

## SUMMARIES

R. CIPRIANI, *For a theory on diffuse religion*

Beyond the debate on the apparent crisis of the institutional aspects of religion – according to current theories on secularization that are not yet based on convincing empirical investigations – a macroscopic series of elements indicates the strategic role religion still plays in a lot of socio-political contexts in which the presence of diffuse religion is evident. The article provides a theoretical definition of the concept of diffuse religion and then indicates concrete itineraries to come to understand the Italian case.

E.M. KASSALOW, *Technological innovation and industrial relations in the U.S.A. An outline of the situation and of present trends*

The article deals with the debate on the impact new technologies have on the labour market in the U.S.A. by comparing the main positions of the academics on one side and of the trade-unions on the other side. There is also an analysis of the consequences that derive from change for strategies, organization and trade-union actions: there are sectors of the manufacturing industries where the unions are most active; whereas employment is created mainly in areas, companies and sectors in which the unions are absent or weak.

F. PARDI, *From selfregulation to selfreference; the role of communication media in the recent systemic theories*

The paper deals with the concept of Autopoiesis or Selfreference in Sociology. In particular the paper takes into account the problem of generalized media for change as a cybernetic hierarchy, which operates not only by selective indications according to the Parsonsian theory, but by productions and identifications of social actors, who constitute the social system.

Circularity and selfproduction are analysed from the classical view-point of problematic relationship concerning the system-observation.

C. CORRADI, *Surrender-and-Catch. Kurt H. Wolff's contribution to the epistemology of qualitative analysis*

Surrender-and-Catch is a two-fold concept formulated by Kurt H. Wolff in his theory of knowledge. « Surrender » indicates the phenomenological attitude of openness to knowledge; « catch » is the result of such unconditional cognitive exposure. In Wolff's writings, surrender-and-catch applies to human experience of many kinds (existential, aesthetic, scientific, ecc.). From the point of view of qualitative analysis in sociology, it is particularly useful to illuminate the experience of the researcher in the field; the postulates and criteria of surrender-and-catch can help us tackle the methodological problems of the life-history approach.

S.N. EISENSTADT, *Martin Buber's contribution to sociological analysis*

Martin Buber's sociological thinking that is strictly connected with the main issues of modern, social, theoretical, empirical philosophy, is mainly concerned with the understanding of phenomena typical of social and cultural innovation, creativity and renewal. The author's investigation is dynamic and succeeds in defining the typical conservative culture of society. In this framework Buber's concept of culture appears fundamental, i.e. culture understood as a style of living, not as an ideological system.



V.M. GIANNINI - G. SFORZA, *Vocational training: needs and opportunities for action*

The thesis of this article is that the « inadequacies » of the Italian public service system contribute to increase the gap between offer and demand for vocational training, in particular in the industrial system that is under rapid technological change. The study reveals that the legislation concerning training policies and union experiences require interventions typical of a post-industrial state. These consist in balancing offer and demand for vocational training and in guaranteeing areas of control by workers and their union representatives. The implementation of the above interventions is barred by the bureaucratic logics that pervades the whole of public institutions.

C. ROSSETTI, *Colonialism, nationalism and the rise of the new states in West Africa: the history of Ghana and Nigeria*

In this paper, the author argues that new states failed to institutionalize a democratic and stable political system because the modes of colonial incorporation and penetration gave rise to a national African political class, which came to control administrative machinery and its connections with the net of industries supported by public funds.

The Nigerian and Ghanaian cases are interesting, in a comparative setting, because they shed light on the crucial issue that derives from the lack of an élite determined to bring about constitutional reforms and bring rulers under the law.

L. TOMASI, *Religion and modernity: survival or revival?*

The article intends to stress some issues that were debated in the 18th International Conference of Sociologists of Religion that took place in Lovanio (Belgium) from 19th to 22nd August 1985 on the topic *Religion and modernity: survival or revival?*.

It deals with the charisma issue in particular with reference to mass media and religious developments. It includes the analysis of four papers: « The event "charism" and the mass media », « Charism and religious change in the Northern Countries », « Charism in our contemporary world », « Modernity and religious evolution », with the intention to lead to the interpretation of religious phenomena in a complex society as the present one.