

Summary

Lorenzo Bellicini

The Construction of the Meridional Territory

The essay presents some reflections on the modalities of the «physical construction» of the meridional territory and attempts to specify what characteristics determine the form of the transformation over a long period. It is therefore necessary to consider not only the descriptive aspects of a landscape, the movements of the population and of its settlements, the localization of diverse activities, the role that building and construction investments play in the economic process and the description of the physical form that these works are taking and are making nature take, but it also means the necessity of questioning the role that the same territorial organization plays as a general condition and as a prerequisite in the process of development.

Ercole Sori

Population and Settlement in the Contemporary Mezzogiorno

The essay paints a quantitative picture of the demographic evolution of the Mezzogiorno between the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and of the distinguishing aspects of its demographic behavior in the period following the Unification. It also traces, across the same stretch of time, the evolution of the principal aspects of established meridional structures, concluding with some brief comments on the possibility of using the differential characteristics of «historical ecology» to distinguish, in the Mezzogiorno, between the demographic experience of the city and that of the country.

Piero Bevilacqua

Forms of Landscape and Evolution of Habitat: Some Hypotheses

The intention of the article is to underline and to suggest, in a broad way, what influences that specific forms of southern agriculture exerted on the evolution of the territory during the last two hundred years. The cereal-producing latifondo, which was not of dominating importance but nevertheless of a certain amplitude in agricultural reality, with its passive adaptation to natural characteristics, did not actively impress the territory's mechanisms of evolution and transformation. The importance of an agriculture based on tree-cultivation has been, on the contrary,

quite different because it has favored demographic growth and has motivated the creation of infrastructures of service and communication such as constructed areas, streets, ports, walls and irrigating canals. Nevertheless, the cultivation of trees, located primarily along the coasts and connected to the international market, has, until a relatively recent time, tended to repeat an old model of relationship between productive and directional centers, that is, the city, and the land: a model dominated by the necessity of directing the flow of men and of goods from the coast towards the sea and foreign markets rather than inland.

Franco Mercurio - Saverio Russo
The Spatial Organization of the Landed Estate

The first part of the essay, by Saverio Russo, analyzes the stages and the modes of the spontaneous «edification» of the latifundium in some areas of the Mezzogiorno between the end of the eighteenth century and the first years of the twentieth century. Particular attention is given to the building endowments of the landed estates.

The second part of the essay, by Franco Mercurio, analyzes state intervention in the meridional areas dominated by the latifundium during the past sixty years. Particular analysis is made of the impact of the integral land-reclamation projects during Fascism and of the land reforms during the period following the Second World War. Specific reference is also made to the process of «guided edification» and to the humanizing of the southern landscape.

Leandra D'Antone
Technicians and Projects: The Government of the Territory

After the Unification of Italy and at least up to the 1950's, the State played the leading role in the economic development and environmental transformation of the South, supporting private undertakings by means of «political governing» of the market and of the territory. In order to do so, the State extended its central and peripheral bureaucratic and administrative functions, thereby involving the best technical and professional expertise. This has made the relationship between politics and technical culture peculiar in Italy, engaging the latter in a «project» production of high level aimed at a comprehensive vision of development. With observations on a particularly representative area of the Mezzogiorno, the article analyzes the connection between public politics, the emergence of new professional figures and the «personality» of technical projects until the fall in recent decades of the level of projects, connected to the progressively more individualistic use of public institutions and resources.

Gianfranco Bottazzi
*The Souths of the South:
The Disparities between the Different Areas of Southern Italy*

The article briefly reviews the Italian debate of the early 1980's regarding the meaning of diversities among the different areas of Southern Italy. It argues that this question cannot be correctly examined without considering its various social

and economic aspects and also its time variable. In this way, it is possible to go into the details of these diversities and to differentiate their various paths from 1951 until 1981. Statistical indicators are given; they refer to industrialization, production, consumption, demography, education, criminality and other issues.

The article underlines the nature of the disparities that exist in the South. These disparities are the result of the different processes of modernization that are occurring in the Mezzogiorno. One peculiarity that is common in the South is the remarkable growth in service activities, the biggest consequence of governmental expenditures in the region. This expenditure has had different consequences: some areas are beginning to catch up with the developed regions of the North while others show a clear worsening in both social and economic conditions.

Giovanni Gozzini

Inside the «Black Box»: Methodological Individualism and Rationality

Subjectivity is a methodological keyword in the understanding of recent and important trends in Italian historiography: microhistory and gender history, which are connected by the rejection of structural determinism. One way of developing this category (the traditional method of historicism) is to underline the qualitative idea of the unity and centrality of human nature. At the same time, the debate among social scientists about the possibility of methodological individualism and neoclassical rationality offers an alternative pathway. Following the work of philosophers like Elster, of economists like Sen and of sociologists like Giddens, the essay focuses on the main historiographical consequences of that debate: the connections and contradictions between macrostructural and microindividualist explanation, the growing complexity of individual rationality and the varying influence of social norms.

Paths of Research. Levi: the Small, the Great and the Small

For the column «Paths of Research», the historian Giovanni Levi tells a select scholarly public the salient vicissitudes of his formation from post-war Turin, filled with friends, relatives and prestigious intellectuals, to recent scientific and historiographical arrivals that culminate in a series of significant research. Inspiring spirit, until two years ago, of the review «Quaderni Storici», co-editor with Carlo Ginzburg of the series *Microstorie*, his intellectual profile is profoundly connected to the most open and vivacious historiographical debate in Italy during the past decade.

Augusto Graziani

Pasquale Saraceno

In this short contribution Augusto Graziani remembers the life, studies and intellectual influence of the recently deceased Pasquale Saraceno, one of most active esponents of «Meridionalismo», who founded and directed the Svimez, a Center of Research for economics and social growth of Southern Italy.