

## Summaries

Patrizia Gabrielli, *Women in the postwar period. Mass associations and minorities*

This issue offers an overview of the commitment of women's organizations that, after the Second World War, remained independent from political parties and opposed the idea of polarization that had proliferated since the first years of the cold war. Particularly, the focus is on the "Alleanza femminile", the "Cndi" and the "Partito d'azione", and on some biographical highlights of women that in those years were engaged both politically and culturally and that took part in Italian reconstruction through a dialogue with the "Unione donne italiane" and the "Centro italiano femminile". These women worked hard for the statement and the development of democracy and of new gender models, calling people's attention to some aspects concerning public decency and morality. Moreover, they carried on a significant pedagogical and educational action, whose aim was the construction of a responsible citizenship.

Francesca Rubini, «*Fronte unito*» 1943-1946. *The Resistance far away*

The essay proposes a critical and descriptive introduction to Fausta Cialente's «*Fronte unito*», an Italian political and cultural magazine published weekly in Egypt from 1943 to 1946. The paper assesses the historical and political context in which Cialente conceived the project of an anti-fascist journal opened to all Italian prisoners and civilians in Egypt and North Africa. Through the study of Cialente's private diaries, the note traces the lines of «*Fronte unito*» publishing history and puts attention to the contents and the significant changes in the internal arrangement of the magazine.

«*Storia e problemi contemporanei*», n. 68, gennaio-aprile 2015

Copyright © FrancoAngeli

N.B: Copia ad uso personale. È vietata la riproduzione (totale o parziale) dell'opera con qualsiasi mezzo effettuata e la sua messa a disposizione di terzi, sia in forma gratuita sia a pagamento.

Noemi Crain Merz, *The women of the Action Party and the Union of Italian Women: a difficult relationship*

The essay deals with the complex relationship between the female members of the Action Party (Pd'a) and the women's mass organisation, Union of Italian Women (Udi), in the short period between the end of the war and the dissolution of the Pd'a in 1947. The women of the Pd'a fought against every form of "gender segregation" in politics and were thus mainly averse to the concept of purely female associations. Aware, however, of the difficulties women were facing in politics and society, the leading women of the Pd'a nonetheless joined the Udi. The author delineates their challenging attempt to implement their ideas of equality, democracy and autonomy within the Udi.

Maria Antonietta Serci, *Italian Women Alliance 1944-1950. For a law against sexual slavery women's*

The essay is about the history of Afi, the Italian Women Alliance for equality and peace, that was chaired by Teresita Sandesky Scelba, from 1944 to 1950. Afi is a feminist, independent, peaceful and internationalist organization. The author analyzes the organization's structure, its relation with communist and catholic women and the connections with political parties and mass organizations. A great attention is devoted to the contribution made by Afi to the movement for the abolition of prostitution and the development of the law against State sponsored prostitution. The law was presented to the Italian Senate by the socialist representative Lina Merlin in 1948.

Lidia Pupilli, *"Needles in a Haystack". Alda Aghi as the First Alderwoman in Ancona's Post-War Municipal Administration*

The essay attempts to outline the political itinerary of the first alderwoman in Ancona's post-war Municipal Administration. In 1946 Alda Aghi was elected town councillor of Ancona: as alderwoman she dealt with education and had to cope with the aftermath of the huge destruction of school

buildings caused by the war. She also played an important role in the local Women's Republican Movement. Interviewed many years later on those times, Aghi would talk about them as a wonderful experience, although emphasizing her "unpolitical" work, such as supplying food and clothes to families. In general, there are not plenty of sources on these first female councillors and Aghi's case study seems to confirm it. The surname Aghi in Italian means "needles" so, playing on words, we could say that finding exhaustive sources to outline Aghi's political choices is almost like looking for "needles in a haystack".

Beatrice L'Abbate, *Arezzo in the Great War: women and home front*

During the World War I, in Arezzo, as well as in other Italian cities, was established a Committee which had to provide for all the citizenry's needs originated from the state of war. Many women joined the "Comitato di Provvidenza Civile" and under the noblewoman Bice Ferrari's direction, they organized several women's sections that performed all sort of activities: from the care for orphans and refugees to the tailoring of wool clothes to be sent to soldiers, from the gathering of funds to health care. The author examines the numerous initiatives realized by the women's organization, highlighting the importance that women and women's committees had in the mobilization of home front.