

Summaries

Achille Conti, *Orphan care in Basilicata after World War I: solidarity and political mobilization*

This article discusses forms of solidarity implemented in Basilicata after the Great War to help war orphans. First we analyze the actions of the American Red Cross, which provided food aid to orphans following a line of action based on both solidarity and propaganda. Secondly we examine the forms of assistance that had already been provided during the war period: on the one hand the activism of public institutions, which increased welfare interventions, paying particular attention to war orphans; on the other hand the voluntary associations, driven mostly by the patriotic intent that had distinguished them during the war years and which saw them fully committed to the orphans.

Keywords: war orphans, First World War, Basilicata, assistance, American Red Cross

Fabio Caffarena, Graziano Mamone, *Refugee children of the Great War in Liguria. Flows and assistance networks (1917-1920)*

The article utilizes primarily unpublished on archival documentation to examine the phenomenon of assistance provided to refugee children in Genoa and Liguria between 1917 and 1920. Following the emergency created by the Battle of Caporetto, managing refugee children became a significant public order issue. The young exiles often remain hidden in the documents regarding their movements, names, and associated costs, leaving behind only fragmented traces. By integrating institutional and memoir sources, this essay aims to explore a topic that has received limited attention by historiography.

Keywords: First World War, post-war period, Liguria, childhood, refugees, assistance

Emma Papadacci, *Teachers' «chouchous»? War orphans and pupilles de la Nation in British and French schools.*

At the end of the First World War, war orphans, alongside veterans, populated secondary schools in Britain and France. Any child who lost their father during the hostilities or as a result of his injuries was considered a war orphan. There were approximately 1,100,000 orphans in France and 350,000 in Great Britain. However, France was unique in creating a new status, giving rise to a new

category of pupils: the *pupille de la nation*. I will examine how the arrival of this new type of pupil, marked by the grief of war, disrupted the school system, and how this differed between Great Britain and France. What role and place did they obtain in the school system? Did they become the 'chouchous' described by Albert Camus during the long post-war period? I will first examine what it meant to be a war orphan in the schools of the 1920s, then analyse the possible reconfigurations that their existence may have produced in school relationships.

Keywords: war orphans, *pupilles de la nation*, secondary education, international comparison, international circulations, World War I

Fabrizio Solieri, *The Wine and the Schoolchildren: Childhood Alcoholism from Liberal Italy to Fascism*

The issue of alcoholism among Italy's subaltern classes began to attract attention particularly towards the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century, a concern that was further accentuated by a rapid increase in the consumption of alcoholic beverages. It was primarily the socialist movement that initiated its own propaganda campaign aimed at alerting the working classes to the dangers associated with the abuse of alcoholic substances, also detailing the dire effects these substances had on children. Prior to the Great War, publications in the scientific and popular domains increasingly addressed this topic, as physicians, pedagogues, and educational authorities became actively involved in condemning the scourge of childhood alcoholism—a phenomenon that alarmingly afflicted a high percentage of the elementary school population and had severe repercussions on both the health of the students and their school attendance. However, the anti-alcoholism law enacted in 1913 did not implement substantial measures to address the issue, and in the aftermath of the World War I, the situation in certain instances was exacerbated by the challenging social and nutritional conditions of the period. Despite these circumstances, neither the post-war governments nor the newly established Fascist regime were able to act coherently and effectively in countering the phenomenon of childhood alcoholism.

Keywords: Alcoholism, childhood alcoholism, post-World War I, childhood, Fascism

Elisa Guida, *Edith Bruck and Life after Auschwitz. A Perspective across History, Memory, and Literature (1999-2014)*

This essay examines the narrative production of Edith Bruck, situating it at the intersection of history, memory, and literature. It focuses in particular on the years 1999-2014, considered as an autonomous phase marked by a renewed attention to the long postwar period and to processes of resettlement and redefinition of identity. By interweaving memoir writing and oral sources, it interrogates the contradictions of survival and explores the reworking of trauma across public role, writing, and the inner world. Adopting a gendered perspective, it also frames the author's experience within the broader context of displaced persons and postwar migratory trajectories.

Keywords: Shoah, memory, testimony, identity, postwar, migration