

NERONE E LA LEADERSHIP SIMPATICA: DA CARDANO A DELL'UTRI
Valeria Palumbo

In Emperor Nero's demagogy still up to date? Is his fight against Senatorial Class a step towards modern “Democracy” or was the Senatorial Class a valid counter power able to balance the Emperor's growing power? Can we call “nice leadership” the attempt to conquer the popular consensus through arts and music performances? Both Nero and the Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi seem to prefer this to a pure political and social consensus: how efficient can this be? What has it to do with modern Democracy? The article looks provocatively into these subjects in order to participate in the debate about political leadership.

Key words: Nero; Cardano; Berlusconi; Nice Leadership; Democracy; Popular Consensus.
Parole chiave: Nerone; Cardano; Berlusconi; Leadership simpatica; Democrazia; Consenso popolare.

DUE SECOLI (E PIÙ) DALLA PARTE DEL TORTO. LA DIVERSITA' SOCIALISTA E COMUNISTA
Gian Mario Bravo

In our social history the working-class has held a decisive position and has played a very important civil function. The original socialism-communism and marxism, along with the class struggle, launched the critical theory that our society was brutal and based on profit and on individual and collective exploitation.

Their contribution created a different man, a man able to live his own humanness both as an individual and as a part of a community. In Italy, the communists and socialists were *detached* from the civil and political society and sought to develop an alternative with higher models of living standards compared to the traditional bourgeoisie societies. They elaborated a sovereign culture with proposals of alternative societies with high values and ideals, incompatible with the selfishness of the dominant society. The mistakes and faults attributed to the degeneration of the Soviet Union did not delete the excellence of its moral values. These past misadventures have to be considered as helpful stimulus for the future. We look forward to a different and quieter kind of socialism-communism able to make our apparently advanced society an agreeable and fraternal (to use the traditional socialist rhetoric) place to live in.

Key words: Working-class Movement; History; Socialism; Communism; Difference; Ethical Values and Power.

Parole chiave: Movimento operaio; Storia; Socialismo; Comunismo; Diversità; Valori etici e potere.

IL GIUDIZIO «SERENO», OVVERO LA STORIA NEGATA. A PROPOSITO DI RECENTI RIVISITAZIONI DELLA FIGURA E DELL'OPERA DI BETTINO CRAXI
Paolo Favilli

In the many celebrations held to mark the tenth anniversary of Bettino Craxis' death, the need for an “unbiased historical judgment” has been called for many times. Actually the meaning of all those celebrations goes the opposite way compared to the “historical judgement”.

The historical judgment about a politicians cannot set aside the role they played regarding the ongoing trends. Craxis was one of the main characters who contributed to the development of the

“long regression” which had started in the second half of the Seventies.

Key words: Bettino Craxi; Politician; Historical Judgement; Thermidor; Historical Journalism; Long Regression.

Parole chiave: Bettino Craxi; Politico; Giudizio storico; Termidoro; Giornalismo storico; Lunga regressione.

PRECARI PER SEMPRE? NUOVE FORME DI COMUNICAZIONE PER NUOVE LOTTE

Giovanna Mascheroni e Matteo Vergani

This paper analyzes the actions and communication practices used by the movement of precarious workers in the past ten years. The story of this movement represents a grass roots approach in which their actions, through culture-building, have shown that this type of living and working condition should be recognized as a social problem. This movement offers us an example of how many social movements have used internet and online technologies in an innovative way, with communication skills that adapt themselves to the transformations and the types of participation found within cultures and contemporary societies.

Key words: Precarious Work; Social Movements; Agenda Setting; Internet; Convergence; Participation.

Parole chiave: Precarietà; Movimenti sociali; *Agenda setting*; Internet; Convergenza; Partecipazione.

GLI AMICI DEI NEMICI. RETI DI SOSTEGNO AI MINATORI BRITANNICI DURANTE LO SCIOPERO DEL 1984-'85

Tom Beham

The British Miners' Strike of 1984-85 was perhaps the longest and hardest-fought mass strike in Europe in recent decades. The dispute divided the country and regardless of its outcome it remains a milestone both in contemporary discussions of industrial relations and in popular consciousness. Above all, the article concentrated on the support groups created to help miners and their families, during an entire year without wages or additional state benefits. These existed both in the coalfields and major cities – in addition there is a brief discussion on the help forthcoming from other minorities and from abroad. The author outlines the main events of the strike, but also considers the previous miners' strikes of the 1970s. Contrary to the notion that the strike was always destined to fail, the author argues that in reality its outcome was often in the balance.

Key words: 1984-85 British Miners' Strike; British Industrial Relations; Scargill; Thatcher; Orgreave; Saltley.

Parole chiave: Sciopero minatori britannici 1984-85; Politica industriale britannica; Scargill; Thatcher; Orgreave; Saltley.

COL CUORE E CON LA TASTIERA. DOCUMENTI DALLA PROTESTA CONTRO IL VERTICE COP15

Lorena Barale e Paola Rivetti

The images of the cop15's protest against the summit in Copenhagen have struck many European (the informed ones) for the violence and brutal repression by the Danish Police forces. The mixed and diversified opposition front to the summit has been superficially described and from time to

time has been monopolized by NGOs like Greenpeace or “black blocks”, expression wrongly and inappropriately used, due to ignorance, interest and laziness. The documents we are going to present you give a more detailed picture of the world of protest that gathered in Copenhagen. They are testimonies and reflections that have been e-mailed to us; they have been selected and are being offered to you without any alterations; therefore with mistakes, and in their original language.

