

# Abstracts

Matteo Battistini, A Revolution in the State of Civilization: *democrazia e società commerciale nel mondo atlantico di Thomas Paine / A Revolution in the State of Civilization: Democracy and Commercial Society in the Atlantic World of Thomas Paine*

All’età di cinquant’anni, dopo essere sfuggito alla povertà della sua gioventù inglese e aver partecipato all’indipendenza americana come un padre fondatore che sarebbe stato rinnegato, il 26 aprile 1787 Paine salpò dal porto di New York per raggiungere Parigi. Il suo *Rights of Man* (1791-1792) gettava un ponte politico fra le due sponde dell’Atlantico per sostenere la replica della Rivoluzione americana contro le monarchie del vecchio mondo: gettare idealmente un ponte implicava innovare il vocabolario politico europeo alla luce dell’esperimento americano. La dottrina dell’uguaglianza naturale e della sovranità popolare, la concezione democratica della costituzione e del governo rappresentativo, che aveva elaborato oltreoceano, vennero dunque riprese e approfondite. Nello stesso tempo, la mancata replica della rivoluzione in Gran Bretagna e la vicenda rivoluzionaria francese mostravano che l’Europa non era l’America. Mentre oltre Manica il tentativo rivoluzionario di convocare una convenzione per redigere la costituzione venne sconfitto sul nascere, la Francia non sembrava in grado di uscire dalla rivoluzione, redigere la costituzione e costruire una democrazia fondata sulla rappresentanza. Nonostante nel 1789 l’abate Sieyès avesse sostenuto la necessità del sistema rappresentativo dichiarando impossibile la democrazia diretta, il rifiuto della rappresentanza che Rousseau aveva teorizzato nel 1762 con il *Contract Social* influenzò in modo decisivo la Rivoluzione francese determinando una continua disputa tra chi rappresentava e chi era rappresentato. La crisi della rappresentanza e la conseguente impossibilità della democrazia costituivano il nucleo problematico della vicenda rivoluzionaria francese, alla luce del quale Paine metteva in discussione quanto aveva sostenuto in *Rights of Man* per gettare un ponte politico fra le due sponde dell’oceano. Nel pamphlet *The Agrarian Justice* (1797) Paine spostava l’attenzione dalla politica alla società per spiegare la mancata replica della Rivoluzione americana in Europa alla luce del cambiamento concettuale che le parole società, commercio e

civilizzazione stavano subendo in seguito alla vicenda rivoluzionaria. Investigare la società per comprendere la politica serviva per gettare un nuovo ponte sull'Atlantico e superare lo spartiacque storico e teorico che allontanava America ed Europa.

At the age of fifty, after escaping the poverty of his English youth and participating in American independence as a founding father who would be repudiated, Paine sailed from New York Harbor to Paris on April 26, 1787. His pamphlet *Rights of Man* (1791-1792) threw a political bridge between the two sides of the Atlantic to support the replication of the American Revolution against the Old-World monarchies: ideally throwing a bridge involved innovating the European political vocabulary in light of the American experiment. The doctrine of natural equality and popular sovereignty, the democratic conception of the constitution and representative government, which he had elaborated overseas, were thus taken up and deepened. At the same time, the failure to replicate the revolution in Britain and the French revolutionary vicissitude showed that Europe was not America. While in Great Britain the revolutionary attempt to convene a convention to draft a constitution was immediately prevented, France seemed unable to end the revolution, draft a constitution and build a democracy based on representation. Even though in 1789 Abbot Sieyès had argued for the necessity of the representative system by declaring direct democracy impossible, the rejection of representation that Rousseau had theorized in 1762 with the *Contract Social* decisively influenced the French Revolution by leading to a continuous dispute between those who represented and those who were represented. The crisis of representation and the consequent impossibility of democracy constituted the problematic core of the French Revolution, in light of which Paine questioned what he had argued in *Rights of Man* in order to build a political bridge between the two sides of the Atlantic. In the pamphlet *The Agrarian Justice* (1797), Paine shifted the focus from politics to society to explain the failure to replicate the American Revolution in Europe considering the conceptual change that the notions of society, commerce, and civilization were undergoing as a result of the revolutionary event. Investigating society to understand politics served to build a new bridge across the Atlantic and overcome the historical and theoretical divide that distanced America and Europe.

