

Summary

Raffaele Romanelli

The Nationalization of the Periphery: Cases and Prospectives of Study.

The article takes into consideration some recent studies, some of which appeared in this review, in order to place under examination the instruments and the historiographical impostations with which the problem of the relationship between the center and the periphery, between national and local power, may be studied. Many such sources recently used by historians are subjected to critical examination, such, for example, as the register of voters («le liste degli elettori») and the concept of «politics», which open a field of research that presents many traps, for example, that of local society. This is a dimension progressively coinvolved in the national sphere, but never once and for all, and with directions that leave much still to be investigated by historical research.

Paolo Pezzino

The Intendant and the Monkeys. Autonomy and Administrative Centralization in Sicily in the Early Nineteenth Century.

The article considers the composition of a local elite in the conjuncture of the administrative monarchy in the early Nineteenth Century, the relations that occur between it and the central power, the defense of the administrative autonomy of the old regime and, at the same time, its adaptation to a new social space delimited by the Bourbon legislation regarding civil administration. The case of Naro, a municipality in central southern Sicily, in the province of Agrigento, and formerly a domanial city, is analyzed; the principal source used is the lists of representatives («le liste degli eleggibili») along with the negotiations concerning them between local society and the State. From the lists one also deduces an evolution of the elite that sees the appearance, above all in the 1830's, of the professional and middle classes beside the traditional small-town nobility, and a larger variety of relations among kindred built around these intermediate classes.

Giuseppe Civile

Notables in Town Hall: Initiation to Politics in a Town of Campania at the End of the Nineteenth Century.

The relationship among town people, local institutions, and national institu-

tions in a rural town in Campania in the last twenty years of the Nineteenth Century is explored.

It was in this period that an important stage was completed in the integration between municipalities and institutions, which is shown in the greater capacity of institutions to intervene in the equilibrium of local society; in the expression of this in formations that reflect general political orientations; and in the birth and action of new associations like the Workmen's Benefit Society («Società Operaia di Mutuo Soccorso»). On the other hand, in each of these facets, the influence exercised by problems and specific aspects of community life and tradition is also evident, so that the result of the process of integration is marked by factors both external and internal to the town. Social composition and the action of the two parties, radical and clerical, that contended for control of town government in this period are also analyzed. The result is a close intermingling of conservative and progressive elements that runs through both formations.

Luciano Martone

Elections and Election-rigging.

Concerning Appeals to the Council of State in the Liberal Era.

The article examines the problem of election corruption in Italy, especially in the South, in the Liberal Era. Contrary to what some politicians imagined — like Salvemini, who denounced the phenomenon as a specific expression of the Giolitti government — the practice of election-rigging and illegality has a longer and more complex history. The originality of the present study consists in the examination of the decisions taken by the IV Section of the Council of State («IV Sezione del Consiglio di Stato») beginning in 1890, when it started to examine the appeals of the citizens in electoral matters.

The picture that emerges is one of an administrative justice not only extremely slow, but above all inspired by very formal criteria of judgment, which prevented the most diverse forms of electoral illegality from being considered as election corruption.

Guido Melis

Society without State? Towards a Study of Peripheral Administrations between the Liberal Era and the Fascist Period.

The article reviews the most recent tendencies in administrative historiography of Southern Italy and resolves the question of antiprefectural and anticentralizing polemics in the southern tradition and the individualization of a more differentiated presence of public administration even in the South. It discusses public presence even in southern society, from the politics of public works projects to the precocious “special” intervention, from land reclamation to the diffusion in the 1920's and 1930's of great public financing corporations. Indicating new directions for research, the article recognizes the conquest of dichotomous schemes of clear opposi-

tion between center and periphery and suggests the necessity of studying instead the complex network of the channels of communication between the two extremes.

Marco Cammelli

The South and the System of Administration: Institutions of Diversity

Within «the question of the South» there is also «an institutional question of the South», which represents a decisive element in the success of public politics in Southern Italy.

The reason why this problem has been so slightly examined is explained by the excessive attention given to state intervention directed by special government agencies that have overshadowed the usual system of local government and the peripheral offices of the state.

On the basis of the analysis presented in this article, on the contrary, the institutions functioning in Southern Italy are, in reality, now already a distinct system of administration in contrast to that in other parts of Italy. The hypothesis advanced in an earlier article is thus confirmed, that is, the utility of the fact that public intervention in the South is based on a model of differentiation, also formal, that extends to local government: to the region, the province, the municipality.

