Summaries of articles

**Peasants, Commercialization, Legitimation
of State Power in Sixteenth Century Anatolia**   H. ISLAMOGLU-INAN

   This article seeks to establish a relationship between the persistence of the subsistence economy of independent peasants and the nature of State power in the Ottoman Empire.   Central to Ottoman political authority was a legitimacy concern or the need for the consensus of the ruled for the rulers.   In the case of rural producers this consensus focused on the right to subsistence.   It is argued here that more than the economic variables of high land labour ratios or fiscal considerations of the State that relied on peasant taxes as its primary source of revenue, political (administrative) and juridical interventions of the state largely accounted for the perpetuation of the peasant household economy.   This was true of periods of commercial expansion both prior to and after European demand for ottoman agricultural goods increased beginning in the 17th century.   To substantiate this point, the article focuses on an empirical study of the peasant economy population and production trends, organization and relations of production in North-Central Anatolia during the sixteenth century.

**Regional Imbalance and Transportation Network in Southern Italy
from the Middle of the 18th Century to the Unification of Italy**   A. MASSAFRA

   Up until the Napoleonic conquest, the road network in the Mezzogiorno (Southern Italian) peninsula, though greatly reduced in scope, was organized according to a centripetal model answering above all to the central government's political, administrative and military needs and to those related to Naples' food supply.   The construction ex novo of approximately 5,000 kilometers of royal and provincial roads during the first half of the 19th century rendered the highway communication system more extensive and functional, i.e. better able to meet the requirements of the administrative reorganization and the productive and commercial development of the provinces.   Campania and Puglia were virtually the only provinces to benefit from this massive road construction, managing to mobilize a maximum of financial resources for provincial public works, and to play a strategic role in the kingdom's economic development.

SUMMARIES OF ARTICLES

Rural Spaces and Social Dynamics in Southern Europe   F. MEDEIROS

Southern European societies, as we see in the cases of those studied here—Italy, Spain and Portugal—offer the historical peculiarity of social and cultural segmentation whose genesis and perennial nature are only intelligible in relation to the constraints of the Mediterranean setting, in particular those derived from the extreme bio-geographical fragmentation which characterizes it. Using a sociological model permitting the analysis of the relationships of complementarity and interdependence between the different local social systems which make up these multiple-space social configurations, the author seeks to isolate the structural elements of this social system. The principal economic, ideological and political motors of this system provide these societies with singular organizational features which are difficult to identify within the limited conceptual framework of classical sociology.

A Disease in the Public Realm:
AIDS in Six French Daily Newspapers   C. HERZLICH and J. PIERRET

Since its irruption in 1981, AIDS has represented more than just a new pathology. It has shown us how big a role a disease can play in the "public space", brilliantly highlighting the relationships among the biological, political and social realms. This new reality has been built up by ongoing scientific developments and, virtually simultaneously, by public opinion: it was the press which brought AIDS into existence for the whole of society. We study here the construction of the "AIDS social phenomenon" using articles published in six French nationwide daily newspapers from January 1982 to July 1986, isolating the different stages and mechanisms involved.

Ruptures of Kinship and Identity Changes
Among Florentine Magnates of the 14th Century   C. KLAPISCH-ZUBER

In the second half of the 14th century, the "magnates" or Florentine nobles enjoying a particular political and juridical status were invited by urban authorities to become full-fledged members of the community of citizens, at the cost of a break with their family lineage. We study here the mechanisms, forms and impostures of this break. The hereditary patronyms invented upon this occasion disclose assimilation strategies, while at the same time revealing, through their reservations and weaknesses, their inability to adequately replace abandoned kinship networks.

Heraldic Strategies and Changes in Coats of Arms Among 14th Century Florentine Magnates

M. Pastoureau

For medieval aristocratic society, changing coats of arms was a very serious symbolic act. By the same token, examples of such changes are rare; still rarer are the documents which attest to them. This explains the exceptional importance of the set of 110 cases of coats-of-arms changes, involving Florence's aristocratic lineages, which took place between the middle of the 14th century and the beginning of the 15th. This changes were linked to kinship denouncements imposed upon magnates who became candidates for the popularitas. The study of the cases' heraldic aspect demonstrates the importance of visual signs of identity in Florentine public life during the 1300's, as well as the extent to which individuals and groups were attached to their emblems and, above all, to their heraldic colors. Moreso than the figures appearing in coats-of-arms, these colors—far from being simple social markings—seemed to be the firmly rooted in the very heart in kinship.