

Summaries of articles

Worker Space and Social Trajectory: Turino During the First Half of the Century

M. GRIBAUDI

The urban working-class in the first half of the twentieth century has constituted a stable population. Geographical and professional mobility and turn-over have accompanied its birth and its development. This article emphasizes the importance these phenomena have had in the determination of the frames of reference existing within worker communities as well as of the aspirations and behavior of social actors. Our analysis is founded upon the complete reconstitution of numerous genealogies of families which peopled Turino's factories and working-class neighborhoods during the first decades of this century. The different ways in which these families left the countryside, their successive trajectories in different social spaces, their forms of adaptation to the city, and their varied successes allow us to clarify the specificities of the urban working-class world as well as its apparent contradictions.

The Two Working Classes in the Country "Between the Two Rivers"

G. HEUZÉ

Contemporary authors very often bring to bear dualistic schemas upon third world social situations. Our approach in dealing with a particular rural zone, characterized by an archaic and stagnant economy, and located at the edge of the largest Indian mining basin, throws these bipolar schemas into question through an analysis of a concrete situation. One finds many very marked and differentiated social groups in this suburban world, and the opposition between permanent statutory workers and other workers seems fundamental. Evaluation of the links between the various groups of producers, along with analysis of the ideologies justifying the behavior serving as the basis of dualistic theories, clearly demonstrates the ambiguity and complexity of situations.

***Yet Another Job: Peasants Moving from Skill to Skill
(c. 1830-1950)***

Y. RINAUDO

Omnipresent, peasants' "pluri-activity" functioned as a formula for adaptation to the modern world (from 1830 to 1950). An area's resources and constraints, men's capacities, and time choices provide this activity with extraordinary plasticity. Whether it is limited to one community or resolutely oriented towards the outside world, whether alternating, cyclical or unchanging, it orients individual and/or family programs, influences behavior and modifies cultures. Born along by important national changes, it has had a long life, strongest before the last third of the 19th century and after the second half of our own. Hard times have favored its expansion, but it will have to adapt to changes in order to last. Whether solid or fragile, open or closed, it is subject to varied and sometimes opposite vicissitudes. Modernized and dynamic, pluri-activity preserves its peasant vitality. Elsewhere, however, where heritage has frozen things, it is already at times but a distant memory. Wherever it is able to take root and flourish, a city's modernity is assured.

***1954: A Case of Crisis Egression. Short and Long Term in
Contemporary Economic History***

H. BONIN

The study of crises—in which we see the shock-paroxysm characteristic of middle-length cycles and a fifteen year depression—has advanced more than the analysis of "crisis egression". Reconstitution of the way which led out of the 1930's crash allows us to sketch out the remodelling of the mode of growth which assured the continuation of the stimulation (which was almost artificial) begun by Reconstruction; the stimulation was, in part, financed by American aid, and it laid down the bases for further "self-sustained" expansion. The short cycle crisis (1952-53) was a crucial tool for decision-makers; this can be seen in the lucid and modernist discourse of the Mendesists. Five phenomena converged: first and foremost, changes in the capacity and productivity of modernization/reconstructive investments; (2) the push from entrepreneurs starting up in the slots of anticipated growth and in the niches of industrial, financial and commercial innovation; then, (3) from 1953 to 1955, the turnabout in the world situation which accentuated governmental stimulation of growth, in particular through the taxation of businesses; (4) the State's expansionistic choice edifying a deliberate and coherent strategy of support of public and private investment, through the introduction in France of Keynesian methods of operating; and lastly, (5) the parallelism between increased supply, due to investment in productivity and capacity, and increased demand due to the simultaneous agreement by the government and company heads to distribute buying power by applying, in a more or less systematic way, rules of "social Fordism". Along with the "growth sectors" erected by the Reconstruction's mixed industry, with the building-blocks of the industries producing intermediary goods and equipment, one could henceforth count as "growth sectors"—i.e. creators of factories and jobs—the industries of consumption whose growth rates jumped markedly and then steadied in the second half of the 1950's.

Periodical Literature Concerning Economic History

P. BAIROCH and B. ETEMAD

The present study is based on the perusal of some 15,000 articles and the content analysis of 3,000 articles from a total of 72 journals. This material allowed us to

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determine the main approaches used, subjects treated, and geographic areas discussed over the last thirty years of economic history. It also provided a basis for an evaluation of the growth in the periodical literature concerning the whole of (recent and not so recent) economic history since 1900.

To complete this analysis, it was necessary to compare this material with that concerning other disciplines; this required extending the number of journals examined from 72 to 137. Comparative study showed that economic history is a dynamic branch of the social sciences. This fact is corroborated by the rapid growth in the stock of articles concerning economic history from 300 in 1900 to more than 22,000 in 1985.

Origins of American Pluralism

Olivier ZUNZ

Two conflicting conceptions underlie the use of pluralism in the United States. One is inherently political and economic, often expressed in the form of interest-group politics; the other, inherently cultural and social, is often expressed as a commitment to community life. This article traces the origins of both conceptions in American history. It relates the various formulations of pluralistic ideology to the decline of the de facto pluralism that characterized nineteenth-century American society. The article also contrasts the minority group search for self-identification with the recognition of pluralism as an integral part of American ideology by thinkers situated at the center of society.

Jews and Blacks in the US: Breach in the "National Alliance"

Nancy L. GREEN

"Pluriethnicity" in the West needs to be studied not only as a function of immigrant-native relationships but with regard to interactions among minority populations. The changing relationships between Blacks and Jews in the United States in the early sixties revealed themselves in this regard. Accusations of discrimination towards Blacks brought against the largely Jewish International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union show at least three levels of minority interaction: (1) direct institutional conflict bringing into question the notion of a "natural alliance" between civil rights groups and the liberal Jewish union; (2) larger ethnic group conflict, as expressed through reciprocal charges of racism; and (3) differential strategies of adaptation within the global society, affecting inter-minority behavior.

Ethnicity as Will and Representation: On the Peul of Wasolon

J.-L. AMSELLE

In this article we retrace the history of the expression "Peul of Wasolon", pointing to the simultaneous birth of an ethnic group and ethnological knowledge. Several phases can be distinguished in the process: that involving voyagers for whom only "nations" exist, that of colonial administrators who espouse the notion of "race", and that of researchers who introduce the notion of "ethnic group".

On the basis of our own material, we then attempt to define the recording procedures in use during the pre-colonial epoch, examining the conditions for the possibility of the existence of an ethnic group at that time.

In the second part of the article we show that the expression "Peul of Wasolon" is a recent creation related to urban migrations as well as to the existence of a specific type of state apparatus in Mali.