

ABSTRACTS

ALBA LAZZARETTO, *'I wanted to make myself useful': the background and youthful choices of Tina Anselmi*

Tina Anselmi was the first woman to hold a ministerial position in the government of the Italian Republic, but what environment did she grow up in and who were the men and women that influenced her development? This essay reconstructs the social context of Castelfranco Veneto, where the young Tina had important life mentors in her family, in the parish, among the people of the town and, above all, among her friends in the Resistance movement, with whom she shared the struggle not only against Nazi-Fascism but against all forms of social injustice. She drew from these experiences the principles that inspired her political activity, becoming for many people a symbol of consistency and honesty.

ROBERTO P. VIOLI, *Social and religious history and mafia history: the case of the 'ndrangheta between the 20th and 21st century*

Social and religious history offers useful investigative models on the distortive exploitation of religion carried out by the 'ndrangheta, like the other mafias, in the areas where it was installed. This research considers factors such as the pastoral government of popular religion, the relation of the Church with the unified national State and the role of the clergy within local communities and power structures. This makes it possible to discern, from a diachronic perspective, the way in which after the Second Vatican Council the Church tended to go beyond the silence and mistakes of the past, bearing consistent testimony to the Gospels in the places where the mafia held sway.

ANNIBALE ZAMBARBIERI, *Notes on the Japanese representation of 'time'*

Starting from the perspectives on the space-time dimension opened up and illustrated in his time by Gabriele De Rosa, this essay aims to furnish some approaches to the concept of time in the Japanese tradition. The selected representation of time – albeit limited in content and the respective implications – is derived from a work by Jão Rodriguez, a singular Portuguese Jesuit who lived in Japan between the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, when relations began to be established between Japan and Europe. The author grasped certain typical impressions in

Japanese mythology that derived from cosmogenesis fundamental tenets of chronogenesis together with the harmony with nature and the universe, such as to sustain the entire span of human experience. It should nevertheless be clarified that original ways of tangibly determining the rhythms of everyday life are to be noted, as always in Japan, with stress laid – particularly between the nineteenth and twentieth centuries – on the need to make astute use of the time resource: first in agriculture and later in industry.