

Summaries

Elena Musiani, *Germaine Berton: a woman's violence against the violence of society*

On 20 December 1923, the trial of Germaine Berton opened at the Paris Assize Court; she was accused of the murder of Marius Plateau, leader of the Camelots du Roy, the youth organisation of the Ligue d'Action Française, a far-right French party. This essay aims to analyse the biography of a 'violent' woman through the account of the trial – both judicial and in the media – to which Germaine Berton was submitted following her crime, as an example of a form of anti-feminism. The focus will therefore be on the reaction to the social and political context, which generated hostility and deep divisions, and on the judgement levelled against her by that very society, the result of judgements and representations that went beyond the context of the criminal act itself, often directed 'against women'.

Parole chiave: donne violente, Anti-femminismo, fascismo, Europa post Seconda guerra mondiale

Keywords: Violent women, Anti-feminism, Fascism, Europe after WWI

Lucia Aprile, «*Ci lasciarono libere dopo averci tolto l'onore*». *Uses and abuses of the female body in times of brigandage (1860-1865)*

This article examines the role of sexual violence in the context of post-unification brigandage (1860–1865), interpreting it as a central mechanism of political and social conflict in southern Italy. Drawing on judicial, medical, and administrative sources, it explores the transformation of rape from a private crime into a public and political issue, highlighting its progressive incorporation into the institutional languages of evidence and repression. Nineteenth-century legal and medico-legal frameworks assigned a privileged evidentiary role to the female body, subordinating victims' testimony to anatomical proof. In brigandage trials, this paradigm was reshaped: sexual violence was mobilized to define the enemy and support strategies of political delegitimization, while evidentiary practices expanded to include indirect testimonies and community narratives. Rape thus emerges as both a concrete and symbolic practice, shaping honor codes, collective memory, and forms of political legitimacy.

Parole chiave: violenza sessuale, Brigantaggio, Italia post-unitaria, conflitto politico

Keywords: Sexual violence, Brigandage, Post-unification Italy, Political conflict

Serena Terziani, *The Aix-en-Provence trial: France 1978*

This essay analyzes the rape trial that took place in Aix-en-Provence in 1978. By tracing the features of an event that shocked France, the contribution aims to reconstruct the social significance of the event, which became the spark that ignited the process of change in the law against sexual violence in the country.

Parole chiave: Aix-en-Provence, stupro, processo, violenza di genere

Keywords: Aix-en-Provence, rape, trial, gender-based violence

Liliosa Azara, *Genealogies of Protection: Feminist Pathways to the Origins of Italian Anti-Violence Centres*

The article traces the evolution of the debate on violence against women, which, from the mid-1970s onwards, became one of the main areas of focus and mobilisation for the Italian feminist movement. Examining the various forms of political mobilisation involving feminist collectives and associations, the article explores the origins and development of the first self-managed anti-violence centres, conceived as spaces for dialogue and awareness where violence was recognised not as an individual fate, but as a product of power relations. The early experiences in Rome and Bologna marked the long and rough road towards the establishment of structures capable of ensuring institutional and organisational continuity, the culmination of which came in the early 1990s.

Parole chiave: genere, centri anti-violenza, femminismo, Movimento di liberazione della donna, Udi

Keywords: gender, anti-violence centres, feminism, Movimento di liberazione della donna, Udi

Silvio Labbate, *The last gasp of Italian nuclear energy: the political choice to abandon atomic power*

In the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster, pressure from the environmental movement, already particularly strong in Italy, intensified. This resulted, among other things, in the proposal of three abrogative referendums in 1987, which were interpreted as an expression of the desire to abandon the peaceful use of nuclear energy. But how did things actually unfold? Who pushed for this decision, and for what reasons? What role did security concerns play? Could the country afford to forgo this source of energy?

This paper traces the key steps along this path, seeking to answer the questions above while framing the issue within Italy's energy needs.

Parole chiave: politica energetica italiana, energia nucleare, Piano energetico nazionale, Enel, ambientalismo italiano, Bettino Craxi

Keywords: Italian energy policy, nuclear energy, National Energy Plan, Enel, Italian environmentalism, Bettino Craxi

Anna Tonelli, *Margherita Sarfatti and the Centenary of DUX: A Historical Reappraisal*

This essay offers a historical reappraisal of *DUX*, Margherita Sarfatti's biography of Mussolini, on the occasion of centenary of its publication in Italy and the recent reissue of the complete edition in the Oscar Mondadori series. The analysis examines the mechanisms of propaganda during the

Summaries

Fascist era in light of recent scholarship that brings cultural history and political communication into dialogue. Furthermore, the biographical strand is developed through a productive interweaving of the public and private spheres, shedding light on significant aspects of the relationship between the author and her biographical subject, encompassing political militancy, art, political liturgies, the female universe, and power.

Parole chiave: Mussolini; Fascismo; Margherita Sarfatti; Propaganda; Biografia; Donne.

Keywords: Mussolini; Fascism; Margherita Sarfatti; Propaganda; Biography; Women