

English summaries

Silence, Denial, Mythmaking:

The Memory of a Great Defeat in Portuguese Culture

L. VALENSI

Remembrance and oblivion are the two facets of collective memory that have so far attracted the attention of historians and social scientists. In this paper, the author suggests that both these processes should be associated with others such as repression, lying, mythmaking, etc. She elaborates her assumption through a case study of a national tragedy—the traumatic Portuguese defeat in the Battle of the Three Kings of 1578—in Portuguese culture from the xvith century to the present.

The Proof of Prophecy

F. GIL

The theory of prophecy put forth by the Jesuit Antonio Vieira at the moment of his defense before the Inquisition in 1665-1666 is analyzed here. The theory concerns a prophecy of Portugese Joachimite inspiration that announces the resurrection of a king and the advent of a Fifth Empire bringing a thousand years of peace. Vieira presents his theory in the guise of a syllogism. It is studied here in the light of the following binary oppositions: operation/object and expectation/fulfillment. Vieira's "realist" theory makes the truth of the prophecy depend on the realization of the foretold events. The vain expectation of the king's resurrection nevertheless brought realism to an impasse. To avoid it, Vieira attenuated the import of the prophecy, making it merely probable, not certain. But the real solution was found in something other than probability: in the abductive reasoning underpinning the syllogistic presentation and in an "intuitionist" rather than realist proof of the prophecy. It is not the realization of the prediction, but rather the hallucination of the future in the present that is the proof of prophecy.

"Render Justice"

M. P. DI BELLA

Through the analysis of an episode hinging on testimony related by L. G. Cockburn after his trip to Sicily (1810-1811), I sustain that the use of lies made by Sicilians differs from the definition provided by the Encyclopedia Treccani (1934), according to which lying is an "empirical" fact to which "children, savages, women, the elderly, and those whose bodies or minds are sick are inclined".

Lies, on the contrary, were part of a coherent strategy that the "poor", in their social struggles, used against the "rich". Inasmuch as that strategy was based on the certainty that the authorities were, in turn, lying, this strategy evolved, in time, into a philosophy of life.

***Peasant Societies and the Confrontation
with Industrial Employment in Contemporary India.***

G. HEUZÉ

Singrauli is a very specific spot of developing India, with its open cast mines, power plants and other heavy industries. It is also becoming a characteristic one, in a country where hundred of thousands of farmers and agricultural labourers are annually displaced by dams, industries and expanding towns. Confronted with an offensive of centralised, and highly technicised development in the public sector, the local populations seem at first sight totally crushed or marginalised. The situation is nevertheless a bit more complicated. The rural local people would be in a hopeless position if the so-called labour market were reigning supreme. They have no skills and little education. Indeed, they have been able to develop strategies of their own to cope with the situation and to get a part of the jobs. In some cases, and especially regarding the public sector projects, it is possible to invoke a continuity between land and jobs, and to receive political support at this level. This is only a part of a global process of politisation of the employment scene...

***Female up-breeding and the Aristocracy
in Saint-Simon***

E. LE ROY LADURIE and J. F. FITOU

A study of Saint-Simon's Mémoires allows us to construct an image of the French aristocracy of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries (1620-1730). The higher the social class of the "Saint-Simonian characters" of these years, the younger they seem to die. We regard this as a distortion resulting from the duke's special interest in the noblesse gentille. In addition, the Saint-Simonian corpus provides a privileged ground for the study of aristocratic marriages. These assure the reproduction of social ranks, each group manifesting an inclination towards the internal recruitment of wives. Female up-breeding, rather than contradicting this evidence, completes it: Saint-Simon and those of his class tolerate a small degree of social ascent of women as long as it does not interfere with the general stability of court-society. Female down-breeding, on the other hand, is almost absent from the picture. It is only characteristic of a few minor groups whose exceptional success does not risk compromising the social order.

The French Revolution and the Family

A. BURGUIÈRE

What the French Revolution intended to throw into question and transform in the familial field stemmed largely from the expectations of French society at the end of the Ancien Régime concerning the distribution of powers among the state, family, and individual. But those expectations were contradictory: they sought both more civil and moral autonomy for the couple and the individual, and a more extensive state-provided safety net for families in trouble. In the revolutionary legislation and the practices it ordained, one must thus isolate a will to maintain continuity with the Ancien Régime.

Break and Continuity: Soviet Demographic Examples

A. BLUM

The history of the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union is most often viewed as a succession of abrupt breaks, both in its procession and political or ideological discourse. Through a study of major demographic trends, it is possible to shed the usual

theoretical frames and resituate this history in a social context that goes beyond these breaks. A dissociation then appears between a political world subject to brutal changes and a social world which seems to develop in almost complete independence from it. A temporal perspective allows to separate the often violent short-term effects. A geographical perspective allows us to see the Soviet Union not as a country closed in upon itself, but rather as a country that can only be understood by opening the doors to much broader cultural domains. The demographic approach thus allows for the formulation of a hypothesis: social evolution is independent of political evolution.

On Diversification in the Market for Land

G. BÉAUR

Like ways of transmitting inheritances by successorial pathways, ways of transmitting costly property were extremely varied under the Ancien Regime. The juridical content of contracts signed in about sixty zones throughout the French territory was sufficiently diverse to throw into question the very notion of a market for land, as it is impossible to isolate the other forms of land concession. A whole series of operations gravitated around a core of consensual, durable, total sales, which also came under the feudal, successorial, and judicial systems; the money market; the rental market; and finally the market of exchange. The market for land goes beyond this spatially dislocated and juridically diversified critical examination.

Bosses and French Capital during the Second Industrialization: the Case of Petroleum

P. MARGUERAT

The example of the involvement of the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas in oil investment in Romania after World War I illustrates the difficulties encountered by French capitalism during the Second Industrialization. Firstly, there were problems of financing linked to the relative restriction of the financial market which could only be mitigated by complex financial constructions in which large investment banks were called upon to play an essential role. Secondly, and most importantly, there were management problems tied to two factors: 1) the influence of investment banks, unfamiliar with and industrial vision of business management, and 2) the inappropriateness of the new bosses which becomes evident with the influence of banks: the managers were technocrats from the top universities and the state's technical corps, better trained to handle administrative and technical issues than to understand scientific progress.

Harness in Antiquity: The Prestige of a Scientific Error

M.-C. AMOURETTI

The work of Commander Lefebvre des Noettes, and in particular his hypothesis of the defectiveness of ancient harnesses, was very influential even though his analysis was technically false. After having situated the commander—a local erudite who took advantage of his early retirement to specialize in an area that had been little explored up until that time—in historical context, this article takes up the refutations that began in 1960 and became especially forceful due to the work of J. Spruytte in 1977. There was not one, but rather several ancient harnesses, and the evolution towards modern techniques (shafts, collars, and breast harnesses) began in Antiquity. The commander's

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theories were accepted for so long and their refutation so little recognized in France because they reinforced the idea of “antiquity’s technical block”. The paper investigates the birth of this concept and the reasons why it encountered so much success in France. The evolution of different historical schools, giving a special place to ancient history, allows us to better understand why people pondered the causes of a “technical block” without throwing the concept itself into question. It is as if ancient history had to have a particular status and could not be considered part of the long procession of history.