

Summary

Piero Bevilacqua

Resource: meanings and perspectives

The article dwells upon the concept of resource, to point out how it hunts at a nature's active role in the process of wealth production. Goods wares are not only the outcome of human labour, that handles neutral staff, lent the result outcome of a co-operation between labour and nature. The fact of the nature involved as a protagonist is destined to yield deep changes inside at least three basic ambits: an a mostly generally cultural plane.

Domenico Cersosimo and Carmine Donzelli

Identity as a Resource

Is it possible conceive environment and history of a Region as specific «commodities» for development? And how is connected this general reflection to the specific case of Italian Mezzogiorno? The authors suggest to consider enviromental and cultural commodities as central elements of a strategy for the Southern growth. Similar commodities are able, in the specific context of Mezzogiorno, to define a group of symbols and traditions wich can give a positive connotation of the Regional identity, contend with the negative image of Southern Italy as the land of mafia, clientelism and a-moral familism.

Franco Cassano

South between big a little game

Southern Italy needs autonomy meaning as capacity to propose for its position in the middle of Mediterraneo frontier and crossroads between North and South Italy.

Maurizio Franzini

Environmental Economics. False prejudices and difficult questions

The aims of the paper are twofold. On the one hand the Author argues that some common ideas about what environmental economists

are supposed to say are based on serious misunderstandings. In particular, there is not much in the research carried out by environmental economists which allows to credit them with the idea that the market can solve a large set of environmental problems or with the conviction that economic growth is beneficial to the environment. On the other, the Author believes that there are very hard problems that environmental economists are struggling to solve which usually are overlooked, also because attention is too often focused on some false prejudices. In particular he considers crucial the question of «how to take decisions» with respect to the environment. He offers a short presentation of the individualistic approach preferred by economists, emphasises its limitations, argues that paternalism is not a better alternative and concludes with some suggestions on possible institutional improvements to the method usually advocated by environmental economists. The implications of the decision method for the Italian Mezzogiorno are briefly worked out.

Giuseppe Barbera e Michele Di Rosa
Rural landscape of the Valley of the Temples, Agrigento.

The landscape of Valley of the Temples has become almost a symbol of Sicily for Europeans due to its physical beauty, cultural «density» and extraordinary nature. The descriptions of the Valley which follow make it possible to trace the birth and development of a cultural landscape whose value and present-day quality of resource stems from its very uniqueness though it shares many elements with neighboring countries. The cultivated landscape still preserves its own particular characteristics of traditional almond and olive cultivation techniques, which predominated substantially intact in Sicily up to the 1960s. The sharp decrease in production results in a progressive abandonment in which at the present moment, even the most elementary cultivation activities are no longer practised. Moreover, the regulations which restrict agricultural practices in the Archeological Park to protect the Valley's archeological ruins are another reason for the decline. Given these values and problems the necessity for environmental protection programs becomes evident in terms of conservation and reproduction of the elements which define its identity, which can also be achieved by creating an open-air museum, making it possible to «capitalize on» these values and make them more accessible to the general public.

Maria Carmela Soru
*The territory without government: land reclamations
 and transformations in Sardegna*

This essay deals with a comprehensive land improvement project carried out in 1918 on the town of Terralba, Sardinia, in a natural environ-

ment heavily depauperated by a large extension of marshes which caused a high rate of malarial fever among the population. Created by the socialist deputy Felice Porcella who held great ideas about land reclaiming and social welfare, the project, originally granted to a Sardinian company (Società Bonifiche Sarde), undertook a deep mutation. During the fascist regime, in fact, none of the social aims that were at the basis of the project were carried out. The Company forced on the municipality the release of two thirds of its territory to be acquired by the Company itself. Rather than keeping the land under a social management they put it under private control, founding at the same time, with the support of the central fascist government, the municipality of Mussolinia di Sardegna, today Arborea. The population of the town did not receive any benefit whatsoever from this new institution, and was on the contrary subjected to an extremely uncertain situation both in terms of social identity and financial stability.

Benedetto Meloni

Social impact assessment of artificial dam on Flumendosa river

The framework for assessing the social impact is the rich and various tradition of community studies. This approach allows in the first to describe the present social-environmental system in the Sud-est of Sardinia, second to assess social change after a new dam has been built in the Flumendosa river. The author takes various aspects of local system into consideration and concludes that when the precise and more localized plan regard little local communities and small number of people is possible to have more different impacts in different social groups.

Guido Crainz

Italian tours

A review of the book *Le nozze coi fichi secchi* (L'ancora, Napoli) by Goffredo Fofi: a new autobiography interpretation about courses intellectual minorities in the Italian Republic.