

## Summaries of articles

***From Constituant Universalism to Local Interests:  
The Debate Over the Creation of “Departments”  
in France (1789-1790)***

M.-V. OZOUF-MARIGNIER

*The cutting up of France into “departments”, begun in Fall 1789, led to social and political unity and equality. Controversy arose in the National Assembly when the project was proposed, setting deputies hostile to dismembering the provinces off against constitution committee members promoting uniformization. The weight of the dominant ideology (and, most importantly, of the unitary doctrine) impeded those favoring “particularist” policies from expressing themselves freely. Arguments favoring the provinces’ autonomy were based on geographic and philosophical considerations which dissimulated true political stakes. Parliamentary unanimity formed around a determinism which viewed the rational organization of space as the key to an ideal society, but there was no cognizance of the territory’s real organization or of its actors. On a local level, however, the notables’ clamoring manifested the French’s serious dissatisfaction with the disruption of the spatial orientation of their political, social and economic relationships and of urban infrastructure in particular. Revindications were rampant, and their arguments revealed both the importance of the stakes and the nature of the elites’ mental tools. The elites, usually wanting solidarity and established power relations to be respected, also seized the occasion to modify these relations to further their own interests. In this way they deflected the aims of the initial project.*

***Representation of Merchant Space in the Eighteenth Century***

D. MARGAIRAZ

*In their reflections on the merits of economic regulation, 18th century French economists concerned themselves with questions of distribution networks and national development planning. Starting from different theoretical bases, Cantillon, Turgot and Necker developed their ideas about economic organization. Their debates over fairs and markets allow us to understand actors’ and users’ major mental productions. Most of them proposed local egalitarian trade networks which would minimize freight costs. The majority of administrators espoused a liberal point of view. They were, nevertheless, led to conceive a space planning policy in order to take small producers’ and consumers’ interests into account.*

***Uneven Economic Space in France in the 1830's***

B. LEPETIT

*Rediscovered a century after its invention, the Saint-Malo/Geneva line was raised, some twenty years ago, to the status of a dividing line splitting pre-industrial France into two regions with differing levels of economic development. Its meaning has, more recently, been called into question. Employing statistical analysis of 33 departmental economic indicators, this article resuscitates and relativizes this division. While economic unevenness existed in France before the industrial revolution, the Saint-Malo/Geneva line is but one limit amongst others. It is, in addition, only approximate; as an analytic tool, its usefulness varies according to the problem under consideration.*

***Wheat Cultivation in Mid-Nineteenth Century France: Output, Prices, Salaries, and Other Costs***J. HEFFER, J. MAIRESSE,  
and J.-M. CHANUT

*This study is based on information published in certain districts concerning an 1852 agricultural survey. After a descriptive presentation highlighting regional contrasts, an econometric model is used to account for intra-regional differences in wheat output and prices, as well as in production expenditures (eg. men, women and children's salaries, ox and horse harnesses, and tenant farming rates). Output equations show that people's work's marginal productivity was not lower than their salaries. Other price and cost equations indicate the importance of demographic situation and of the relationship between production and local wheat consumption. The overall results suggest that while there was regional and even national integration of wheat markets in France at that time, this was not true for the labor market and that of other production factors.*

***Territory Occupation, Geosystem and Social Systems: Rome and Its Enemies from the Mountains and Desert in Ancient Maghreb***

P. LEVEAU

*The author takes up the debate concerning the triad characterizing pre-industrial North-West African societies: the mountain-dweller, the nomad, and the un-Romanized peasant of the hills and plains. The hoped-for progress in this domaine does not depend upon the drawing up of more complete, precise and better documented archeological maps. It depends, rather, on a pluri-disciplinary practice which combines contributions from natural and earth sciences with reflection about the occupation of territory. We must keep in mind the evolution of ideas since L. Febvre concerning the relationship between man and his environment. Three examples, one illustrating each element of the triad, are discussed.*

***Capitalist Development and Social Structure in Argentina, 1880-1930***

H. F. CASTILLO and J. S. TULCHIN

*The essay deals with the agrarian structures that developed in Argentina at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th in response to the rising demand for foodstuffs in Europe and the demographic pressures there. The focus is on the*

*dynamic process of expansion, paying particular attention to the dialectical relation between internal processes and external ones during the period of expansion, with the objective of describing how one mode of production comes to dominate others within a given social formation and what are its specific mechanisms of domination. The authors argue that credit was the central mechanism through which a fraction of the dominant class, in alliance with international capital, exerted its dominance and contributed to shaping the social and productive structures of the nation. The authors establish that there was significant interregional variation in the ecological characteristics and structural conditions across Argentina. Using data drawn from the Third National Census (1914), they define a set of variables reflecting productive structures from region to region. Then, drawing on data from the Archives of the Banco de la Nacion, they demonstrate how credit flows, from 1910 to 1930, varied from region to region according to the productive structures and the linkages to the international market which reflected the hierarchy of dominance within the society and the vulnerability of different productive groups to external pressures.*

**Concepts of Space and Time in the South-East Asian Archipelago**

D. LOMBARD

*Our independent concepts of space and time have been forged by such a long history that we cannot easily imagine their being fused elsewhere in the world. We examine here the case of the South-East Asian archipelago in which “modern” notions of geographic space and linear time appeared only just before the 16th century—primarily in the merchant cities (heavily influenced by Islam) which began to develop at that time. A more ancient system continues to exist (particularly in Java) alongside the “modern” one, in which space and time (like all other notions) are divided amongst five fundamental “poles” which cannot, practically speaking, function as frames of reference like our own. One sees how such a system can but slow down the establishment of an ideology of “development”.*

**A Captive’s Memory**

D. NORDMAN

*An Englishman, Thomas Pellow, abducted by pirates from Salé, spent twenty-three years in Morocco and was made head of a group of renegades. His rich and exceptional text allows us to grasp a form of spatial memory, based on often precise descriptions of his seventeen expeditions as well as on a sizable number (comparable to that of Arab geographers) of toponyms. Pellow also supplies figures, concerning arms and combat losses, which seem not only plausible, but particularly coherent and important as well. Dates, lastly, are never provided. This three-part memory concerning space, figures, time, and the relationship between space and time, leads us to consider governmental practices (the military, political and administrative characters of travel/movement), Morocco’s internal situation, Pellow’s position in the political system, and the text’s autobiographical nature.*