Abstracts

Heroic massacres. The justification of mass murders on the Eastern Front during the Second World War
Alberto Burgio

The paper focuses on the way how the consensus to "evil" in Nazi Germany was politically produced through a discursive codification obsessively organized by the regime and aimed at constructing new moral codes, compatible with the ongoing crimes at the time. The author sustains that the attempt of producing a new morality compatible with the extermination and the criminal project not always could solve the problems of wounded conscience of those who were actively committing the crimes or were simply spectators, in Germany or on the Eastern Front.

Keywords: Genocide; Nazism; Moral Conscience; Eastern Front; Trauma.

Victims and executioners. The experience of the recent military trials on Nazi crimes in Italy
Marco De Paolis

Marco De Paolis was the prosecutor in many criminal trials for the Nazi massacres in Italy, such as the ones in Sant'Anna di Stazzema and Marzabotto. In this essay, he recalls the juridical problems faced during this extraordinary work. The analysis focuses on the delicate relationship between politics and history in the background of Nazi massacres in Italy and reconstructs the

defense strategies presented by the Nazi war criminals. Moreover, the essay also traces the difficulties met during the trials in order to identify the criminals and to condemn them.

Keywords: Nazism; Massacres; War Criminals.

From the "War Against Civilians" to the Atlas of Massacres. A recent national research

Gianluca Fulvietti

From the mid 1990s great attention has been given in Italy to the war crimes committed by the German Army between 1943 and 1945, a really important issue for historians and anthropologists, but also linked to peculiar dynamics of memory, justice and public use of history.

This article explains in brief the main characteristics of the historiographical research dedicated to the Nazi war crimes in Italy, and then illustrates the particular genesis of a national research, the Atlas of Massacres, funded from 2013 to 2016 by the German government as a form of "restorative justice", discussing its most significant results.

Keywords: War Crimes; Atlas of Massacres; German Army.

1939-1943. Reactions to *terrible days* in the Nazi-occupied ghettos in Poland. Comparing the testimonies found after the Shoah

Marcella H. Ravenna

This study is addressed to safeguard a living memory of the Shoah and to counter the stereotypical image of Jews killed "like sheep being led to slaughter". It examines as yet unexplored psychosocial aspects, namely the first-hand experiences and the reactions to the persecution, to which a collection of eight testimonies written in the ghettos of Poland provide evidence. Their authors

were both witnesses and victims of the atrocities and didn't survive. The main results show a remarkable dynamism in the contents examined as well as great diversity between the texts, which are remarkably focused on the present and which moderately resort to the use of stereotypical expressions to describe members of the *ingroup* and *outgroup*, a phenomenon that was not expected. Starting with expressions that show widespread awareness of the injustice and abuse of power occurring in the ghettos, the authors were engaged in providing aid and taking on active and diversified social roles indicative of life-oriented culture, in great contrast with the notion of "sheep being led to slaughter".

Keywords: Memory of Shoah; Nazi Ghettos; Testimonies; Reactions to Persecution.

«To reconnect the most secret German Population's task to the big beginning». Martin Heidegger facing with Nazi extermination of the Jews

Gennaro Imbriano

The paper considers the reasoning process Martin Heidegger uses to legitimate the Holocaust on historical and philosophical grounds. His strategies of legitimation insist on the theme of destiny pertaining to that event, understood as a necessary effect of the burden of metaphysical violence within modern rationalism, whose delegitimisation is functional to the lightening of Nazism's actual responsibilities. Heidegger also insists on the comparison of the extermination with other cases of violence and abuse, with the purpose of minimizing the dimension of the Holocaust. Heidegger's position about Nazi extermination of the Jews is reconstructed with reference to his philosophical position and the relationship between his philosophy and Nazism.

Keywords: Heidegger; Nazism; Holocaust; Other Beginning; Modernity.

The Spirit faces evil. Giovanni Gentile's last philosophy
Francesco Cerrato

The essay retraces Giovanni Gentile's philosophical production from 1943 until his death in 1944, 15 April. Focusing on *Genesi e struttura della società,* the author investigates the most significant theoretical differences between this last book (published in 1946, after Gentile's death) and the philosophical works written twenty years before, *Fondamenti di Filosofia del diritto* and *Teoria generale dello spirito come atto puro*. The author points out concepts such as evil and death in these books and studies their different elaboration in Gentile's last book, considering a possible link between these changes and the anxiety or moral suffering that the philosopher might have felt facing the Nazi Fascist crimes.

Keywords: Gentile; Fascism; Second World War; Dialectics; Society.

The credit and bank logic as strategy of rationalizing European violence (XV-XVIII centuries)
Giacomo Todeschini

The aim of the paper is to consider the practices of political and social exclusion working in specific financial and credit dynamics. Tracing the history of economic processes back to the early European modernity, the study focuses on the constitution of social hierarchies which, due to the inclusion of specific subjects and the exclusion of others in and from credit policies, determine the existence of specific and consolidated social classes, gradually shaping a practice of dehumanization of specific social groups.

Keywords: Credit; Hierarchy Construction; Political Exclusion; European Modernity; Ghetto.

The moral treatment of criminal lunatic asylum
Ciro Tarantino

When the last interned patients left the oldest criminal lunatic asylum in Italy, the author questioned the moral economy of the process of overrunning this type of institution, in particular as this process was allowed, supported, or in any case accompanied, by an upgrade, a reclassification, a moral restructuring of the collective image of the institution, which has led to a shift of status from a lesser evil to an extreme evil, from a necessary and tolerable evil to an excessive and unacceptable evil. A moral upgrade took place in a short time.

Keywords: Criminal Lunatic Asylum; OPG Aversa; Deposition; Moral Economy; Extreme Evil.

Guarantism and torture. Cultural dynamics during the Ancient Regime
Marco Cavina

The paper investigates the question of torture within the perspective of the history of Law, focusing on the development of that practice from the late Middle Ages to the Ancient Régime. Through the study of the techniques of common law and the resolution practices of the current social conflicts, the essay underlines how a historically-based study of torture must not underestimate that the functioning of justice in the late Middle Ages and in Modernity was characterized by a plurality of paradigms for resolving conflicts, not only in courts of Law, but within the so called ceremonial justice. The historical perspective should also consider the fact that in the past a lack of a sufficiently organized repressive system led to a wide political use of the penalty *ad deterrendum*.

Keywords: Middle Ages; Ancient Régime; History of Law; Torture; Common Law.

Facing the torture. Different faces of the other
Marina Lalatta Costerbosa

The paper deals with that extreme form of evil represented by torture, trying to highlight the different faces of the possible manifestations of the Other: the Other as persecutor, the Other Self inside every human being, and the social Other. All these manifestations will be examined within a wider definition of torture as a system with its own purpose, its roles and peculiar dynamics of operation.

Keywords: Moral Evil; Violence; Torture; Dignity; Sartre.

Looking away. Psychosocial process to accept the torture
Chiara Volpato

The aim of the paper is the description and the discussion of the recent studies about torture in the domain of social psychology. The research examine the widespread beliefs about the efficacy of torture, the support given by the public opinion to torture, the psychological processes of legitimization of violence, abuse, social ostracism and exclusion, with particular attention to the dehumanizing mechanisms.

Keywords: Torture; Dehumanization; Social Ostracism; Violence.