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Research Articles

Christopher Calefati, Università di Pavia

Conquering the Walls. Seditious Placards and Posters in Terra d'Otranto (1856-1860)

The article analyses the seditious communicative campaign triggered by the liberal patriots of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies in the province of Terra d'Otranto during the crucial years for the delegitimization of the Bourbon rule. The peripheral position of the province facilitated the acquisition of space for action by groups of conspirators composed of new ordinary actors, who kept the clandestine network alive along with exiles and individuals who survived the reactionary purge of 1849. Practices of symbolic sovereignty, through the posting of seditious posters, led to an acceleration of the media transition between the old and the new political regime. Furthermore, collective imagination was strongly influenced by wall literature: this visual strategy represented a direct and effective means in the politicization and pedagogy of the masses, which experienced alternative forms of sovereignty during an epochal turning point for the *Mezzogiorno*.

Keywords: Symbolic Revolution; Kingdom of Two Sicilies; Seditious Writings; Risorgimento

Andrea Azzarelli, Université Grenoble-Alpes

When a State is Born. Profiles of Policing in the Repression of Brigandage (1860-1866)

During the 19th century, Europe witnessed regime changes, civil conflicts, and revolutions. The Italian peninsula shifted from old statehood forms to a new national and constitutional order. This article delves into the creation of the Italian liberal nation-state in the 1860s, focusing on police officers involved in the war against counter-revolutionary brigandage in the South. By analyzing the personal files of officials involved in the repression, the article focuses also on the professional backgrounds of those who joined the police after enduring persecution as liberals in the former Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. Officials who were native from the

Kingdom of the Two Sicilies constituted the majority of police ranks in Southern Italy and were pivotal in repressing brigandage. Their presence signifies a crucial continuity, linking the pre-unity internal civil conflict in the South to the post-1861 trajectory of unified Italy.

Keywords: Police; Exile; Italian Nationalism; Brigandage; State-Making

Alexandre Dupont, Université de Strasbourg, Institut universitaire de France
Ideological Circulations and Transnational Political Solidarity in the 19th Century. The Case of Counter-Revolution

This article puts in perspective the part of the ideological circulations in the structuration of transnational political solidarities in the 19th century from the case of European counter-revolution. The demonstration leans on a triple interrogation of the connection usually made between these two historical categories, that the political solidarities would ensue from the ideological circulations. First, the circulation of ideas mostly rests on the circulation of artifacts (books, pamphlets, newspapers, images) and this circulation essentially depends on social logics based on interknowledge and mutual confidence. Then, this circulation of artifacts, which creates a space for a transnational debate, does not guarantee the circulation of ideas as they are not always transmittable nor transmitted. Consequently, concrete fights become central in the space of debates. Finally, the circulation of ideas is a dimension among others of the construction of transnational political solidarities in the 19th century, which leans on multiple contact situations and multiple logics of commitment.

Keywords: 19th Century Europe; Ideological Circulations; Counter-Revolution; Political Solidarity; Internationalism

Sources

Miriam Franchina, Universität Trier
From the Caribbean to Pisa. Hypothesis on Marie-Louise of Haiti, the First Afro-Descendant Queen of the Americas

This article offers a new interpretation of Queen Marie-Louise of Haiti's (1778-1851) exile in Italy. Departing from the prevailing focus on her domestic life, it argues for the political and intellectual significance of her time in Pisa (1824-1851) by ground-

ding it in Haiti's unique status as the first nation to abolish slavery. Taking up the challenge of reconstructing the voices of Afro-descendant women, this paper uses overlooked documentary fragments to connect Marie-Louise's apparent withdrawal from politics to her role as the first Afro-descendant queen in the Americas. She is presented as a revolutionary figure who embodied King Henry I's national narrative while in Italy, thereby contributing to the transatlantic circulation of people and ideas that defined the early patriotic milieu.

Keywords: Queen Marie-Louise of Haiti; Haitian Revolution; Saint-Domingue; Henry Christophe