

English summary

In the Editorial, the centenary of the General Confederation of Labour (CGIL, founded in Milan in 1906) offers Stefano Musso the occasion for a reflection on the history of trade union relations as they developed in Italy through the 20th century. The overall theme that characterizes the history of the entire period can now be seen as no longer exclusively a history of industrial relations, but of unemployment, today again as strong in the past. In developed countries, as the century of industry has ended with the rapid shift of the working population from the secondary to the tertiary sector, instability of employment has once more become only too topical, in terms of unemployment of the young and fixed-term jobs alternating with periods of unemployment. Where flexibility is transformed into uncertainty of employment in a society again characterized by inequality without social security, Musso argues, conflict reappears, this time accentuated by ethnic antagonisms.

Timothy J. Clark's *Farewell to an Idea. Episodes from a History of Modernism*, published in 1999, has finally been published in Italy (Einaudi, 2006): this has justly been made the occasion for an extended discussion of the considerable merits of this famous book. Clark's central argument is that neither modernism nor socialism – often though not always the one being the shadow of the other – were able to influence or bend 20th century modernity to their purposes. Paul Ginsborg offers a general introduction and analysis; Alberto Banti is highly appreciative of Clark's extraordinary talent for illuminating the composition of a work of art and for setting it in its historical context, but is critical of Clark's blanket use of the term "modernism" which is taken to cover too many artists and their work. Marco Fagioli is also appreciative of Clark's scholarship and intuitions, and he discusses at length the chapters on Jackson Pollock and Cézanne, but he is critical of Clark's failure to engage systematically with the long tradition of Marxist art criticism.

Carlotta Ferrara degli Uberti's essay is articulated around the material and symbolic tie between family and nation. She discusses articles and texts from the «Vessillo Israelitico», the most important Jewish periodical from the 1870s to the first world war, pointing to the contradictions inherent in some of the forms of self-representation of the Italian Jewish minority in the period of liberalism, above all during the end of the century crisis. The analysis concentrates in particular on the problematic relationship that results from the defence of endogamy and the consequential struggle against mixed marriages.

Simon Levis Sullam explores the early development of Arnaldo Momigliano's religious orientations, suggesting how he moved from traditional Judaism towards

the Christian leanings perceivable in some of his essays when he was still very young. It also suggests that Momigliano's early writings show an influence of the philosophy of Gentile, more than of that of Croce, partly contradicting the fact that Momigliano presented himself as a firm Crocean; but perhaps more coherently with his nationalistic opinions as a youth.

Santo Peli's contribution focuses on the reasons why general histories of the Italian Resistance, from the classic ones to the most recent, have never paid particular attention to the Shoah. Such an omission, he suggests, results from the real absence of interaction between the two phenomena; whereas they would have seemed destined to interact, starting from the obvious fact of nazi-fascism as the common enemy.

Following the important theoretical developments of the 1980s, the debate on nations and nationalism in Europe has closed in on itself in the search for "objective" criteria capable of defining what is a nation and how to date its origins. In order to escape from the theoretical blind alley that results from the absence of an agreed definition of the nation, Francesca Zantedeschi discusses some recent approaches that examine the functioning of the nation from an ideological and sociological point of view.

In his review of Gabriella Gribaudo's book, *Guerra totale. Tra bombe alleate e violenze naziste. Napoli e il fronte meridionale 1940-44* (2005) (*Total War between Allied bombs and Nazi violence. Naples and the Southern front*), Claudio Pavone stresses its civic value, besides its merit as a historical contribution: she avoids interpreting these years of war through a naturalistic, folkloric and politically indifferent filter, as if southern Italians had barely been touched by the "grand" official history of these terrible years.

Antonio Gibelli discusses *Le classi dirigenti nella storia d'Italia* (2006) (*The ruling classes in the history of Italy*), edited by Bruno Bongiovanni and Nicola Tranfaglia, in which a number of authors, using different approaches, question the role played by the ruling classes. The term is of highly empirical content, difficult to formalize at a conceptual level, to the point that the ruling classes discussed in the book are not always analysed through their formation, their composition and their turnover.

The issue closes with two groups of short reviews. The first, edited by Roberto Bianchi, is dedicated to some recent contributions on the first world war; the second, edited by Aldo Agosti, analyses a number of books on the history and the memory of the Italian Communist Party.

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