

Summaries

Daniele Pasquinucci, *Italy and the European integration: The remembrance of war, the Cold War and solidarity among Europeans*

The memory of the world wars played a crucial role in pushing the Italian ruling class to join the first European Communities. The attempt of promoting “solidarity among peoples” was intimately linked to the goal of pacifying the continent. Thus, European unification as an antidote to war became an integral part of the pro-European narrative. Between 1946 and 1953, the international framework, marked by the emergence of East-West tensions, added to the memory of wars the risk of a conflict between the two blocs (particularly after the Korean War of June 1950, a watershed in the history of European integration). The remembrance of the war and the dreaded (new) war fostered an even more intense thematization of “(Western) European solidarity” as a resource for promoting the European integration process and, as we can be read in the Schuman declaration, making war in Europe “unthinkable”.

Antonella Braga, *Gisella Floreanini and the Solidarity Network between the Ossola Free Zone and Switzerland*

In the so-called partisan “republics” between summer and autumn 1944, forms of self-government were experimented which prefigured the future Italian constitutional and republican order. In the Ossola Free Zone an interesting experiment was carried out to build a solidarity network and an innovative public assistance plan, in which the role of women, involved in basic activities, but also with government responsibilities, was crucial. A woman, Gisella Floreanini, was in fact appointed Commissioner for Assistance in the Ossola government. The essay analyzes her intervention plan, also with reference to the transnational network of solidarity with neighboring Switzerland.

Michele Colucci, *Reconstructing Italy: social policies and open questions*

The article analyses the main initiatives in the field of social policies launched in Italy during the reconstruction period. Work, housing, welfare, health, measures to fight poverty: these are the main areas of intervention. The author dwells both on the political elaboration preceding the initiatives and on the concrete measures. An articulated and complex picture emerges, in a period full of contradictions. Social policies were a major topic of public debate.

Gerardo Nicolosi, *“All freedoms are solidarity.” Liberal culture, banks and bankers in the founding years of the Republic*

The essay focus on the impact of liberal political culture in the “founding” period of the Republic in relation to the main emergencies of the time, with particular regard to economic and social problems and to the role played by banks and bankers. The goal is to verify if it is possible to find traces of an action that can be defined “solidarity”.

Luca Menconi, *Between Adhesion and Aversion to Fascist Principles. The Young Ernesto Rossi Collaborator of “Il Popolo d’Italia”*

The essay aims to deepen the study of Ernesto Rossi’s collaboration at «Il Popolo d’Italia», the daily newspaper of Benito Mussolini, for which the future exponent of Justice and Freedom would have written twenty articles, unraveled in the period between March 28, 1919, and November 29, 1922. The intent is to show how, far from representing a youth transition of little historical interest, this journalistic contribution of Rossi was, on the contrary, an opportunity to elaborate ideas and concepts which were then taken up again in his future political and professional activity, which, initially in harmony with fascism’s «left» orientation, would then have led him to radically detach himself from it.