

International Gramsci Journal

Volume 3
Issue 2 *The Modern Prince / Gramscian
Philology: The Prison Notebooks / Reviews*

Article 3

2019

Editorial

Derek Boothman

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ro.uow.edu.au/gramsci>

Recommended Citation

Boothman, Derek, Editorial, *International Gramsci Journal*, 3(2), 2019, 1-1.
Available at: <https://ro.uow.edu.au/gramsci/vol3/iss2/3>

Research Online is the open access institutional repository for the University of Wollongong. For further information contact the UOW Library: research-pubs@uow.edu.au

Editorial

Abstract

Editorial

Keywords

Editorial

Editorial

In the *Prison Notebooks*, Gramsci develops various interrelated concepts mainly centred around that of hegemony. The instrument conceived by him for the achievement and subsequent exercise of hegemony was the “modern Prince”, the subject of part one of the current issue of the journal. Panagiotis Sotiris’s double-length article *The Modern Prince as Laboratory of Political Intellectuality* follows up his article in IGJ no. 6; there in a richly developed argument, he dealt with the rise of a political right which, in countries across the globe, is attempting to give a populist and often racist interpretation of what it considers the nation and national sovereignty. The current article takes the argument a stage further, arguing that the entire complex of activities emerging from the subaltern classes requires an updated “modern Prince”, created through an “integral united front”, a strategy – echoing the early years of the Comintern – that was a constant reference point for Gramsci. As an essential guide, this article is backed up by Lelio La Porta’s analytical *Gramsci Dictionary* entry on the “Modern Prince” as treated in the *Prison Notebooks*. His reading rightly concentrates on *Notebook 13* (see cover), the main “special notebook” dedicated to Machiavelli, with additions from some of the “miscellaneous Notebooks”.

With thanks to the Fondazione Gramsci (the copyright holders), Part Two makes available an up-to-date description of the *Notebooks*. The guide explains the division between “special” and “miscellaneous” notebooks, paying particular attention to the structure of the latter and to a more precise dating of all of them. This, the subject of ongoing work in Italy, is helping dispel the myth that the writings are haphazard in nature. The Italian text, designed for an Italian exhibition, is by Gianni Francioni (author of the study *Un labirinto di carta*, IGJ no. 5). We also publish an English-language guide whose original version, based on the Italian, was simplified for a more general public in Moscow. Here much of the phrasing of the original is reinstated in the English translation to make it more suitable for specialist IGJ readers, and bring the two versions back more into line.

Part Three concludes this issue with the dual-language review article by Manuela Ausilio of Massimo Baldacci’s recent book *Oltre la subalternità. Praxis e educazione in Gramsci*, a subject intimately involving hegemony, which we hope to pursue in subsequent issues.