

## Summary

Carmine Donzelli  
*South: «Questione» or «Purgatorio»*  
*Opinions, theories and research strategies*

In the essay, which focuses on the Mezzogiorno as a crucial problem (questione meridionale) in the life of the nation, and also attempts to explore and define the research strategies of Imes, Donzelli analyzes different studies, particularly those based on the concept of «dualism». Is the South — asks Donzelli — a separate universe, a different continent far from rest of the country? Are the South's features — from an economic, social and cultural point of view — completely different in comparison with the «other side of the world»? Or is the Southern Italy just one example of the many nations which have to cope with serious regional problems?

After putting the trend of economic development in the South in an international context, Donzelli emphasizes the main aspects to be taken into account in order to describe and correctly understand the transformations of the contemporary South.

Domenico Cersosimo  
*What industry for the South?*

The essay is divided into three parts. In the first part (sections 1 and 2) there is a brief examination of the pattern of development of the Italian economy over the course of the last decade, analysing in particular the achievement of efficiency on the part of the industrial big business of the north-western regions, the relative decrease in productivity of the smaller businesses of the peripheral area, and the backwardness of the South.

The second part (sections 3 and 4) is based on recent conjunctural indicators and trends and deals with the South Italian economy's possibilities for development and the prospects for relaunching the process of development centred above all on the participation of big business from outside the area.

Finally, in the third part (section 5), there is a critical analysis of the policies and instruments of the present special intervention in favour of the South, with the suggestion of modification and changes.

Angelantonio Spagnoletti  
*Territory and administration in the Kingdom of Naples (1806-1816)*

The redrawing of territorial boundaries carried out by the French in Southern Italy from 1806 onwards was not of merely administrative importance. Indeed, it

was an operation which led to a real regionalization of the South. Not only was there an outlining of the areas which were to constitute the provinces and districts of the area: what was most important was the identification of the cities which might assume the role of seats of local government and thus become a point of reference for a whole hinterland which came to define itself on the basis of new criteria with respect to the past. This led to the development of the Kingdom's urban articulation and greater opportunities for links between the capital and the rest of the area.

Nunzia Berrino

*Brother and husband. Illegitimate children in a nineteenth century community*

The fostering of abandoned («exposed») children was a common and widespread practice in the nineteenth century. These children would be registered at the public records office and then entrusted to paid wet-nurses who almost always then kept them. This is a study of the fate of about a hundred children who were abandoned in the nineteenth century and entrusted to wet-nurses of a coastal village of Southern Italy situated a little to the South of Naples. They were identified in the course of the reconstruction of the complete genealogies of the village's families from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries. The essay analyses names and surnames, the distribution of the families, and it also measures their income and extension. An analysis of the marriages of these children reveals that most of them married into the family in which they were brought up, allowing them to have children and thus to obtain a portion of the communities resources. The D'Ambrosio family in particular fostered many children. They were caulkers and carpenters, and fostered children for two reasons: firstly because of the need for manpower, and secondly, in a later period when their craft went into decline, to make up the meagre income afforded by this activity with a wet-nurse's wages.

These children inherited the family trade but not the D'Ambrosio surname. This made it possible for them to marry into the family.

Marco Cremaschi

*Illegal building in the South of Italy: reality and representation*

Illegal building is a component in the local processes of social change which is clearly affected by the instability of «modernity» in the South of Italy. It is with excessive facility that traditional approaches contrast greed, individualism and illegality on the one hand, and sociality, fellowship and aggregation on the other. In reality, the conflict between the two key words — autonomy and institutionalization — may be traced back to the specific and conflictual presence of the State in historical and economic happenings in the South of Italy. The grounds for this interpretation are sought in a selective review of the limited number of historical, social and statistical studies which exist on the subject of housing in the South of Italy. In conclusion, particular attention is drawn to the effects of the persistence of the need for housing throughout the last century, as well to the ideological representations produced by technological culture, and to the specific difficulties of construction of the market.

Paul Hirst and Jonathan Zeitlin  
*Flexible specialization and post-fordism*

There is widespread agreement that something dramatic has been happening to the international economy over the past two decades: rapid and radical changes in production technology and industrial organization, a major restructuring of world markets, and consequent large-scale changes in the policies of economic management at the international, national and regional levels. At the same time there is a great deal of confusion about how to characterize these changes, the mechanisms at work, and the policy implications for different groups of economic and political actors. One way of accomplishing these tasks is to postulate a change of basic manufacturing organization from a «Fordist» pattern that prevailed in the years of the long post 1945 boom to a «post-Fordist» successor in the later 1970s and 1980s. Many people habitually conflate three approaches to industrial change under this heading: flexible specialization, regulation theory, and a more diverse body of explicitly «post-Fordist» analyses. The resulting problem is that significant differences of approach are concealed by a superficial similarity between the proponents of flexible specialization and a set of apparently similar but underlyingly divergent ideas. The purpose of this paper is to examine systematically the differences between flexible specialization, regulation theory, and other variants of «post-Fordism» with respect to their fundamental assumptions and theoretical architecture, their methodological approach and use of evidence, and their policy implications.

*Paths of Research. Caracciolo: from Marxism to Environment History*

«Paths of Research» is a section in which we publish interviews with Italian and foreign scholars on their personal intellectual and scientific histories. Rather than relating the problems encountered by the individual scholars and the various aspects of their work, the principal aim of the interviews is to give the reader an overall idea of their lives' work: their degree thesis, their first research, personal encounters which were important turning points in their lives and in the development of their political views, the frustrations involved in the search for new methods or subjects, and an analysis of the present and of the scenarios now facing history and the social sciences. In this issue we publish the «path» of Alberto Caracciolo.

Ada Becchi  
*Public works*

The starting point of this essay on the subject of public works in the South of Italy is a re-examination of the question of the theoretical and historical preconditions for development. Then it examines the mechanisms which have made it difficult to reflect clearly on the function and planning of infrastructural policies in post-war Southern Italy and the rest of the country. This has encouraged the degeneration and distortion of State intervention, and the infrastructural policy which has actually been put into practice, far from satisfying a prerequisite for development, has actually hindered it, and it has significantly encouraged the establishment of an interweaving of interests in relations between local élites and the State, as well as the spread of Mafia type phenomena themselves.

It is the severing of the connection between infrastructural policy and the needs which must be satisfied, and the eclipse of the value system upon which development depends which explain the most substantial innovation: the fact that despite the substantial investments which have been made over the years, the lacunae in the infrastructures which were noted at the beginning of the post-war period, have in reality been accepted as a natural attribute of local organization in the South of Italy.