

English summaries

The Private Sphere of Public Health: Power, Politics and AIDS in the Congo

D. FASSIN

In Africa, AIDS has remained remarkably absent from the public arena, all the while posing serious and unprecedented problems to society, in particular to the political class and the medical milieu. If the debate did not acquire public status at a time, however, when the process of democratisation made such a phenomenon possible, it is because the epidemic endangers those in power, individuals as well as the State. Any condemnation of the sickness, then, becomes as well a denunciation of authority.

Women's Work in Imperial China: Weaving New Patterns in the Social Fabric

F. BRAY

The secular expansion and elaboration of the Chinese economy between 1000 and 1800 AD has been studied from many points of view, but no-one has yet examined specifically how this affected women, despite their essential role as producers of textiles. In this essay I identify historical patterns of change in the organisation of textile production, noting the progressive marginalisation of women in the textile industry. I suggest that the corresponding changes in the social value of Chinese women's work provided fertile ground for popularization of neo-Confucian gender roles which emphasized women's dependence on men and idealized their roles as reproducers.

The Sugar Industry, the Sugarcane Roller Mill and Sino-Portuguese Relations from the xvith to xviiiith Centuries

F. SABBAN

Many questions have been raised with respect to the origins of the rolling mill type of sugarcane mill, which, by replacing the ancient technology of the edge runner and the beam presses in the xvith century, helped to speed up the process by which sugar cane is crushed and thus to favor the boom in the world sugar industry. This paper reexamines this question, since it has come to light in the past few years that the promoters of this invention could be, in fact, the Chinese. A detailed comparison between the Chinese mill and the Brazilian mill shows, on the one hand, that the two machines are quite distinct, and suggests, on the other hand, that problems with regard to technological innovation cannot be treated without taking into account the specific social context of each society. Thus for example in China, sugar, which has been produced long before it had in Europe, was not valued on the same basis as in Europe. Furthermore in China white sugar was not so much appreciated until the xvith cen-

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ture. *The evolution of its status seems linked to the pressures of the international market, after China had come into contact with her Asian neighbors via the Portuguese. At the end of the xvith century, the Chinese sugar provinces of Guangdong and Fujian are going to produce a very white sugar specially for exportation, and if the clientele is rapidly satisfied, it is because the Chinese possess a technique for sugar whitening, claying, which the Portuguese will only introduce into the West later on. Between the xvith and xviiith century the Chinese sugar activity will experience an unprecedented development, but will rapidly lose energy, without resulting in a more advanced stage of industrialization. Traditional networks of production of artisanal and unrefined sugar, meanwhile, will continue to function.*

Quantitative and Qualitative Development in Late Imperial China P.-E. WILL

This article starts with a brief review of the different types of economic development and growth treated in the literature, and asks the question: What the Chinese experience during the period ca. 1600-1850 may have been in this respect? The vantage point adopted here is that of the imperial government and its bureaucracy. From the beginning of the eighteenth century, an awareness of the growing imbalance between population increase and food production on a limited land base led to various efforts to improve the quality and output of Chinese agriculture. The official approach to economic development was conservative: the existing order was to be made more productive, but changes in occupational distribution and an increased division of labor were considered socially disruptive. Some examples of local and regional programs to develop the rural economy are examined, in particular those dealing with the promotion of textile production. The conclusion recalls that, official views notwithstanding, several regions did experience fast qualitative development and spontaneous change during the period considered.

The Making of the American Immigrant J. CHASE

The concept of foreigner as non-national has a rather short history, being articulated roughly at the time of the French and American Revolutions. This study traces the development of that concept in the early United States, firstly as a by-product of the uniquely American doctrines of allegiance and of treason, secondly as a consequence of massive population movements in Western Europe between 1816 and 1819. Although these factors affected the demographic composition of cities on either side of the Atlantic only fleetingly they had a lasting impact on the American concept of foreigner.

Race and Nation in Mexico. From Independence to the Revolution H. FAVRE

The insurrection of the Indians which broke out in Mexico at the occasion of the war with the United States (1816-1848) provoked the awareness of an Indian problem and the creation of a national project based upon miscegenation. The Indian, recognized as being "civilizable", is condemned to disappear by means of racial fusion. The importance of the white race in the transmission of characteristics, which

is taken as a law, is the guarantee that the biological amalgamation born of such a union will be white. Nevertheless, it is judged wise to entrust the task of "whitening" the country into the hand of immigrants from Southern Europe which the State has carefully selected.

The socio-economic dimension of the Indian problem is not ignored, however. Rather, until the Revolution, this problem remains within the framework of a racist paradigm which only very exceptionally leads specialists in the Indian question, even those influenced by theories of social darwinism, to assume racist positions.