

Summary

Salvatore Lupo

Political decision-making in the Italian history

The essays discuss the process of political reform-making in three great ages of modern Italy: the liberal period, the fascist regime and the republican era. The first and the last have been frequently accused to be marked by an inflation of political mediation, by incapacity of decision-making and by a failure of change planning. This article reevaluates, on the other hand, the capacity of innovation in the Crispi period, in the giolittian age, in the first republican era. The fascist attitude to quick and sharp decision produces failures, because of the weak linkages between State and society due to the lack of political freedom.

Giuseppe Barone

The birth of the Bank of Italy

Through a striking parallel with more recent occurrences this essay describes the events (the so called «scandal of the Banca Romana») that lead to the decision (1893) to merge four existing banks in a new national bank with privilege of issue: the Bank of Italy. The essay shows the role played in the making of this decision by the regional lobbies, by the parliament and by the prime minister, Giovanni Giolitti. The following government, led by Francesco Crispi, will develop further the public nature of the new bank.

Serge Noiret

The electoral reform of 1918-19

The abandon of the uninominal voting and the introduction of the proportional system is certainly one of the most important turning points in the history of modern Italy. This very laborious process of change is here enlightened, through a detailed study of the parliamentary struggle and of the echoes it produced in the nation: the aim of the scrutiny is to show the interrelations and the mutual influences between parliament works and public opinion tendencies.

Michele Sarfatti
The anti-jew law in Fascist Italy

This article explores some aspects of the fascist decision to introduce an anti-jew law: the european political context, the main features of the persecution, its purposes, the role of Mussolini. But it also try to formulate some further question, yet non solved, like the exact moment of the decision, the differences in opinion amongst the fascist leaders, the uses of the anti-jew persecution as an instrument of internal political fight.

Ada Becchi
The Sullo law on soils

The article deals with the well known case of the failure in issuing a general law on town planning matters in the first period of the centre-left government experience (1962-63). This case is often considered, in the political and historical debate, as an important specimen of the speedy drop of the reformatory aspirations of the new coalition. The article lays stress on the role pleyed in the affair by the politicians (christian-democrats and socialists) as well as by the technicians (town planners, appointed by the Minister Sullo to the preparation of the text) emphasizing how the specific views of the latters (eager for the issue of a law of their own and closed to the positive contributions of other domain such as the theory of public finance) helped in bringing to an unsuccessful conclusion of the deal.

Luigi Bobbio
*Problems, Solutions and Policy Windows:
Cues for Comparing the Decision-making*

The intervention sketches a comparison among the decision-making processes that have been presented, trough a cognitive approach based on bounded rationality and casual linds between problems and solutions.

Marcello Messori
Bank and finance for the Mezzogiorno development

The paper points out that the recent performances of the banking system in Southern Italy did not fulfil minimum standards of allocation efficiency and profitability. These failures require institutional and policy initiative saimed to strengthen banks management of the idiosyncratic and systemic riskas well as the structure and working of the credit market. I concentrate on four sets of possible interventions. First, I compare different tools available to decrease the huge stock of bad loans accumulated by the Southern banks in recent years; my suggestion is to invest on the market trading and securitization of these loans, and to limit policy intervention to the cases of market failures. Secondly, I suggest the free constitution of an insurance fund from banks lending in the Southern market; however, the working of this fund must reward banks' best performances and punish banks'worst performances in order to minimize moral hazard and adverse selec-

tion problems in banks screening of borrowers. Thirdly, I emphasize that the Southern credit market is still too segmented so that the process of concentration between local and non-local banks must go on. Finally, I stress that banks have to pursue a more active lending policy towards Southern borrowers, they have to supply new financial tools (such as project financing, venture capital, privatization services), and they have to support a widening of Southern firms capital structure.

Serge Latouche
The Reasonable versus the Rational

The use of Reason may take two different meanings: the way of the rational and the way of the reasonable. The first one consists in computing from quantitative evaluations, the second one to deliberate from arguments pro and con. The first one is the way of Mathematics, as to the second, it is more traditionally the way of Politics and Law. All the societies have used the second to solve their social problems. The West only has used the first in the field of human relations. Consequently, we have a devaluation has endured the same destiny. The consequence of that alteration has been very spectacular. The West has got an incredible power. However, today, that tremendous efficiency faces limits of all kinds.

An interview with Tiziano Treu

In this interview organised by the editorial board of «Meridiana» Tiziano Treu, minister of Labour, reflects on the major themes of the political agenda concerning the development of the southern society and the unemployment. The politics suited to meet the needs of the Mezzogiorno are here scrutinized and discussed: the flourishing of undertakings «from the bottom» and the importance of the coordination, the role of the public expenditure and the activation of local forces. A brief sketch of the governmental results and aims on this topic.