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Editorial

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Editorial

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This issue of the IGJ consists of two distinct parts followed by a book review, which will now be a regular feature. The first part is dedicated to the longest essay written by Gramsci before the celebrated one on the Southern Question, interrupted by his arrest. The essay we publish here exists in two forms, *Il movimento comunista di Torino*, and *Il movimento torinese dei Consigli di Fabbrica*. The former was published in the Comintern journal “Communist International” (no. 14, November 1920) in its four languages – English, French, German and Russian; while these last three translations are available with greater or lesser ease, the English translation has not come to light despite detailed searches of library holdings. The second version of the essay was published in “L’Ordine Nuovo”, in its format as a daily, on 14 March 1921, retranslated from the German translation in “Kommunistische Internationale”, and bearing several modifications. For comparison purposes, the two Italian versions are presented in parallel columns, with key concepts and phrases as near as possible aligned; due however to the variations between the two versions, sometimes the text of one leads and the other lags, and sometimes *vice versa*. The article as printed in “L’Ordine Nuovo” is in the left hand column while in the right hand column, readers have access, for the first time ever in Italian, to the text – with its occasional idiosyncratic spelling – of Gramsci’s original manuscript, now held in the Comintern archives; his cancellations are shown as underlined barred words, e.g. “~~Neppure un mes~~”, while subsequent additions, corrections and rethinks are indicated in blue, e.g. “operaia”). Text divisions are shown as in the “Ordine Nuovo” article and the manuscript itself. Flavio Silvestrini, an Italian expert on this period of Gramsci’s activity, gives a political introduction to the two versions, while further information on the manuscript and its typescript is found in the translator’s preface to the editorially-contributed English language translation.

The second part of this issue of the IGJ, devoted to current political and economic problems, has articles exclusively in English. It opens with a thought-provoking article by Panagiotis Sotiris, who uses Gramscian concepts – that of the historical bloc, together with others such as “nation-State”, “nation-people” and the “national-popular collective will”, in his analysis of problems of popular and

national (and post-national) sovereignty, linked among other things to ethnicity, im/migration and border questions. He engages in a critical discussion with others on the left – Balibar, Bouteldja and Khiari, Habermas, Sapir, Sassen to name but some – and points the way forward to the construction of what, in Gramscian terms, would be a new “people-nation”, having not a common history and shared values - those of an often mythical past – but a common future, a “people-to-come” to cite Deleuze’s phrase, based on movements of emancipation and struggle by the subaltern classes.

The other two articles in the second half of the journal are devoted to Brazil, one of the Latin American countries where, through a cluster of inter-related concepts, Gramsci’s influence has since the 1960s been crucial for left forces in their interpretation of history and politics. The first of these is by Giovanni Semeraro, who initially wrote before the destitution of Dilma Rousseff and the return of the ‘white oligarchy’; the original text – verb tenses etc. – is amended to take account of these events. Using in particular the Gramscian notions of “organic crisis” and “Caesarism”, the author succinctly analyses the evolution of the economic and political situation in Brazil, the problems and weaknesses of the Brazilian left in its Lula-Rousseff form, and the occupation of key positions in Brazilian society by international corporations, finance capital and the corporate media, all posing as saviours of the country.

The second article on Brazil, by Carlos Hiroo Saito and Andréa A. Azevedo, deals with the conflict between conservation and agribusiness production in Brazil. While sometimes conservationists have won victories, e.g. in blocking the construction of potentially damaging dams in the Amazon basin, a big question mark hangs over agricultural, especially soybean, production. The authors deal with the role of organic intellectuals, the confusion still reigning among left forces on their definition, and analyse as a prime example the role of ex-State governor, now Minister of Agriculture, Blairo Maggi, in regard to the agribusiness-conservation question.

In the third part, Francesca Antonini reviews *Antonio Gramsci*, edited by the well-known Anglophone scholar Mark McNally.

Last, it is with deep regret that we record the passing of André Tosel, a member of our journal’s scientific committee, a distinguished philosopher and leading Gramsci expert whose contribution will be sorely missed.