

ABSTRACTS

Alessandro Buono, *Warfare, Local Elites and Monarchical Government in Seventeenth Century Lombardy. A compromise between conflicting interests*

Through the case study of Spanish Lombardy during the Thirty years' war, the Author tries to link the latest results of military history with the politico-institutional framework, with a view to overcome the narrowness of an exclusive military approach. By focussing on the agenda of a commission for the control of the army composed of civil and military authorities from 1638 to 1679 and on the careers of some financiers and military entrepreneurs, the Author suggests the need to abandon the pattern of the militarization of society in order to describe the processes affecting the *Milanesado*. The military tool appears to be purposefully used to strengthen political and social ties between centre and periphery and also to integrate emerging social, economic and political groups into the Lombard power elite. The interpretation underlying the essay is therefore based on the idea of a «compromise of interests» between centre and periphery of the Spanish imperial system as a way to stabilize the situation of Lombardy.

Keywords: Milan, Spanish Monarchy, XVIIIth century, power élites, military history, institutional history, Thirty Years' War

Parole chiave: Lombardia, Monarchia spagnola, secolo XVII, elites dominanti, storia militare, storia delle istituzioni, Guerra dei Trent'anni

Elena Papagna, *The nobility of Southern Italy during the French period*

In the first part of the essay the author examines the law on nobility enacted in southern Italy under French domination by linking it to measures taken by the Bourbon government in the second half of the Eighteenth Century. Two stages have been identified in Napoleonic legislation: the first deprives the ancient nobility of the Kingdom of its legal privileges maintaining only an honorary distinction; the second establishes a new nobility, intended to confer symbolic and material rewards on those who distinguished themselves in the service of the State and the Dynasty. An advisory board – the *Consiglio de' majoraschi* – was created and charged with carrying out the bureaucratic procedures provided for the establishment of entails. These were an essential requirement for the titles conferred upon the new nobles to become hereditary.

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In the second part the author performs a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the new nobility, involving the timing and social distribution of the new titles. The relations between old and new Neapolitan aristocracy nobles are also investigated. The case of Southern Italy is set in the broader context of Napoleonic Europe, and the similarities and differences between the new nobilities of the French Empire and of the Kingdom of Italy are duly underlined.

Keywords: Napoleonic Era; Southern Italy; Nobility; legislation on nobility

Parole chiave: età napoleonica; Mezzogiorno d'Italia; nobiltà; legislazione nobiliare

Raffaella Gobbo, *A case of interaction between technical-professional education and local society; Biella, ca. 1860-1915*

The author analyses interactions and mutual influences between technical-professional education and industrial development in and around Biella in the decades from the Unification of Italy and the age of Giolitti. The environment, the economy and the production system, as well as the actions of the leading social agents – entrepreneurs, local administrators, families, school system – are all taken into account. This enables the author to show how effective education, especially secondary education, can be in furthering industrialization and territorial development.

Particular attention is paid to the reconstruction of the career prospects of students who attended the technical-vocational schools considered in the essay, with a view to assessing the degree of correspondence between educational achievements and the skills acquired and deployed at work.

Keywords: Biella; XIX-XX centuries; educational system; industrial development; career prospects

Parole chiave: Biellese, sec. XIX-XX, sistema produttivo, sistema formativo, istruzione tecnico-professionale, destinazioni lavorative

Paolo Frascani, *Nitti, Beneduce and the governance of Italian capitalism*

This essay deals with the relationship between Francesco Saverio Nitti and Alberto Beneduce. The author focuses on the peculiarities of the Italian State's attitudes towards industrial capitalism in the first decades of the twentieth century. The collaboration of Beneduce, a technocrat in the age of Giolitti and later the builder of the public sector of the Italian economy in the interwar years, with the famous southern economist found a congenial ground in the construction of institutional props and control systems capable of protecting savings from the risky initiatives of Italian bankers. Their joint efforts produced the new system of bank regulations adopted in 1936 and announced the more modern and effective modes of governance of financial institutions typical of postwar mature capitalism.

Keywords: Nitti, Beneduce, capitalism, governance, financial institutions

Parole chiave: Nitti, Beneduce, capitalismo, regolazione, istituzioni finanziarie

Terenzio Maccabelli, *Inequality at birth. Remarks on eugenics and heredity in Italy*

At the end of the nineteenth century, Francis Galton founded the new science of «eugenics», with the aim of improving the «racial qualities of future generations». His intent was to create a new discipline integrating the themes of biological heredity, natural selection, and social stratification. This survey discusses recent literature on the spread of eugenics in early twentieth-century Italy, showing the peculiarities of Italian practitioners.

Keywords: Eugenics; Racism; Italy; Social Stratification; Francis Galton; Corrado Gini

Parole chiave: eugenetica; razzismo; Italia; stratificazione sociale; Francis Galton; Corrado Gini