

English summary

Marco Manfredi

*Risorgimento and municipal traditions:
Vincenzo Gioberti's political tour in the Italy of 1848*

This article investigates the various stages and moments of what proved to be a very popular political tour of the Italian peninsula undertaken by Vincenzo Gioberti in the summer of 1848. The aim of this propaganda tour was to visit several places in order to promote and popularise the ideas underlying the Italian national movement. The highlights of the tour were the public speeches the Piedmontese abbot held in many different towns. In these speeches he repeatedly put forward a narrative aimed at assigning to the various Italian localities he visited a specific place against the backdrop, as it were, of a shared Risorgimento tapestry. By means of an incisive communication strategy he sought to combine the national message with the deep-rooted Italian municipal traditions. At the intersection between political and cultural history, this study nevertheless examines various issues which allow Gioberti's tour to be read in the light of the cultural paradigms proposed by the "new history of the Risorgimento". In particular, the political tour analysed in this article is an especially good example of how, during the Italian "long Forty-eight", political propaganda activated new communication circuits and explored new methods and practices of communication, based on essentially innovative methods of shaping public opinion.

Keywords: 1848, Vincenzo Gioberti, Italian Risorgimento, national identity, municipalism, political communication

Nicola Gabriele

*Between «good sociability» and patriotic avant-garde.
Theatrical censorship and the building of Risorgimento*

Theatre and censorship are two cultural phenomena that during the age of Risorgimento acquire an ideological significance if you compare the two together. In Europe's Ancien Régime the theatre was considered a «model of order and good sociability», a «virtuous school» where spectators were checked and controllable. But in the first half of the nineteenth century, the Italian theatre does not represent only a «sociability» check point; Opera and Melodrama were artistic forms capable of circulating the ideals of the Risorgimento. The importance that authorities attributed to censorship to check the public's demonstrations that often accompanied theatrical performances was understandable. After the Italian unification it attempted to reaffirm a censorship model inclined to entrust the theatre a social and educational role to control the people, that recalled more in content than in form, the intent of the divided government to entrust at shows and at architectural structures, where they were hosted, the task of contributing to popular education and public order.

Keywords: Censorship, theater, opera, Risorgimento, education, public order

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Marco Rovinello

Painting the military draft. Nation-building and antimilitarism in representations of Italian conscription (1861-1914)

The article deals with the representations of the military in liberal Italy and the role of iconic language in the military and antimilitarist propaganda in peacetime. Paintings, postcards and illustrated magazines – both military and civilian – will be analyzed in order to reconstruct the “war of representation” between antimilitarist media and those who were ideologically close to the Ministry of War between Italian unification and the eve of the Great War. Special attention will be paid to the key-figure of the draftee. Auto-representations and etero-representations of conscripts will be examined in order to explain the evolution of the image of the military conscription, and also to compare the conflicting representations promoted by the military authorities and enemies of the national standing army (Republicans, Socialists, Anarchists, the supporters of the “nation in arms”) shortly after unification, in the 1870s-1880s and in the crisis of the 1890s.

Keywords: conscription, representation, Liberal Italy, antimilitarism, military propaganda, illustrated/satirical magazines

Laura Fournier-Finocchiaro

Italian memory and celebrations of the 1812 Russian Campaign

The author examines the evolution of 1812 Russian Campaign memory in Italy, asking how this event, initially removed from the nineteenth-century historiographical tradition, has been progressively integrated into the national history, to the point of looking like a heroic episode, that finds a place in the Pantheon of the Risorgimento battles. She recalls the main points of public and private memory of the Russian Campaign, the celebrations and removals during the Risorgimento, the construction of “sites of memory” in the Kingdom of Italy and the first centenary’s initiatives, to show the different aspects of the War of 1812.

Keywords: Russia, Italians, 1812, historiography, culture, memory

Elena Tabacchi

The Nation Trees. An «Educational Holiday» in Italy at the end of XIXth century

The article seeks to examine the various ideological meanings of the first national Arbor Day celebration in Italy, promoted by education minister Guido Bacelli in 1899. It begins by exploring the American origins of the celebration, linking the first Arbor Days to their original context of modernization of the United States at the end of the nineteenth century. It then tackles the Italian experience arguing that the ‘Festa degli Alberi’ (Arbor Day) represents an interesting case study in the context of the crisis of legitimacy experienced by the Italian monarchy at the time. In the aftermath of the celebrations for the 50 years of 1848, we see an interesting juxtaposition, in the same symbolical space, of homages to the monarchy and references to the democratic tradition of the Risorgimento. Finally, it examines the agrarian ideology animating the celebrations, and suggests its reactionary nature vis-à-vis.

Keywords: Arbor Day, agrarianism, national celebration, Bacelli, school, environmentalism

Giovanni Cavagnini,

A poet, a saint, a hero. The myth of Giosuè Borsi during the Great War (1915-1918)

A Catholic convert since 1914, the Tuscan poet Giosuè Borsi died on the Isonzo battlefield at the end of 1915 and was celebrated by intellectuals, politicians and clergymen as the symbol of the “greater Italy” born in the trenches. While anti-clericals and atheists lost interest after the

hanging of Cesare Battisti – a far more fascinating figure to them –, Catholics made of Borsi the emblem of the union of faith and patriotism, but also the vehicle of a political and religious project, that considered submission to God and to the Church as the only way to national greatness.

