

## Summary

Giuseppe Barone

*From agriculture to industry. The «national» cotton between the two wars*

This article illustrates the story of the cotton industry and particularly of the southern production, concentrated during the first world war in the Manifatture cotoniere meridionali., and then in the Società per l'incremento della Cotonicoltura nell'Italia meridionale. The author examines the causes of the failure of the cotton production in Sicily during the twenties, and its particular resurgence in the years of protectionism and fascist autarchy.

Gianfranco Viesti

*The «sommerso» sector and the emerging of the cloth and shoe industry in Southern Italy*

The topic of this article is underground economy, in clothing and footwear production in Southern Italy.

Why are there underground firms? How many are there? Which are main differences in different southern regions? Are some of the main questions it tries to answer. The economics of underground production is discussed, its costs and benefits, its future. The last section is devoted to policy implications.

Steen Bo Frandsen

*Italian towns between civic tradition and national hierarchy during the Risorgimento*

During the Italian process of Unification the role of the cities underwent considerable changes. Local and regional balances gave way to a national hierarchy of cities. The conflicts and rivalries among cities have always irritated national ideology and large parts of the historiography. This article proposes to treat the question detached from national ideology. This implies that local ambitions are not primarily considered as a threat to unity, but as an important element in the process of creating a new national balance among the cities. During three phases, the period of the French domination, the Restauration, and the first decades of Unification the Italian cities had to adapt to a national hierarchy. The examples chosen deal especially with the reorganisation of Le Marche in 1808, the proposals for a solution to the problem of the regional capitals within an Italian federation during the Restauration, and the efforts of a number of cities to occupy a prominent position within the nation-state.

Luigi Mascilli Migliorini

*The «italian Athens»: tuscan and florentine identities within the building of the national State*

The building of a national italian identity is based on the contemporary build-

ding of regional identities. One of the most important of them is the Tuscan case. Since the second half of the XVIIIth century Florence becomes, in the writings of travellers and historians, the «Athens of Italy», the centre of a nation whose identity is strictly tied with arts and culture. It is the swiss historian Sismondi who particularly imposes in the first decades of XIXth century the idea that the history of Italy cannot be interpreted as a long decadence from the ancient times to our recent days. On the contrary, Sismondi affirms that during the last centuries of the Middle Ages with the experience on «Comuni», like Florence, first Italy lived the experience of a modern economic development and free democratic institutions.

Walter Palmieri

*Agronomy and administration: Federico Cassitto*

To what extent the current negative image of the role and activities of southern «preunitari» public administrators is well based? This article reconstructs the life and activity of one of them: Federico Cassitto (1776-1853). Cassitto held many offices during his life, but the most important was undoubtedly the chairmanship of the «Società Economica» of Principato Ulteriore. His frantic activities, his many initiatives, his capacity to build an effective network of relationships, his originality in modelling and developing that institution suggest that Cassitto played a very interesting and positive role in the economic and cultural context of his province. From this point of view his biography contributes to question the traditional negative interpretation of the public administration in its whole during the bourbon period.

*The crime in contemporary Italy: which history between past and present?*

*A discussion about the question of crime in Italy and its history*

Raimondo Catanzaro, Salvatore Lupo, Marcella Marmo and Aldo Mazzacane debate the research results and the ideas contained in the recent volume *Criminalità* of the *Annali della Storia d'Italia Einaudi*, edited by Luciano Violante, Einaudi, Torino 1997. Particularly under observation is the kind of causation link between past and present there proposed and the relations between history of crime and the more general political history.

*Environment, territory, resources.*

*A conversation with the minister Edo Ronchi*

This is an interview with the italian minister of the Natural Environment, Edo Ronchi. The minister illustrates the main priorities and the realizations of the governmental politics in this field.

Piero Bevilacqua

*Myths, counter-myths and old laces. About the infantile disease  
of the italian political historiography*

A sharply critic review of the book by G. Berardelli, L. Cafagna, E. Galli della Loggia and G. Sabbatucci, *Miti e storia dell'Italia unita*, il Mulino, Bologna 1999, with some considerations about the italian historiography and its connection with the public political debate.