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BOOK REVIEW

A GEO-HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF SOUTHERN ITALY GEOGRAPHICAL ISSUES, HISTORIOGRAPHICAL TENDENCIES, INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES

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A geo-historical overview of Southern Italy geographical issues, historiographical tendencies, innovative strategies, 2023, Elina Gugliuzzo, Emilia Sarno, Aracne, Rome, References, 200 pages.



This book presents a geo-historical approach on the Southern Italy region bringing in the spotlight the main geographical issues as well as historical tendencies and innovative strategies for further social economic and cultural development. The volume is an inspirational work for the regional geographies contexts and represents a valuable source for academic research. It is structured on three main parts, each of these bringing to the fore the main geographical aspects from different perspectives, from geographical and historical ones to development backgrounds and future strategies on local development. The first part introduces the southern Italy questions between geography and history presenting the regional

evolution and its related impacts among the various past layers of time. The geographical roots of the region and the Southern Italy as an epistemological object are clearly addressed unveiling the environmental issues, the political reasons, the socio-demographic problems and the results of the Genovesi School, establishing when the

southern question began. The second chapter highlights the southern question or the southern questions of the region depicting also the enduring factors and current situations the region faces with. Furthermore, the geographical complexity is unveiled through the lens of the inner areas analyses and the urban emergence investigation. Next on, the variable demographic dynamics presents the most relevant aspects of the local population in close connection with the regional historically variable. In this context, the authors address the region's most pressing issues and pose a key metaphorical question: how can one escape the South? The next chapter examines settlement patterns, revealing the territorial networks of the smaller municipalities along with their regional and economic contexts.

A detailed case in point detailed is designed along the Apennines area for then the authors paying a special attention to the metropolitan areas and to the peculiarities of metropolitan areas in Southern Italy. The medium sized cities are also investigated as important poles for local regional development. In this context, the economic sectors between gaps and excellence are an interesting subject as it is the case of the agro–food sector as a positive trend to enhance; both of these perspectives are logically and in-depth investigated. At the same time the company culture for an articulated industrialization and the tertiary sectors between the gaps, tourism, light and shade unveil interesting aspects of this Italian region.

The second part of the book unveils the historiographical backgrounds of Southern and Mediterranean Italy and this region's related geographies, focusing on both the environmental and economic features. Furthermore, this section deals with the new and interesting contemporary issues of the close connections between this region and the European Community. Finally, the volume's third part illustrates some good practices and new models for future regional development. Against such a background, the chapters of this section deal with issues such as false beliefs, natural hazards, planning and cooperation initiatives to sustain a viable future development at a regional scale.

The authors critically examine key aspects of the Southern Italy region, including urban regeneration, measures to address vulnerabilities in coastal areas, social inclusion, and regional sustainability. They also explore the role of EU policies and opportunities.

This book is a valuable contribution to contemporary geographical literature, inspiring further research at the regional level and encouraging future analyses of the local and regional dynamics of Southern Italy, a region rich in social, cultural, and historical heritage.