**Parole chiave / Keywords:** Thomas Paine, Mondo atlantico, Rivoluzione, Democrazia, Società commerciale / Thomas Paine, Atlantic World, Revolution, Democracy, Commercial Society.

Bertrand Van Ruymbeke, Irma Toti, *L'Amérique au concours. Prix académiques sur la «découverte» du Nouveau Monde et la Révolution américaine en France et en Toscane (1774-1792) / Contests About America. Academic Prizes on the «Discovery» of the New World and the American Revolution in France and Tuscany (1774-1792)*

Cet article aborde la question du regard européen sur l'Amérique à partir des concours académiques en France et en Toscane dans les années 1770 et 1780. Ces concours, immensément populaires dans la France des Lumières, ont nourri une réflexion collective sur des sujets considérés comme essentiels à l'époque, que ce soit en médecine, en agriculture, ou en sciences ou qu'ils concernent des faits de société, ou encore qu'ils répondent à des questions plus philosophiques, voire historiques. Et ceci à un niveau régional ou national, européen même, voire planétaire. C'est le cas des sujets portant sur les conséquences de la "découverte" de l'Amérique, proposés par les académies de Pau, Lyon, et Paris, et de Cortona, en Toscane sous la forme d'un éloge d'Amerigo Vespucci. Cette réflexion est causée, en grande partie, par la Révolution améri-

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caine et la naissance de la république états-unienne, un événement qui modifie considérablement, vers le positif, ce regard à la fois rétrospectif et contemporain sur la colonisation européenne des Amériques.

This article discusses the European perception of America through prize-winning contests held in France and in Tuscany in the 1770s and 1780s. Immensely popular in Enlightenment France, these contests fueled a collective thinking on topics then considered essentials, be they in medicine, agriculture, and sciences, or touching on aspects of society and issues more historical, even philosophical. Contest topics could be regional, national, European or even global. This is the case of contests bearing on the consequences of the “discovery” of America, offered by the Académies of Pau, Lyon, and Paris, as well as Cortona, Tuscany, in the shape of an *éloge* (praise) of Amerigo Vespucci. This collective thinking was in great part caused by the American Revolution and the birth of the United States republic, an event which altered to the positive side the perception both contemporary and retrospective of the European colonization of the Americas.

**Parole chiave / Keywords:** Académies, concours, colonisation, Amériques, Abbé Raynal, *Histoire des Deux Indes*, États-Unis, Révolution américaine, Lumières, Grand-duché de Toscane, Giovanni Fabbroni / Académies, contests, colonization, the Americas, Abbé Raynal, *History of the Two Indies*, United States, American Revolution, Enlightenment, Grand Duchy of Tuscany, Giovanni Fabbroni.

Cecilia Carnino, *Benjamin Franklin's 'The Way to Wealth' in Italy, between the Ancien Régime and Revolution (1775-1801)* / 'The Way to Wealth' di Benjamin Franklin in Italia tra Ancien Régime e Rivoluzione (1775-1801)

