

Marco De Nicolò
*Regional history among comparisons,
multidisciplinary notes and a research for definitions*

In the last thirty years local historiography has become more mature. In the case of regional history it seems necessary to search for deeper and more precise definitions. The useful collaboration with other disciplines, as well as the comparison among different regional and local histories, can help the historians who work about these themes. One of the points which are always discussed is the regional ambit: if it seems reasonable to criticize the reduction of the regional history to its administrative borders, this reduction very often seems to be the dimension in which it is circumscribed. Indeed, this model has not prevented to carry out researches either on more circumscribed or larger areas. The historian has been able “to pursue” his own specific topic vaguely referring to this administrative outline. What seems paradoxical is the scanty number of studies which could take advantage from these borders, that is the administrative and institutional history.

Luca Baldissara
Historians' space

In history and social sciences the concept of space has seen like a pre-existent order in which the protagonists are temporal processes. Some geographers have pointed at centrality of environmental element in changing processes, but, until now, this suggestion has not been taken into account because of lack of dialogue between this two intellectual spheres. The necessary historical reappropriation of space also needs to fill up conceptual distance between the definition of space and place, divided in the historical dialect: place is the framework of the conflict, space in the frame of social control. The uninterrupted geographical expansion of capitalistic world-system leads to favourable places for lack of conflict and fragility of rules. These places assure the control of the space in relation to resources, working classes, markets.

Marco Pignotti
Liguria: undiscoverable region

Liguria is a region whose borders appear somewhat artificial and not actually shaped around the culture and tradition of the various communities which constitute it. As a result, historiography also seems to reflect this peculiar feature. The reason behind such strong diversity lies in the centuries – old presence of the city-state of Genoa, a city which represented for over two centuries one of the most important financial and commercial centres of the world. Its wealth and prestige have ultimately dominated and devoured the whole “ligurian” territory. Still today, modern history reveals a large gap in the study of the region as a whole – and not only of the enormous Genoese reality.

Fulvio Conti
*Regional dimension
 in the historiography about Tuscany in contemporary age*

The large number of historiographical works between 1781 and 1877 has pointed out Tuscany like a relatively unitary region, coinciding with the State formed in Medici’s age. At the period of Italy’s unity it maybe was the only true regional reality. After 1877 that identity progressively lost weight and historiography didn’t show attention at that case study. In the cultural clash between manifestations of municipal pride and necessity to build a national feeling, region didn’t find attention. From second afterwar historiography shows a new attention toward Tuscany as a region, excited from the request of actual institution of the Region, as provided for Constitution. Public bodies, institutes and associations of different kind have given a new impulse to regional history: prevalently come out the achievement of a “long” civic tradion and more recent identity based on Resistance’s values.

Maurizio Ridolfi
A dualistic history? The Emilia-Romagna’s territory

The space of Emilia Romagna it has been formed in the centuries but it has found its definition only at the beginning of political unification. It is a history marked from a recurring shatterings, that were the consequences of the different political-institutional heritages. Regional identity has been set up in an “open” and pluralistic way, without the new political-administrative body undoing the manifold expressions of civic, cultural and historical traditions. In the variety of possible identities (national, regional, local) the case of Emilia Romagna has been enriched with the achievement of a balanced social development model. The historical-administrative synthesis has merged the solid components, deeply-rooted

in the traditional and diffuse associationism and in the participation to public life, with the Resistance's reference and with that development's model. Democracy of community appears the peculiar trait of regional identity in a long period. It's a peculiarity in a redefinition way, cause the Welfare's crisis, but not in a sponging out way.

Mariella Rizzo

The Apulia. Historical research and territory (1989-2005)

The essay sketches out a studies' balance about Apulia. It starts from Einaudi's volume to more recent surveys and pays particular attention toward new questions of territorial history placed from complex interaction between culture and technology. Apulia's case represents an interesting laboratory experience: from papyery production to the construction of data banks. In this direction one research group of the Universities of Bari, Foggia, Lecce, Catania Naples (Frederick II) have started an interdisciplinary project for the South of Italy: by an articulate informative geo-temporal system, which starts from matured conceptual reflexions about use of space, it purposes to restore the long period territorial modifications and stratifications by the knowledge of the net of inhabited areas.

Giovanni Schininà

Regional historiography: Sicily

In the last twenty years the regional historiography on Sicily has been more and more critical towards the stereotypes, the myths and the commonplaces which have prevailed in the traditional image of the sicilian history and identity. Always sensitive to the comparison among different regions, it has reinterpreted both the paradigm of the sociocultural and economic uniformity and the rural stereotype. In particular it has the urban history referred, especially in the last years, to the centre-periphery category. The relation between State and society, city and country, second world war and republican age, the history of the mafia, of Sicily in the Mediterranean are the main fields of research which have guided the most recent historiographical progresses, linking the local dimension to the national and international ones.

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