Key words: Cop15; Copenhagen; No-global; Environmentalism; Protest; Testimony.

Parole chiave: Cop15; Copenhagen; No-global; Ecologismo; Protesta; Testimonianza.

IL SAPERE STORICO, LA NATURA, LA POLITICA

Piero Bevilacqua

The environmental problem is one of the recurring themes in the rhetoric of modern politics. The aim of this essay is to debate the role of science, social sciences and the world of politics as far as the imbalance between man and nature is concerned. The first one has a methodological limit regarding the fragmentation and specialization of knowledge in respect of the “complex indivisibility of the living world”: the sectorial knowledge such as Chemistry, Botany, Agronomy, turned into technology as instrument of environmental transformation, clashes with nature's indivisible feature. Among the social sciences the most engaged into fragmenting the environmental issue in Economics, which does not recognize the most important factor of the problem: industrial activities manipulated nature, turning the entire planet into a productive machine. In order to interpret this complexity, the author recognizes in History, intended as “science of context”, a fundamental civil duty: to identify the responsibilities of the environmental emergency, reconstructing the historical process and highlighting general and particular causes. Another element which contributes to “disarticulate the vision of the world in which we happen to live”, is represented by politicians, who are unable to meet the needs of the citizens in their territories. In the author's opinion, the birth of a new democratic leading role of the population on a local scale and the mediation role of the regional government can contribute to rediscovering the collective value of the environment as a “communal home”.

Key words: Nature; Social Sciences; Politics; Economy; Environment; Democratic Leading Role.

Parole chiave: Natura; Scienze sociali; Politica; Economia; Ambiente; Protagonismo democratico.

COME RICONQUISTARE LA MEMORIA: IL VAJONT, DALLA CATASTROFE ALL'ARCHIVIO

Maurizio Reberschak

Vajont 9 October 1963: disaster. An enormous landslide fell into the valley of the stream Vajont filled with the water contained by a tall dam for hydroelectric production. The wave hit the villages of Erto and Casso, it went over the dam and destroyed the village of Longarone. 1910 people died. The magistrature of Belluno opened the investigation, that was concluded in 1968 with the request for the nine accused to stand trial. But the trial was transferred from its natural seat of Belluno, believed not to be fair, to the Court of the city of L'Aquila. The criminal trials were concluded in 1971 with three convictions by the Court of Cassation. The documentation of the trial remained in the Court of L'Aquila until 2008, then it was handed over to the National Archives of L'Aquila. These documents constitute the “Vajont archives”. A project of study was formulated. The earthquake that struck L'Aquila on 6th April 2009 spared the archives of Vajont, it imposed nevertheless the need for a temporary transfer of the archives themselves to the National Archives of Belluno, to allow the resumption and the prosecution of the project study. The archive of the Vajont's trial however, even though it is a single body of paper, constitutes only a part of the

documentation necessary for the study of the “Vajont case”. The initial programme therefore widens in order to identify a “widespread archive of the Vajont”.

Key words: Vajont; Disaster; Trial; L'Aquila; Belluno; “Widespread Archive of the Vajont”.
Parole chiave: Vajont; Disastro; Processo; L'Aquila; Belluno; “Archivio diffuso del Vajont”.

SINDROME DI STOCCOLMA IN SALSA RUSSA. BULGAKOV E STALIN

Duccio Chiappello

The relationship between intellectuals and power represents a fundamental and necessary indicator for a historical assessment of political regimes.

Stalinist Russia, from this point of view, can be considered as an open-air workshop, where forms of control, intimidation, and censorship are developed and tested. These forms allow the traditional iron fist towards men of letters, but also offer a variety of strategy by which the regime can “colonize” the reality and the imaginary, the present and the possible, and even the thinkable.

The tormented relationship between Bulgakov and Stalin can be read in the light of this process of evolution and refinement of cultural politics in autocratic regimes. Their brutality, according to necessity, can be exhibited, hidden, carefully measured, or practiced with astounding harshness just while the victims are induced to believe that the Despot is easy to approach and open to confrontation.

Bulgakov, heir of 19th century Russian literature, lives this situation without having the antibodies to deal with it, and he ends up by being overwhelmed by it. His historiographical and literary pathway, in this context, can be interpreted as the course of a fatal Stockholm syndrome towards Stalin, who is both gaoler and his perpetual potential liberator.

Right from the pages of *The Master and Margherita*, where the characters of Satana-Woland is at the same time demon and saviour, executioner and judge, murderer and redeemer, it seems to be emerging such a powerful profile of the Russian tyrant that absorbs and takes over the entire existential and artistic world of the author. This demonstrates that the art of censorship is something more refined than the pure exercise of prohibition.

Keywords: Bulgakov; Intellectuals and Power; Stalinism; Censorship; Freedom of Press; URSS.
Parole chiave: Bulgakov; Intellettuali e potere; Stalinismo; Censura; Libertà di stampa; URSS.