This article focuses on the political dimension of the Italian translations of Benjamin Franklin's *The Way of Wealth*. This popular pamphlet, an 18th-century bestseller, played a central role in the dissemination of the American myth as a model of moral, political, and economic regeneration. Its popularity crucially contributed to making Franklin the very symbol – in some ways the personification – of the American Revolution. The aim is not only to trace a history of the circulation of the text and study its reception in Italian context, but also to interpret these translations as a more complex workshop of ideas. Translators, publishers, and printers made certain changes to Franklin's work with the aim of influencing its reception, as well as of meeting the expectations of the Italian public and making the text better reflect the ideals they sought to promote. Initially, the Italian editions of the work provided an opportunity to reflect on the events that had led to the birth of the United States, following the link that had progressively been established between Franklin and the American Republic. The French Revolution contributed to a greater politicisation of the pamphlet, without, however, clearly affecting the Italian reception of Poor Richard's Almanack. With the start of the Revolutionary Triennium (1796-1799) and the overthrow of the Ancien Régime in Italy, translations of the pamphlet took on a different political significance. They brought into focus the social and political project underlying *The Way to Wealth*, which was interpreted and represented as a model of civic virtue, centred on the values of moderation and industriousness, to be placed at the basis of the new democratic-republican societies.

L'articolo si concentra sulla dimensione politica delle traduzioni italiane del *Way of Wealth* di Benjamin Franklin. Questo pamphlet popolare, un bestseller del XVIII secolo, ha avuto un ruolo

centrale nella diffusione del mito americano come modello di rigenerazione morale, politica ed economica. La sua popolarità contribuì in modo decisivo a fare di Franklin il simbolo stesso – per certi versi la personificazione – della Rivoluzione americana. L'obiettivo non è solo quello di tracciare una storia della circolazione del testo e di studiarne la ricezione nel contesto italiano, ma anche di interpretare queste traduzioni come un più complesso laboratorio di idee. Traduttori, editori e stampatori apportarono alcune modifiche allo scritto di Franklin con l'obiettivo di influenzarne la ricezione, ma anche di soddisfare le aspettative del pubblico italiano e di rendere il testo più rispondente agli ideali che cercavano di promuovere. Inizialmente, le traduzioni italiane dell'opera furono l'occasione per riflettere sugli eventi che avevano portato alla nascita degli Stati Uniti, seguendo il legame che si era progressivamente creato tra Franklin e la Repubblica americana. La Rivoluzione francese contribuì a una maggiore politicizzazione del pamphlet, senza tuttavia incidere in modo evidente sulla ricezione italiana del Poor Richard's Almanack. Con l'inizio del Triennio rivoluzionario (1796-1799) e il rovesciamento dell'Ancien Régime nel contesto italiano, le traduzioni dell'opuscolo assunsero un diverso significato politico. Esse mettono a fuoco il progetto sociale e politico sotteso al *Way of Wealth*, interpretato e rappresentato come un modello di virtù civica, incentrato sui valori della moderazione e dell'operosità, da porre alla base delle nuove società democratico-repubblicane.

**Keywords / Parole chiave:** Benjamin Franklin, Translations, Political Culture, Revolutionary Italian Triennium, American Revolution / Benjamin Franklin, Traduzioni, Cultura politica, Triennio rivoluzionario in Italia, Rivoluzione americana.

Antonino De Francesco, *La Guerra d'indipendenza americana nel dibattito politico francese ai tempi della Legislativa (1791-1792) / The American War of Independence in the French Political Debate at the time of the Legislative (1791-1792)*

À travers les discours d'Alvise Zenobio, noble vénitien exilé à Londres, l'article fait de la guerre de 1792 le point de distinction entre le républicanisme classique et le républicanisme révolutionnaire. Zenobio est un républicain qui s'est détourné de 1789, car le choix de la guerre lui a confirmé le caractère violent et plébéien de la Révolution française. Cette approche permet de toutes les manières d'aborder la question de la guerre comme démocratisation du processus révolutionnaire français. En comparant les positions de Brissot et de Robespierre, il apparaît clairement que le précédent de la guerre d'indépendance américaine constitue la référence naturelle du bellicisme de Brissot et remet en cause le choix de Robespierre de privilégier la paix. Dès lors, comme en Amérique, la guerre devient révolutionnaire en France et ouvre la voie à la figure du militaire prêt à passer à la politique et à devenir la synthèse de toute la nation : l'Amérique aura Washington, la France Bonaparte