Keywords: Catholicism, nationalism, Great War, intellectuals, memory, anti-clericalism

Leonardo Pompeo D'Alessandro

The re-education of prisoners. Italian fascists and anti-fascists at Guadalajara

This essay examines a substantially neglected issue in the history and memory of the Italian participation in the Spanish Civil War: the imprisonment of the Italian soldiers of the Corps volunteer troops. Sent by Mussolini in support of General Franco, they surrendered to the Italian anti-fascist of Garibaldi Battalion during the Battle of Guadalajara, in March 1937. The article reconstructs the various stages of this prison experience: from capture on battle-field where the wide-spread demoralisation of the fascist troops was exacerbated by anti-fascist propaganda, to their repatriation to Italy. In particular, the essay focuses on the attempts of the anti-fascists to free the prisoners of their fascist ideology through political re-education. Although this initiative was present in different ways in all forms of imprisonment during the Second World War, it was in the context of the Spanish Civil War that the first, unpublished, efforts were made to achieve it.

Keywords: Italian fascism, Italian anti-fascism, prisoners, corps volunteer troops, the Battle of Guadalajara, Spanish Civil War.

Filippo Frangioni

*Between Europeanism and Third-Worldism:
Portugal and Carnation revolution viewed by Italian left.*

On the 25 April of 1974 the Carnation revolution overthrew the Portuguese authoritarian dictatorship: an unexpected revolution for the European left, including the Italian left. This article deals with the relevance of Portuguese events for the Italian left political cultures, especially the Communist party, the Socialist party and a New Left group, Lotta Continua. The different points of view on the Portuguese revolution – the consequences of decolonization, the European integration process, the dilemmas of Détente and Cold War – caused an overlapping of patterns and interpretations. It is proposed to observe this process by following a continuous oscillation between Europeanism and Third Worldism.

Keywords: Italian left, Portugal, Europeanism, Third-Worldism, decolonization, Cold War.

Gregorio Sorgonà

*Languages and types of anti-communism:
the case of Movimento sociale italiano in the 1980s*

The paper provides an insight into the history of Italian anticommunism by focusing on the case study of 1980s Msi-Dn (*Movimento sociale italiano-Destra nazionale*). The chronological framework matches with a decade of deep transformation of the communist movement, which will have its peak with the collapse of the Ussr. The development of Msi is undoubtedly affected by the transformation of its main enemy. With the reformist course imposed by Mikhail Gorbachev on Soviet communism, and the end of the 'communist threat' in Italy, the homogeneity of the neo-fascist anticommunism starts cracking. The crisis of communism determines within the Msi a bifurcation between a rigidly anti-communist group, which refers to Giorgio

Almirante, and a variegated minority current that considers the communist threat as out-dated. The result of the dispute on the centrality of anti-communism will turn out to be a key element of the definition of the hegemonic leadership within the post-fascist Italian Right of the 1990s.

Keywords: political history, political parties, right wing in Italy, neo-fascism, anti-fascism, anti-communism.

Andrea Di Stefano
*An almost "Holy Alliance": the United States
and the Holy See during the years of Reagan and John Paul II*

Ronald Reagan and Karol Wojtyła were among the undisputed protagonists of the 1980s. Their political relations led to several speculations. The most known example is that explains the collapse of the Soviet regime through a 'secret and holy' alliance between the American President and the Polish Pope. The author discusses and refuses such an argument. He asserts that the rapport between the United States and the Holy See was based on a common view and an extraordinary convergence of strategic interests. The need to offer an answer to the evolution of the international framework produced, among the other consequences, a diplomatic rapprochement that ended with the institution of official relations between the United States and the Holy See in 1984. The author describes the historical phases of this process of mutual understanding and recognition; a process which is one of the least analysed aspects of relations between the Old and the New World.

Keywords: Ronald Reagan, U.S. diplomatic relations; John Paul II; Holy See diplomatic relations; Catholic Church; Cold War

Costanza Calabretta
The German Reunification on display: Museums and exhibitions in Berlin after 1989

The article aim is to analyze how Berlin museums display the peaceful revolution (the movement that caused the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of GDR) and the following German reunification. The article focuses on four different historical-museums (Deutsches Historisches Museum, DDR-Museum, Mauer-Museum, Stasi-Museum). Furthermore it examines two temporary exhibitions («Wir sind das Volk!» and «1990: der Weg zur Einheit»), that took place in Berlin in 2009/2010. Looking at the different exhibition strategy and at the slightly different historical interpretations the museums offer, the author underlines how museums and exhibitions develop heterogeneous depiction of the 1989/90 events. The museums role in building the public memory is the key-concept of the article, and this inquiry wants to represent a way to analyze it.

Keywords: Gdr, Berlin, peaceful revolution, German reunification, museums and exhibitions, public memory.

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