This difference does not suggest that the institutions of southern society should be left to themselves but rather that they should be allowed a more adequate self-expression in terms of both political representation and effective administration.

Paolo Macry

The Naples of the Learned: The Readers, Books, and Libraries of an ex-Capital (1870-1900).

The article considers the cultural structures and institutions of Naples in the period following its passage from the capital of a kingdom to one of the cities of a united country with its centers of government elsewhere. In Naples the contrast between high concentrations of great intellectuality — including great names of national culture such as De Sanctis, Spaventa, Fortunato and Croce — and the limited diffusion of average culture is striking. Moreover, the level of literacy is still low, placing Naples in seventh place in the scale of illiteracy in medium-to-large Italian cities.

The examination of a good sample of the libraries of noble and bourgeois families confirms a similar difference on other grounds: the former possess books representing a general culture of European inspiration, while the libraries of bourgeois families are often limited to professional books.

Giovanni Federico

Foreign Trade and «Peripheries». The Case of the Mediterranean Countries.

The article is divided into two parts. In the first, the possibility of using the dichotomy «center-periphery» and the concept of «dependence» in historical analysis is discussed, and the essential features of some theoretic models regarding the rela-

tionship between economic development and foreign trade are mentioned. In the second part, the results of some recent works about the progress of world trade and of foreign investments are discussed, with particular attention being given to the countries of mediterranean Europe: Spain, Portugal, Turkey and Italy. Regarding these four countries, quantitative analysis has modified the influence of international relations on economic evolution.

Contrary to the previsions of the theory of «dependence», foreign trade seems to have had a neutral effect on economic development, with the exception of Spain, where it has been positive.

Carlo Fumian
The Virtues of Comparison.

With the formulations of Marc Bloch in 1928, the method of historical comparison found one of its first important theoretic systematizations in the methodological universe of historiography. Nevertheless, in spite of its crucial importance, the comparative prospective does not appear to have found a systematic and conscious application to historical research in the following decades.

This article is offered as a partial and preliminary analysis of the problem, on the one hand comparing some theoretic systematizations, on the other, following concrete examples of application, from the «anthropological» origins of the method to its use in historical macrosociology, above all American, in the 1960's and 1970's, following the open debate in the review *Comparative Studies in Society and History*. It is understandable that the comparative method is used principally in the analysis of international processes. From the observations of Bloch and Sewell, one sees the importance and hitherto underestimated utility of the comparative method also in local and sectorial research when it has strong interpretative exigencies. Thanks to the wise use of analogy, to the subjection of historical reflections to the method of hypothesis testing, and finally to the creation and utilization of flexible interpretative models during research, the comparative method offers a precious contribution to the historian's fantasy.

Antonio Ruberti
The Scientific Research in the South.

The Minister for Scientific and Technological Research gave a general outline of the state of cultural and scientific research in the South and the conditions which govern it. Despite a wide gap with respect to the Centre-North in terms of finance and number of researchers, the sector is beginning to show signs of internal diversification, growth and dynamism. New centres of research have recently grown up in Naples, Bari, Brindisi, Cosenza and Sicily. They are all closely linked to the expansion of computer science and advanced technology. University presence in the area has been extended and strengthened with respect to the immediate past. Nonetheless research in the South is still weak and inadequate compared to the need for economic growth and civil development there. Public intervention should be more

decisive and competent; it should coordinate the process of growth of the universities and above all, private industry should be more decisively involved in scientific research.

Diego Gambetta
The anatomy of la tangente.

This paper deals with those cases of corruption in which a public agent sets up a competition between firms for a public contract and, in exchange for a sum of money — known as *la tangente* — illegally favours one firm over the others. It claims that relations between public agents and firms involving that type of exchange are neither a case of extortion at the expense of firms nor are they smooth and stable. They involve institutional tricks, bargaining, failed agreements, cheating and defense strategies on both sides. A description of these features is then presented together with an analysis of those conditions which increase the probability of this type of corruption to occur. A particular stress is laid upon the importance of information, trust and the form of competition. For instance, the form of public competition which the maximum discount wins. However, while this form makes corruption impossible, it cannot rule out collusion among firms. As a result, public agents prefer other forms of competition which puts them in a position to have something to sell in exchange for *la tangente*.