

Summary

Alberto Mario Banti

The bourgeoisie. Lawyers and physicians in XIX century Europe

The essay analyses two professions, and their development in XIX century England, France, Germany and Italy. It deals with their changing institutional arrangements, their integration in broader bourgeois milieux, and their socio-political identities. It suggests that the observation of the interactions between state, market and social origins can provide a sound understanding of this section of the middle classes. Furthermore, comparative analysis shows deep national differentiations as well as strong cleavages within the professional field.

Pietro Tino

*Naples and its surroundings
Alimentary consumptions and cultivating systems in 1800*

In this essay the author analyses the influence that the XIX century alimentary consumption market of Naples exerted on the building of the agrarian landscape and the agricultural development of the surrounding countryside. Metropolis of European dimension, Naples was, with its impressible demand of alimentary products, the main moving cause of the process of a cultivating and productive intensive method that, especially through the spreading of fruit and vegetables cultivation, marked the surrounding territories, since the late XVIII century. But the prevailing law remuneration of its consumptions, consequence of a social structure strongly and lastingly crushed towards the bottom, intersecting with the forms of landed property management, orientated the farmers to privilege the quantitative aspect of production rather than the qualitative one, by the creation of cultivating systems of high degree of promiscuity and the adoption, especially in the case of fruit and wine-growing of poor but more productive qualities. Naples, therefore, from one side strongly stimulated the productive intensification in the surrounding countryside, pushing at the most the utilization of soils, but on the other side curbed the agronomical renewal.

Francesco Erbani
"Meridionalismo e sudismo"
Notes for a history of journalism in the South

In this essay the author examines the history of journalism in southern Italy from 1860 to our days going through newspapers and documents.

The author's thesis is that newspapers were and still are the place chosen by the leading classes for the following reasons. One, to consolidate their hegemony, two, to gather all the southern people in order to fight the presumed wrongs and three to propose themselves as the only political representatives in southern Italy.

The southern press has been more "sudista" than "meridionalista". In fact, very rarely the "meridionalismo" appeared on southern press.

Franco Mercurio
Railways and Southern Italy:
"moral bonds" and territorial hierarchies

The south-italian railway system had not only an economic significance. It played an important political role for the making of the national identity and for the breaking up of old Neapolitan economic and territorial hierarchies.

Sometimes these processes happened with the agreement of the local élites and communities, other times they developed in contrast with southern economies and advantages.

The research shows the most important moments of historiographical reflections about the southern railways during the second half of XIX century and tries to reconstitute these complex processes on social and territorial planes.

Bernard Lepetit, Marie-Vic Ozouf e Biagio Salvemini
Practices of space and social identity: themes and problems of a reflection in progress

While in the historiography and in the social sciences of the end of the XIX and the beginning of the XX century one of the main elements was the analysis of human spaces, among contemporary historians awareness of the interpretative value of adopted spatial divisions is not widespread: even in methodologically equipped social history, spatial divisions are generally interchangeable or instrumental. The cost of this attitude seems to the authors of this article high. They stress the necessity of studying past and present societies within their own spaces, and propose to historians to resume, in new forms, the theoretical and empirical interest of the old historiography in the spaces moulded by the social actors they are analysing, underlying the multifarious, complex, non-euclidean character of spatial identities and practices of human societies.

Salvatore Lupo
Usi e abusi del passato: le radici dell'Italia di Putnam

R. Putnam's book, *Making Democracy Work. Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*, examines the performance of Italian regional governments since 1970. His con-

clusions are that the Northern — Central Regions are much more efficient than the Southern ones, for the civicness (i.e. capability to carry out self-government) of the North-Center and uncivicness (i.e. incapability to carry out self-government) of the South. Putnam explains the difference by going back to the “republican” experience of medieval *comuni* in the North-Center and to the feudal and “autocratic” tradition prevailing in the South since thousand years. Lupo’s article criticizes this idea of a thousand years old status quo and considers misleading the terms “republican” and “autocratic”. Lupo also shows that variables chosen by Putnam to demonstrate this contrast are sometimes inconsistent and derive from a biased view of Italian history.