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Construir el Estado

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English Abstracts

‘Ti raccomando caldamente il porgitore di questa mia’: Clientelism in Liberal Italy

Marcella Varriale

Abstract: The Ranieri collection, held at the National Library of Naples, is a vast private archive, in which deputy Antonio Ranieri collected documents and writings covering the period from the 20s to the 80s of the nineteenth century. Through his correspondence, it is therefore possible to reconstruct several aspects of the social life in pre- and post-unification Italy. In particular, a careful analysis of the material shows an interesting patronage network that involves women and men around the figure of the Neapolitan deputy. Within this system, a chain of interdependencies, women – as mothers, wives, sisters, daughters – have played an important role as brokers to recommend their men to find a new job. The *network analysis* and the *gender* category are useful tools to demonstrate once again a close link between the *public* and *private sphere* and to deconstruct a political history transmitted to us for a long time by school textbooks characterised by numerous gaps.

Keywords: Italy, Network, Clientelism, Work, Women

Teaching Love for the Homeland. The Construction of the Modern Italian Nation (19th-20th Centuries)

Elena Musiani

Abstract: Italy was one of the last countries in Europe to achieve

unification, and after the proclamation of the Kingdom in 1861 still lacked a true sense of unity. For this reason, ‘making the Italians’ was a key commitment undertaken by the liberal ruling class. A crucial element of this plan was to develop a new pedagogy for a patriotic nation. This would take various forms such as the building of monuments celebrating the heroes of the Risorgimento, including museums dedicated to that period. However, the plan was first of all carried out through teaching and school textbooks. This paper analyses how texts used in schools at all grades were intended as tools for educating Italians (both men and women) in their roles of citizens of the ‘new’ unified country.

Keywords: Italy, Nation, Italians, Risorgimento, Citizens, Schools

The Right to Citizenship: The Question of “Double Nationality” in Italy at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century

Stefano Orazi

Abstract: At the beginning of the twentieth century the great phenomenon of permanent emigration let Italian politicians and jurists to rise the question of the *status* of citizens abroad in relation to the nation of birth. The ancient principle of Roman law *nemo duarum civitatum civis esse potest*, for which the citizenship of origin was lost by those who had obtained another from a different country, seem incontestable. Despite the requests submitted first to the Subalpine Parliament and later to the national one, the complexity of this issue and the political and ideal oppositions made acquiring Italian citizenship difficult. An authoritative request for reform in the matter of citizenship was made in 1897 during the IV National Juridical Congress of Naples and was then furthermore discussed in the two Congresses of Italians abroad (1908 and 1911), in which

well-known jurists as well as established academics participated. In the early years of the twentieth century the topic became the subject of extensive debate and authoritative studies, finding space in various magazines. In this context, the proposal of the so-called “double nationality” that Giulio Cesare Buzzati advanced during the first Congress of Italians abroad (1908) in favor of Italian emigrants in South America, where some countries, such as Brazil, imposed on them their nationality, caused an uproar. According to Buzzati, in order to ensure that expats have constant contact with their mother country, it would have been necessary to overcome the restrictions of the old public law institution and allow a citizen to maintain their nationality even after obtaining that of a different State. The reactions to the proposal were many and of different kinds, as the author intends to highlight.

Keywords: Dual citizenship, Migration, International Law, Homeland, Parliamentary Debate, Italy

Building the Nation in Mexican Schools (1917-1960)

Angélica Peregrina

Abstract: The creation of the modern State and its consolidation process implies an idea of nation based on specific contents as well as mechanisms and strategies of dissemination. This idea has been stimulated from official authorities and targeted the masses. It relied on elements supposedly representative of the State, which had to be shared by the community. The process of homogenisation is supported by the creation of a series of national elements with which the people could identify either through symbols, rituals and celebrations, or through services such as education, roads, health. This article examines the nation-building process through education

in Mexican official schools since 1917, when a new Constitution was enacted, incorporating some important revolutionary precepts, such as that concerning public education, and until 1960, when free textbooks appeared. The social and civic function of the educational system was therefore to forge an idea of homeland and nation shared by the majority of the population; throughout this period, illiteracy was reduced and attempts were made to train a new Mexican.

Keywords: School, Mexico, Education, Nation, Homeland

Fascism and ‘Italians abroad’: National Identity and the Building of the Fascist State

Sara Delmedico
Manuela Di Franco

Abstract: When Mussolini rose to power in 1922, Italians were still emigrating on a large scale. Historically seen as a form of economic safety valve by Italian governments, migration became a key issue after the United States limited access to Italian immigrants. With the conquest and establishment of the Empire in East Africa, emigration became increasingly linked to the Fascist ideal of the ‘New Man’ and the Italian alleged racial superiority. This article focuses on how the Fascist regime used migration to support and propagandise its ideals, using Italian emigration to the United States and the occupation of East Africa as key examples. In particular, by showing the changes in the language used to refer to the Italian emigrant, this study aims to retrace the different stages that brought the unskilled, unwelcome Italian emigrant to become an ‘Italian abroad’ and a ‘pioneer’.

Keywords: Italy, Fascism, Emigration, United States, Africa

The Afro-Brazilian in a National Space under Construction. The Black as an Object and Subject of Brazilian Cultural Policy during the First Post-Abolitionist Decades

Agata Błoch

Abstract: The article analyses the role of descendants of African slaves in the process of construction and consolidation of the Brazilian nation after the abolition of slavery in 1888. For such purposes, the importance and the role of Afro-Brazilians as an object and subject of Brazil's cultural policy until the late thirties of the twentieth century will be examined, paying special attention to the difficulties and marginalisation suffered by those groups in the nascent Brazilian republic. Moreover, this study also analyses their culture and beliefs as part of the essence of Brazilian national identity, from the first years of the twentieth century.

Keywords: Afro-Brazilian, abolition, Candomblé, Old Republic, Brazil, Getúlio Vargas

The de(construction) of the Sub-Saharan African Nation. Malawi's case

Hilda Varela Barraza

Abstract: This article posits that the nation-building process of Sub-Saharan African countries is qualitatively different from the classical (European) model. The case study is Malawi, an understudied country, that has registered, at least since the end of the nineteenth century, a process of national de(construction). Under the historically-specific conditions of foreign invasions – with the

creation of 'Christian missions' – and a unique ethnic makeup. The article will show how independence was a lost opportunity for the creation of a national identity around anticolonialism.

Keywords: Malawi, Nationhood in Sub-Saharan Africa, British Colonialism, Anticolonialism, Ethnic Identity

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