



RÉVOLUTIONS DANS LE MONDE

Between 1943 and 1945, groups of peasants took over dozens of small towns in southern Italy and proclaimed the birth of independent republics. During their brief lives—sometimes just a few days—the peasant republics implemented revolutionary measures such as the redistribution of land, the equitable distribution of food, and the creation of people's tribunals. Adopting a perspective of political anthropology, this paper argues that these struggles were not simply a manifestation of apolitical spontaneity (jacqueries) or a response to the demands of the elites, but a radical challenge to the existing structure of power and social relations that seemed unaltered despite the collapse of the fascist regime in 1943. The argument here is that land reform and the end to tyranny would not have been enough for people hoping to claim their rightful place in the world, transform everyday life, and fashion their own destiny. Their lived experience of this extraordinary time can best be understood as a rite of passage, with the transformation this entails. They were not moved to action by abstract ideas; nor was their struggle simply a form of routine resistance to the long-standing constraints on their lives. Their personal experiences of mobilization as an ongoing process led them toward the development of a revolutionary consciousness. Southern Italy between 1943 and 1945 became, thus, the stage on which transformative experiences produced new meanings, performances, and ultimately a new civic awareness.

At the theoretical level, this paper proposes to disentangle the conceptualization of revolutions from structures as well as from ideology, culture and agency and adopts instead, following Victor Turner, a processual approach based on liminality, social dramas, and other cognate concepts.

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ACTEURS ET MOUVEMENTS SOCIAUX (CHSP)

SÉANCE 7

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Célia Keren (Sciences Po Toulouse / IUF),
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The Anthropology of Revolutions

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Commentaire

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