to regain power on one of most passionate national issue, the so called «questione meridionale».