

Summaries

Luca Andreoni, Niccolò Mignemi, *Organizations and agriculture in France between the 19th and 20th century. An introduction*

This special issue of «Storia e problemi contemporanei» aims to present recent research on the rural and agricultural history of modern France. It will explore in particular how new organizational frameworks and professional associations reshaped the interactions between the farmers, the state and the market. The five case-studies concern around a century of French agriculture, from the second half of the nineteenth century to the 1950s. They adopt different methodological approaches, and focus on both local and national perspectives. The introductory article provides a general overview of these debates emphasizing, on the one hand, the growing role of the state, on the other hand, the importance of collective action in the regulation of economic development.

Corinne Marache, *Between government will and local realities. The agricultural modernization in Dordogne*

In a context of profound economic and social changes, the agricultural world was profoundly transformed in the 19th and early 20th century, both in its practices and its organization. This article intends to study, how state measures and encouragements for the modernization of agriculture were adopted at the local level, through the example of the Dordogne department. Do they meet the expectations and needs of the people and the local economy? How local actors of the agricultural modernization reacted? Which was the role of notables and peasants in implementing these measures?

Laurent Herment, *In search of fertilizers: economy and politics in the Morbihan region (1875-1914)*

At the end of the nineteenth century commercial fertilizers were considered as the main way to modernize agriculture. Scientists and *professeurs d'agriculture*, in charge of the agricultural policy at a local level, actively promoted their use. But they needed to be helped by

DOI: 10.3280/SPC2019-080027

farmers' unions. Firstly, they provided fertilizers to farmers at cheaper prices than retailers. Secondly, they organised the transport of fertilizers and the control of the quality. Through the example of the *syndicat des agriculteurs du Morbihan*, I show that, regardless to their political orientation, farmers' unions played a crucial role in the spread of fertilizers and in the popularization of scientific knowledge.

Alain Chatriot, *Why to create a Wheat Office in France during the 1930s?*

Confronted with the old problem of regulating a market that had to respond to population needs, French public authorities managed crises of over-production and the destabilization of the international market after World War I. During the 1920s and 1930s, grain was consistently perceived as the most important political question in rural France. The creation of a Wheat Office occupied a central place in the great reform programs of the Popular Front. The parliamentary debates on this body were particularly vigorous during the summer of 1936. The Onib was created as an inter-professional public organization, with representatives of the producers, wholesalers, handlers, consumers and administrators. Its most important responsibilities were the fixing of prices, storage, and a monopoly on imports and exports. In spite of the initial difficulties, the creation of the *Office du blé* had finally to constitute an answer to the crisis. This answer proved its efficiency afterwards and influenced the French and European agricultural policies.

Luca Andreoni, *Manage the Resin Crisis. Economic Events and State Intervention in South-West France Between the Two World Wars*

The interwar period marked a serious crisis in the pine resin production and trade chain. International competition and consumption dynamics led to a profound change in the production and distribution structure. A considerable and persistent drop in prices, due to multiple causes, at different geographic scales, triggered this change. The central and peripheral public authorities attempted to deal with this disarticulation, with the implementation of institutional tools – representative bodies of the various professional figures and compensation mechanisms – that met the questions of the economic actors, who in turn were the protagonists of an intense season of organizational efforts. The results were perceivable, but inevitably not conclusive, also due to the existing obstacles.

Sylvain Brunier, *To each his own America: the invention of the agricultural adviser in France after the Second World War*

This paper aims to analyse the role played by the American model in the transformation of the French agricultural extension system. I show how the network of international exchanges shaped by the Marshall Plan brought into circulation not only new production techniques but also new ways of supporting farmers. In particular, I shed light on how the US County Agent model served as a common reference for representatives of the French administration and representatives of professional agricultural organizations throughout the process of creating the profession of agricultural adviser in the 1950s.

Carlo Di Bella, *Traveling for pictures: Sardinia of post WWII in the atlas of legendary places*

The article hints of historical-cultural considerations on the ways in which Sardinia was represented in the period after the Second World War using the external look of a small sample of photographers-travelers. The paper investigates these historical aspects as a representation problem in the collective imagination, focusing on the search for peculiarities and *clichés* in the message provided by the pictures published. After a rapid historical and methodological framework, a brief overview of authors and illustrative sources is followed by conclusions on the formation of the multiple public identity of Sardinia.

Monica Fioravanzo, *The “new woman” in the female magazines of Sed and the Italian Communist Party (1944-1989)*

The article analyses and compares the process of defining a ‘new woman’ in Italy and the German Democratic Republic, in the female political magazines of *Unione donne italiane* and *Demokratischer Frauenbund Deutschlands*, from post WWII to the end of the 1980s. The comparison brings out the dialectic between the tendencies taken by the two organizations and their press, on the one hand, and the policies of the *Partito comunista italiano* and the *Sozialistische Einheitspartei*, on the other hand, who were ideologically close each other’s, but operated in two different political, social and economic contexts.