Through the interventions of Alvise Zenobio, a Venetian nobleman in exile in London, the essay proposes the war begun in 1792 as the key to distinguishing classical republicanism from revolutionary republicanism. Zenobio was a republican who distanced himself from 1789 because the choice of war confirmed for him the violent and plebeian nature of the French Revolution. This approach makes it possible to return to the theme of war by proposing it as the true instrument of democratization of the revolutionary process in France. Comparing the positions of Brissot and Robespierre, it seems clear that the precedent of the American War of Independence was the natural point of reference for Brissot's bellicism, while at the same time challeng-

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ing Robespierre's instrumental choice of preferring peace. As a result, in France, as in America, the war became revolutionary, paving the way for the figure of the soldier ready to enter politics and become the synthesis of the whole nation: America would have Washington, France would have Bonaparte.

**Parole chiave / Keywords:** Révolution américaine, Révolution française, Guerre révolutionnaire, Jacques Pierre Brissot, Alvise Zenobio / American Revolution, French Revolution, Revolutionary war, Jacques Pierre Brissot, Alvise Zenobio.

Pierangelo Castagneto, *Le lampeggianti campane della libertà. L'americanismo giacobino di Luigi Angeloni / The Flashing Chimes of Freedom. The American Jacobinism of Luigi Angeloni*

Durante il Triennio rivoluzionario la discussione sulla forma di governo più confacente alla nazione italiana si sviluppò in maniera piuttosto articolata. A coloro che sostenevano la necessità di una soluzione unitaria si contrappose chi vedeva invece nel federalismo una risposta adeguata a contrastare la frammentazione sociale esistente nel paese. Sul modello federale americano e sulla sua adattabilità al contesto italiano sono concentrate le riflessioni del giacobino Luigi Angeloni (1759-1836). In esilio a Parigi dal 1800 dopo aver partecipato alle vicende della Repubblica Romana, all'indomani della caduta di Napoleone Angeloni pubblicò il pamphlet *Sopra l'ordinamento che aver dovrebbono i governi d'Italia* nel quale, auspicando l'indipendenza nazionale e la fine dell'ingerenza straniera nella penisola, ritenne che solamente l'adozione di un sistema federale, analogo a quello statunitense, garantisse il conseguimento di tali obiettivi. Nell'opera successiva, *Dell'Italia uscente il settembre del 1818*, accanto ad una severa critica delle decisioni prese a Vienna veniva riproposta l'ipotesi confederalistica che aveva nuovamente come punto di riferimento l'esperienza americana. Trasferitosi a Londra nel 1823, Angeloni ampliò il raggio della sua analisi politica riguardante la situazione italiana nei due volumi *Della forza nelle cose politiche* dove se da un lato rimase fedele ad una visione di democrazia basata sulla sovranità popolare – «reggersi uno stato a popolo» – dall'altro non mancò di riaffermare l'ammirazione per «il libero e bel governo degli Stati Uniti Americani» e per la dottrina federalista.

During the Revolutionary Triennium the debate concerning the most suitable form of government to be preferred for the Italian nation unfolded in a very articulated fashion. If strong was the party of those who favored an unitarian solution, equally vocal were those who considered a federalist system the only capable to deal with the social fragmentation characterizing the peninsula. Luigi Angeloni (1759-1836), a Jacobin who had taken part in the events of the Repubblica Romana, cultivated a great interest in the development of the American political experience. From his exile in Paris, in the aftermath of the fall of Napoleon Angeloni published the pamphlet *Sopra l'ordinamento che aver dovrebbono i governi d'Italia* where he pointed out how American federalism was the institutional mechanism to be pursued in order to achieve a veritable independence for Italy. In his following work *Dell'Italia uscente il settembre del 1818* Angeloni, deeply disappointed by the decisions taken in Vienna, renewed his appeal for the adoption of a federal system, in his view the only capable to guarantee unity and to avoid the danger of foreign interferences in the country. After moving to London in 1823, Angeloni expanded his political analysis of the Italian situation in a two-volume work *Della forza nelle cose politiche* upholding his preference for a democracy based on popular sovereignty – «reggersi uno stato a

popolo» – and his admiration for «il libero e bel governo degli Stati Uniti Americani» and for the federalist doctrine.

