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# Editorial

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# Editorial

**Abstract**  
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## *Editorial*

Issue number 8 of the “International Gramsci Journal” falls into three main parts. We begin with the article in Spanish by Javier Balsa (Argentina), who gives a detailed reading of Gramsci’s critique in Notebook 11 of scientism and vulgar materialism, notably of Bukharin’s and similar approaches. Drawing out the implications, Balsa links this analysis to questions of political practice and the position of the subalterns. As elsewhere, editorial square-bracketed additions are included as an aid to trace references to standard Italian volumes of Gramsci, notably to Gerratana’s 1975 *Critical Edition* of the *Quaderni del carcere*.

Different from Balsa’s analysis, the English-language article of Jonas Sylvest (Denmark) applies Gramscian notions, “passive revolution” and “integral state” in particular, together with Trotsky’s concept of uneven and combined development, to the politico-economic situation and trade-union/workers’ movement in Turkey, in the thirty years after 1950, from when the Kemalist Republican People’s Party (CHP) first lost power to its gradual transformation into a social-democratic party.

In the second part of this issue, we begin articles on the volumes of the *National Edition of Gramsci’s Writings*, sponsored by Rome’s Fondazione Istituto Gramsci and published by the Istituto della Enciclopedia Italiana. Giovanna Savant (Italy) discusses in detail Gramsci’s journalistic output in her review of *Scritti 1917 (Writings 1917)*, authoritatively edited by Leonardo Rapone; the volume includes articles newly attributed to Gramsci, while excluding others previously thought to be by him. Then, leaving aside for a later issue of the IGJ the volume of the *Epistolario (Correspondence)* dealing with Gramsci’s early life, Lelio La Porta (Italy) deals with the key period, from January to November 1923, spent as the PCI’s main representative at the Comintern. The correspondence contains letters both written and received by Gramsci, including a number that he wrote that are here published for the first time (most of these also available in the English edition of the prison letters). Some of the letters, previously thought to be to Jul’ka, are now known to have been addressed to Evgenija, her elder sister; readers are therefore left in no doubt that, until Jul’ka appeared, Gramsci’s love interest in Moscow was first directed towards Evgenija.

These above-mentioned articles are in Italian and English, while Birgit Wagner (Austria) contributes one in English on the volumes in the *National Edition*, dedicated to the translation notebooks (A, B, C and D) written by Gramsci before he was granted permission to write what all now know as the *Prison Notebooks*. Aspects discussed include his translation strategies (especially for the folk tales of the Brothers Grimm), translation in literal and metaphorical senses, and the status of these notebooks within the prison writings. To the names of the IGJ collaborators whom Wagner mentions on translation, we here add our editorial homage to the late Domenico Jervolino, member of our scientific committee and author of a widely read IGJ article on translation.

The third part of this number of the Journal is dedicated to the review of a book *on*, rather than *of*, Gramsci. This is the article<sup>1</sup> by Nerio Naldi (Italy) on the volume by the economist, Giancarlo de Vivo, *Nella bufera del Novecento (In the Storm of the Twentieth Century)*. Recently, Italy has seen polemics, not widely known abroad, on certain aspects of Gramsci's prison life and on the nature of attempts to lessen his sentence. Here Naldi, the major expert together with de Vivo on the relationship between Gramsci and Piero Sraffa, tackles key subjects including Sraffa as the main channel between Gramsci and the Italian Party leadership in exile, and the role that Sraffa, the prisoner's intellectual mainstay, played in attempts to reduce Gramsci's sentence. Unlike some authors in the recent polemics, de Vivo uses the documentary evidence with great care and scrupulousness, demonstrating Sraffa's ability to follow Gramsci's wishes and, when necessary, to take decisions independent of the positions of the PCI and the Comintern. Other important aspects dealt with include Gramsci's and Sraffa's stances on the philosophy of praxis, and some of Sraffa's first steps in mounting his challenge to orthodox, neoclassical economics.

Taken together, the volumes discussed in parts 2 and 3 of this number of the journal shed new light on Gramsci as political philosopher, as politico and, not least, as man. Sections of forthcoming issues of the IGJ will also be devoted to discussion articles regarding other relevant aspects, some newly found, of Gramsci's biography.

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<sup>1</sup> We publish this book review in English by kind permission of "Moneta e Credito", who include the Italian-language version in their Vol. 71, no. 283, available at [www.monetaecredito.info](http://www.monetaecredito.info).