

English summaries

Human Condition, Political Condition. Foundations of Politics in Ancient Greece

C. DARBO-PESCHANSKI

All throughout Homer's Epics, Hesiod's poems, Aristotle's Treatises, but also in Solon's Elegies, this article tries to investigate the components and variations of the anthropological discourse, which in Ancient Greece underlay the existence and exercise of politics.

Man, and more precisely human action, is seen as disturbing the divine order, in which the various creatures are supposed to accept their fate as a gift. Within this context, acting appears as capturing, which can only be illicit and faulty because of its disruptive characteristic. It can be assimilated to a robbery. Being thieves, men give rise to a power which is destined to punish them in order to reestablish the kosmos, that is setting up of Justice (Dikè), which they incessantly destroy. In this configuration, politics is defined as the way in which men assume their role of being outcasts: it consists of creating a kosmos other than the one, which is a gift of the Gods and sustaining it by a notion which is specifically attributed to men: Justice.

Between Myth and Speech. Birth of a Political Conception of Power in Russia.

C. S. INGERFLOM

The hypothesis which is put forward here is that the Cossacks and Serfs' Revolt, led by Razine (1669-1671) was, in fact, the first collective political action in Russian history. A significant section of the society sketches out a representation where the holder of the supreme power in the country proceeds itself, at the expense of the traditional conception which was viewing the divine choice as the only seat of legitimacy. This hypothesis contradicts the dominant historiography of the Russian popular movements: we consider here seriously the concepts whereby the actors have represented themselves and have conceptualized their world; we do not begin from a general historical context which precedes the Revolt but we build from shared elements, which are external and internal to it; we choose either the collective or the individual places to observe the Insurrection; we distinguish between the physical time and the social time of the event; lastly, we consider the collective actors, who are also able to take new initiatives including such dimensions as the representation of power. Hence, we try to show that the beliefs in a transcendent area close to Man, which are namely put to use by magic, are part and parcel of the political conception of power in Modern Russia.

The Making of a Film: Political and Narrative Ambivalence in La Bataille du Rail.

S. LINDEPERG

Since the release of René Clément's *La Bataille du Rail* in January 1946, attempts have been made to appropriate it by many apparently irreconcilable groups, all of whom acclaimed the film as authentic narrative and first hand history. A double paradox stems firstly from the use of heroic idealism in fiction as a proof of reality and secondly from the appropriation of this film by opposing political positions, all of which found justification in the ambivalences of the narrative.

This article seeks to clarify these paradoxes by reconstructing the complex process of the making of the film, using the archives of the Cinémathèque Française (a study of the financial budgets and contracts, successive versions of the script and so on). The heroic construction of history is thus seen to have been justified by the need to reconcile the widely divergent strategies of the interested parties (the management of the French railways, the communist resistance, etc.).

Beyond the specific study of René Clément's film, the article suggests a new historical approach to cinema, in which the latter is regarded as an elaboration, the product of the relationship between the film-maker's place in the professional field, cinematic practice and procedures, and narrative construction.

The Distorted Works. A Case of Cinematographic Censorship in Khrushchevian Soviet Union.

M. GODET

The Thaw has provided the conditions for the rise of an intelligentsia which will resist to power. A split between Liberals and Conservatives has been observed in its midst, which is a reflection of the prevailing political situation. From the XXth Congress onwards, the crisis between Khrushchev and the intelligentsia was in a latent state and was marked by successive reversals before reaching its climax in December 1962-March 1963. From that time on, censorship which has largely disappeared since the beginning of the Thaw, is being reintroduced in a complex and subtle way; in cinema, it has an influence on new actors, on young film-makers who are yet genuine communists, it subverts in an underhand manner the works and distorts their meaning, while it is relying on the cinematographic milieu.

The confrontation of the original and censored versions of a major film of the period, Lenin's Guard of Marlen Khutsiev, has permitted to spot the different procedures through which censorship is exerted as well as the themes which are sanctioned: fundamentally the existential problems of youth, whom the regime would prefer to see entirely orientated towards the notion of work and the building of communism, and the opposition between fathers and sons, which reminds the old guard of their Stalinist legacy.

Yugoslavia: when Democracy is no longer a Game

J.-F. GOSSIAUX

The rise of violence in Yugoslavia has coincided with the political discourse's invasion by references to democracy. This article aims at showing that it exists a structural relation between the two features. The democratic model, indeed, means pluripartism. When in fact, the parties which developed in accordance to this need have been set up on the classificatory principles which were inherited from the ancient system, that is to say, on a "national" basis (i.e., on an ethnic order).

War has been the paroxystic consequence of the incompatibility between demo-

cratic individualism and ethnic structure, considered as a political principle. The law of the majority is not acceptable from the moment that the results are predetermined by the very nature of the opposing parties themselves. Armed violence constitutes a radical way of getting out of this aporia of the majority. It tends to suppress one of the terms of the contradiction, namely the ethnic structure, in forcing the territorial logic (“ethnic purification”, geographical transfers of the populations).

A further solution consists in giving up—without openly avowing it—the principle of democratic individualism. This is what is called in the Balkans’ framework, the Macedonian Model. A consensus is reached on the running of the State’s affairs between ethnic parties, away from any notion of the elected majority. At this price, the Republic of Macedonia has up to now succeeded in maintaining civil order.

Practising the Rules: the Bank of France, the Paris Bullion Market, and the Emergence of the Gold Standard, 1848-1876

M. FLANDREAU

In this paper, we study the transformations of the French monetary system 1848-1876. We first discuss the claim that bimetallism until 1873 provided the Bank of France with means to make limited use of the discount rate, and find it largely unfounded, at least for the period 1848-1870. We argue that the Bank of France always favoured informal methods to manage the Paris money market, but that bimetallism did not generally facilitate such techniques. Paradoxically, the emergence of the gold standard, which was introduced in France as a practice more than as a rule, gave to the Bank of France increased autonomy. With bimetallism still legally in force, the Bank of France could give silver écus in payments, and exercise greater control on the Paris gold market.

An History of the Efficient Market Concept

C. WALTER

The so-called market efficiency, which states that prices fully reflect all available information, is a key concept of the modern financial theory. Actually, most of the practical mechanisms and financial instruments traded on markets are based on this hypothesis. This concept is closely related to a probabilistic representation of the behavior of stock market prices. This representation allows to test and possibly to falsify the concept, which is not testable per se. First proposed by a French mathematician, Louis Bachelier, in 1900, the probabilistic representation postulates a strong unpredictability of prices movements, and a gaussian distribution of returns: prices follow a random walk with drift. Its scientific usefulness is now proved, since it has changed the views and practices of market professionals, but only after hard conflicts in the field of finance world. Important point is that the probabilistic representation came before an economic explanation of the random walk. So the efficient market hypothesis has been first associated with the normal distribution: the problem of anomalies observed in testing the efficiency is clouded by this joint-hypothesis. Since the crash of october 1987, a new way of considering markets is emerging, which could lead to a split between efficiency and normal probability distribution. The history of the forming of this concept discloses, over a long time, the specific components which are at the origin of the crisis of this paradigm.