**Parole chiave / Keywords:** Luigi Angeloni, Triennio rivoluzionario, federalismo, repubblica unitaria, Ordine conservativo / Luigi Angeloni, Revolutionary Triennium, federalism, unitary republic, Conservative Order.

Edoardo Tortarolo, *Friedrich von Gentz et sa comparaison entre la révolution américaine et la révolution française en 1800. Notes de lecture / Friedrich von Gentz. A comparison between the American Revolution and the French Revolution in 1800*

Cette analyse de la comparaison entre la Révolution américaine et la Révolution française par Friedrich von Gentz (1800) aborde les récits historiques complexes qui entourent les révolutions politiques dans la pensée européenne. Au cours des deux derniers siècles, les révolutions ont été présentées comme des événements fondamentaux, souvent considérés comme des catalyseurs de progrès par les libéraux et les socialistes. Les idées de Gentz remettent en question ce récit, en particulier lorsqu'il affirme que les deux révolutions étaient d'une nature fondamentalement différente. Gentz critique la tentative des révolutionnaires français de reproduire le modèle américain, en soulignant que la Révolution américaine était une réponse défensive et légitime à la taxation extérieure, alors que la Révolution française visait une transformation interne radicale. Les écrits de Gentz soulignent l'importance de comprendre les contextes locaux et les conditions socio-politiques spécifiques qui ont façonné chaque révolution. Cette réinterprétation ne contribue pas seulement au discours historique sur la révolution, mais invite également à une réflexion sur la manière dont ces événements ont été interprétés dans l'historiographie moderne, en soulignant la nécessité de reconnaître la diversité des expériences révolutionnaires et de leurs implications pour la politique contemporaine.

This analysis of Friedrich von Gentz's comparison between the American and French Revolutions (1800) reveals the complex historical narratives about political revolutions in European thought. Over the past two centuries, revolutions have been framed as pivotal events, often viewed as catalysts for progress by liberal and socialist perspectives. Gentz's insights challenge this narrative, particularly in his assertion that the two revolutions were fundamentally different in nature. He critiques the French revolutionaries' attempt to replicate the American model, emphasizing that the American Revolution was a defensive, legitimate response to external taxation, while the French Revolution sought radical transformation. Gentz's writings highlight the importance of understanding local contexts and the specific political conditions that shaped each revolution. His exploration not only contributes to the historical discourse on revolution but also calls for a reevaluation of how these events have been interpreted in modern historiography, stressing the need for recognizing the diversity of revolutionary experiences and their implications for contemporary political thought.

**Parole chiave / Keywords:** Friedrich von Gentz, Révolution, Fiscalité, Approche comparative, Radicalisme / Friedrich von Gentz, Revolution, Taxation, Comparative approach, Radicalism.

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### Agnès Delahaye, *La Révolution américaine sous le prisme du peuplement / Thinking the American Revolution through settlement*

Cet article analyse l'historiographie récente de la Révolution américaine pour mesurer l'impact et la pertinence du concept de la colonisation de peuplement qui s'impose peu à peu en histoire américaine depuis les vingt dernières années. Comme l'histoire atlantique de l'époque moderne, l'histoire continentale de l'Amérique et l'histoire de l'esclavage, la perspective du peuplement contribue à décentrer les récits traditionnellement exceptionnalistes de la Révolution américaine et de la création de la république étatsunienne par les élites intellectuelles des villes de la côte est, pour concentrer l'analyse sur les zones de contact dans les marges des colonies établies, là où la compétition violente entre Européens et autochtones a perduré, avant et après le conflit révolutionnaire lui-même. Il s'agit de faire apparaître clairement la longue durée de l'appropriation territoriale comme l'un des éléments du conflit, et d'insister sur la centralité de la propriété individuelle et du peuplement dans les intérêts partagés des révolutionnaires américains, par-delà les frontières établies de leurs états respectifs. L'argument central de cet article reste néanmoins que le peuplement est un processus qui doit historisé et étudié dans chaque zone où il fut mis en œuvre, pour éviter les généralisations et faire ressortir les intérêts particuliers des colons en rébellion.

