

## English summary

In the Editorial Giovanni Gozzini reflects on the relationship between religion and politics, in which the former seems to have “taken the place” of the latter in recent years. He analyses a number of crucial episodes – from the bloody Algerian crisis and the Balkan wars of the 1990s to the role of religious parties in India and Turkey, the electoral victories of Ahmadinejad in Iran and Hamas in Palestine, and (last but not far from least) the political culture manifest in the USA in this second term of the Bush presidency. He observes that, in this phase of a new global terrorism since 11 September, the phenomenon of religion in politics can be utilized as a sort of “unifying cover”, to all appearances capable of reviving Samuel Huntington’s thesis of the “conflict of civilizations”.

In the Discussions section, Rossana Rossanda’s autobiographical book, *La ragazza del secolo scorso* (*The Girl from the Last Century*, Torino 2006) is the subject of a wide-ranging debate. The contributions of Giovanni Falaschi, Aldo Agosti, Simonetta Soldani and Stuart Woolf show how this very successful book can be read in very different keys, not simply as the autobiography of the intellectual itinerary within and then outside the Italian Communist Party, but as a deep and original reflection on the relationship between history and memory.

Over the past three years there has emerged in Zimbabwe a sustained attempt by the Mugabe regime to propagate “patriotic history”. Terence Ranger explores the intellectual and practical implications, the contrasts with an older “nationalist historiography” and a newer “history of the nation”. The current historiographical debate is seen in the light of the experience of its author, a long-term practitioner of both nationalist historiography and the history of the Zimbabwean nation.

Stefano Petrunaro’s essay deals with the relationship between, on the one hand, the history taught in school textbooks in Yugoslavia and its successor States and, on the other hand, the transgenerational transmission of collective traumas. He analyses some examples to be found in both contemporary and older school texts, and further investigates from this perspective a number of issues related to official taboos and the testimonies at school provided by survivors and war veterans.

In the Uses and Abuses of History section Clara Palmiste discusses the recent historical – but in reality essentially political – polemic in France over the institution of a Day of memory of the victims of slavery, on 10 May, the date of the minister Taubira’s 2005 law that acknowledged the moral debt of the State towards the “*pièdes-noirs*” of Algeria.

Chris Lorenz's contribution focuses on the implications, at the European level, of the extension to the world of higher education of the concepts of globalization, society and the economics of knowledge: universities become business enterprises, and "real" entrepreneurs the representatives of mass consumption MacUniversities.

In the following section Luigi Tomassini analyses two exhibitions at Milan organized by the "Centennial Association" of the CGIL (General Confederation of Labour) to celebrate the birth of the trade union organization in 1906, but also the inauguration in Milan of the opening of the Simplon tunnel and the International Exhibition. In particular he discusses the rich catalogue prepared by Germano Celant for the exhibition *Modern Times. From Van Gogh to Warhol. Work, machines and Automation in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Arts*.

In the Reviews section, Michele Battini discusses Alberto M. Banti's new book, *L'onore della nazione. Identità sessuali e violenza del nazionalismo europeo* (*The Honour of the Nation. Sexual Identities and Violence in European Nationalisms*, Torino 2005), which analyses the "nationalist discourse" in European culture and the image that it offered – from the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the first world war – of nation and community, structured around the hierarchy between sexual gender and founded on patriotic love, female chastity and marriage based on love.

Monica Galfré reviews Mario Raicich's posthumous book *Storie di scuola da un'Italia lontana* (*Stories of school from a distant Italy*, Roma 2005), and the rich preface by Simonetta Soldani, editor of the essays collected in this volume. They include, for the most part, articles – some previously unpublished – completed in the final years of the author's life. Until his death (in 1996) Raicich was among the most sensitive and original historians and political commentators of the school in Italy.

The issue ends with two groups of short reviews, the first on *Donne Italiane* (*Italian women*), edited by Simonetta Soldani, the second of some recent studies of *Movimenti e lotta armata nell'Italia degli anni '70* (*Political movements and armed struggle in Italy in the 1970s*), edited by Monica Galfré.