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Editorial

Derek Boothman

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Editorial

Abstract

This is the Abstract of the Editorial of the IGJ issue 17, spring 2023.

Keywords

Editorial; Gramsci Journals; Gramsci and Mussolini; Young Gramsci; France; Latin America.

Editorial

Derek Boothman

Autumn 2022's number of the 'International Gramsci Journal', although not designated as such, was in effect double, in order for the new volume (Vol. 5(1)) to coincide with the start of a calendar year.

Part I of this issue concludes the *Proceedings* of the *International Gramsci Society* conference of Autumn 2021 by including write-ups of the presentations there of the specifically Gramscian journals 'Gramsciana' (Francesca Chiarotto and Guglielmo Pellerino), the 'International Gramsci Journal' itself (current writer), and 'Notebooks: The Journal for Studies on Power' (Francesca Congiu and Francesco Pontarelli), as well as 'Critica Marxista' (presentation by Guido Liguori). In addition, we include contributions on the journals 'Novos Rumos' and 'Práxis e Hegemonia Popular' (Marcos Del Roio) and the Fondazione Istituto Gramsci's 'Studi storici' (Alexander Höbel). All journal descriptions follow alphabetical order.

The first article of Section II of the journal, in Portuguese, is by Giovanni Semeraro and Ana Lole, on the recently completed 200 years of independence of Brazil. As they explain, it amplifies a previous publication of theirs by using an explicitly Gramscian analysis. The authors dissect long-held myths such as the so-called 'cordial man', showing the reality of a domestic situation (slavery, genocide and so on) – generally thought characteristic of foreign-power imperialism – vastly different from the 'racial democracy' widely propounded in Brazil. After this we have Andrés Tzeiman's article, starting from the legendary Morelia conference, forty years on still the subject of debate. Concepts largely present in Gramsci (hegemony, constitution of the political subject etc.) were there subject to the analysis and critique of leading Latin American left intellectuals, whose positions and subsequent development are discussed in the contribution. Nerio Naldi's article follows, focusing on Mussolini's statement 'I read the notes contained in the notebooks of the prisoners sentenced by the Special Tribunal', clearly implying Gramsci in particular. Naldi uncovers inconsistencies in the reconstruction of the dates quoted from memory in the posthumously edited *Taccuini mussoliniani* (*Mussolinian Notebooks*) of the Italian jour-

nalist Yvon De Begnac, to whom the dictator gave various interviews over the decade from 1934 to his destitution. The author defines the possible periods when Mussolini could have seen some of the notebooks, and narrows down the range of those he might have read.

It is as yet not widely known that there have recently come to light and been published in Italian (by the daily newspaper ‘Il Fatto Quotidiano’) three essays that Gramsci wrote in his last year at high school. One of these is discussed, and – apart from the introductory lines – here reproduced in its entirety in the article by Antonio Di Meo. Gramsci takes into consideration the critical state of science (more precisely positivism and the crisis of ‘scientism’) at the turn of the twentieth century, in France especially, but reflected in other ways in other nations. He shows the re-emergence in the *Prison Notebooks* of these embryonic ideas, where Gramsci contrasts progress as envisaged by the Enlightenment thinkers with development and becoming. As appendix to this article we include an English translation of Pasquale Voza’s *Dizionario gramsciano* entry on positivism.

The book review section opens with Camilla Sclocco’s double-language review on the state of Gramsci studies in France. She deals with *Gramsci in Francia*, the anthology (Il Mulino, 2020) edited by Romain Descendre, Francesco Giasi and Giuseppe Vacca for the Fondazione Istituto Gramsci’s series on the presence of Gramscian thought in various parts of the world; and *La France d’Antonio Gramsci*, edited by Romain Descendre and Jean-Claude Zancarini (Ens. Éditions, 2021). The former volume contains a reconstruction over time of the various attitudes, including critical ones, adopted toward Gramsci, giving space to both well-known and unjustly ignored articles. The latter consists of the *Proceedings* of the 2017 Lyon conference on Gramsci and France, dealing mainly with various aspects of French history and culture that appear in the *Notebooks*. As said in the review, the renewal of French Gramsci studies is to a very great extent due to the late André Tosel, who, as Descendre notes, was a Gramscian philosopher who did ‘something more than study Gramsci’. This issue ends with two reviews by Sebastián Gómez, first (in Spanish) of Francesca Antonini’s *Caesarism and Bonapartism in Gramsci* (Brill, 2020), with relevance here to populisms in Latin America, and then (in English) of the English translation of Gianni Fresu’s analytical study (also published in Italian and Portuguese) *Antonio Gramsci, an Intellectual Biography* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022).