This article analyses the recent historiography of the American Revolution to assess the impact and the relevance of the concept of settler colonialism that has taken American history by storm in the last twenty years. Settler colonialism contributes, along with Atlantic history, continental history and the history of slavery, to decentering traditional exceptionalist narratives of the emergence of American independence and the formation of the US Republic, away from the intellectual elites of the cities of the Atlantic seaboard and onto the borderlands and contested spaces of power on the margins of established settlements, where violence and competition amongst Europeans and indigenous nations were constant. It highlights the longue durée of land appropriation before, during and after the Revolution, and the centrality of property formation in the common interests shared by American revolutionaries beyond the established borders of their states. This paper argues however for a historicized and highly contextualized approach to settler colonialism, as opposed to the sweeping generalizations that its ideological potency at times encourages.

**Parole chiave / Keywords:** Révolution américaine, history, colonization, peuplement, historiographie / American Revolution, history, settler colonialism, historiography.

### Ghislain Potriquet, *The Franco-American Alliance: a Century After / L'alliance franco-américaine, cent ans plus tard*

The proclamation of the French Third Republic on September 4, 1870 ushered in an era of comprehensive reform. French higher education underwent a thorough transformation in order to measure up to German universities. History, as an academic discipline, experienced a parallel “methodical turn”. This paper discusses the works of French historians of the United States and assesses their progress towards methodical history and their implications for the transatlantic relationship. Works by Adolphe de Circourt and Henri Doniol will be examined. Both authors studied the American Revolution and the adoption of the 1787 Constitution, commemorating in distinct ways the centennial anniversaries of these foundational events.

La proclamation de la Troisième République le 4 septembre 1870 fut le point de départ de réformes d'envergure. Le système d'enseignement supérieur français fut réformé en profondeur, afin de pouvoir rivaliser avec les universités allemandes. Dans ce contexte, l'histoire, en tant que discipline universitaire, connut un «tournant méthodique». Cet article s'intéresse aux historiens français des États-Unis et rend compte de l'influence de ce tournant méthodique dans leurs travaux, ainsi que des conséquences de ce tournant pour la relation franco-américaine. Les travaux d'Adolphe de Circourt et d'Henri Doniol seront analysés. Ces deux auteurs étudièrent la Révolution américaine et l'adoption de la Constitution de 1787, commémorant ainsi chacun à leur façon le centième anniversaire de ces événements fondateurs.

**Keywords / Parole chiave:** historiography, American Revolution, Franco-Prussian War, French Third Republic, George Bancroft / historiographie, Révolution américaine, Guerre franco-prussienne, Troisième République, George Bancroft.

*Stefania Ecchia, La Costituzione polacco-lituana del 1791: innovazioni e limiti di un percorso / The Polish-Lithuanian Constitution of 1791: Innovations and Limitations of a Political Path*

La Costituzione del 3 maggio 1791 rappresenta uno dei più significativi tentativi di riforma istituzionale nell'Europa del XVIII secolo. Redatta in risposta alle fragilità strutturali dell'Unione polacco-lituana, si proponeva di trasformare una repubblica nobiliare in una moderna monarchia costituzionale, ispirandosi ai principi dell'Illuminismo e alla tradizione parlamentare anglosassone. Nonostante la sua breve durata, la Costituzione lasciò un'impronta duratura nella memoria collettiva polacca, alimentando l'aspirazione all'indipendenza nazionale. Il testo rifletteva un delicato equilibrio tra innovazione e tradizione, con l'intento di estendere progressivamente i diritti politici e civili, fino ad allora prerogativa della nobiltà, ad altre classi sociali. Tuttavia, il progetto costituzionale incontrò forti resistenze, sia interne sia esterne, in un contesto caratterizzato da profonde diseguaglianze sociali e intense pressioni geopolitiche, che ne limitarono l'efficacia e l'impatto innovativo.

The Constitution of May 3, 1791, represents one of the most significant attempts at institutional reform in 18th-century Europe. Drafted in response to the structural weaknesses of the Polish-Lithuanian Union, it aimed to transform a noble republic into a modern constitutional monarchy, drawing inspiration from Enlightenment principles and the Anglo-Saxon parliamentary tradition. Despite its brief existence, the Constitution left a lasting imprint on the Polish collective memory, fueling aspirations for national independence. The text reflected a delicate balance between innovation and tradition, with the goal of progressively extending political and civil rights—previously reserved for the nobility—to other social classes. However, the constitutional project faced strong resistance, both internal and external, within a context marked by deep social inequalities and intense geopolitical pressures, which limited its effectiveness and innovative impact.

**Parole chiave / Keywords:** Costituzione polacca del 1791, Unione polacco-lituana, Monarchia costituzionale, Illuminismo europeo, Repubblica nobiliare / Polish Constitution of 1791, Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, Constitutional monarchy, European Enlightenment, Noble Republic.

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Marco Fioravanti, *Incunaboli d'Europa. Parte I: Lo Statuto Internazionale di Tangier (1923-1956) / Incunabola of Europe. Part I: The International Statute of Tangier (1923-1956)*

La città di Tangier – capitale diplomatica del Marocco – svolge un ruolo peculiare nella storia del diritto e delle relazioni internazionali del Novecento. Fuori dagli schemi del colonialismo “tradizionale”, attraverso il suo Statuto internazionale del 1923 si pone come il primo esempio di città posta sotto un’autorità internazionale. Paradigmatico *Case Study* per leggere e interpretare la presenza occidentale, e dell’Italia in particolare, in Paesi dominati dalla forza economica europea, in un contesto che è stato definito semi-coloniale, in quanto il Marocco rifugge dagli schemi tradizionali di assoggettamento. Una città cosmopolita, né marocchina né europea, ma frutto dell’incontro tra cultura araba e occidentale. Se la città e il suo Statuto conoscono una, seppur esigua, produzione scientifica, tralasciata invece appare la dimensione cosmopolita di Tangier, la sua vocazione alternativa a quella dominante novecentesca basata sulla sovranità degli Stati. Questa *Interzone*, come la ha definita uno dei suoi più celebri residenti, William S. Burroughs, non funge semplicemente da incontro tra Oriente e Occidente, ma come luogo di ibridazione giuridica, di intersezione, come non-luogo del potere e del diritto.

The city of Tangier – Morocco’s diplomatic capital – plays a peculiar role in the history of law and international relations of the 20th century. Out of the coordinates of ‘traditional’ colonialism, through its international statute of 1923 it stands as the first example of a city placed under an international authority. A paradigmatic case study for reading and interpreting the Western presence, and Italy in particular, in countries dominated by European economic power, in a context that has been defined semi-colonial, as Morocco eschews traditional patterns of subjugation. A cosmopolitan city, neither Moroccan nor European, but the result of the encounter between Arab and Western cultures. If the city and its statute have a, albeit meagre, scientific production, the cosmopolitan dimension of Tangier, its alternative vocation to the dominant twentieth-century vocation based on the sovereignty of States, appears to have been overlooked. This *Interzone*, as one of its most famous residents, William S. Burroughs, called it, does not simply serve as a meeting point between East and West, but as a place of legal hybridity, of intersection, as a non-place of power and law.

**Parole chiave / Keywords:** Colonialismo, Diritto internazionale, Storia delle relazioni internazionali, Diritti locali, Personalità del diritto / Colonialism, International law, History of international relations, Local rights, Status and Law.