

Summaries of articles

Towards a unified theory of kingship and aristocracy

Dean A. MILLER

The study attempts to bring together the "typological" phenomena of kingship and aristocracy, emphasizing the expression of both forms in the areas of liminality, the interstitial and the mediatory, as well as the area of the totally forbidden. Thus the king must violate primary taboos against the sources of power and its exercise in order to rule; and he must himself express "doubled" (and therefore anomalous) powers as part of his essential stance. The Hero-Noble expresses other values; those of the liminar realm, such as rebellion and animality, but he also appears in such "reversed" manifestations as the Amazon and the Trickster. The two forms are morphologically related in that both arise from the abyss of chaotic or potential power and manage to reach a balanced pattern: the king balances magic and magistracy; the aristocrat balances style against animal energy. Yet both express that urge to power which is "beyond the safe limits defined by society".

The Indo-European king and the synthesis of the three functions

Daniel DUBUISSON

On the basis of his findings in Mythe et épopée, vol. 2, and several earlier studies, Georges Dumézil concludes: "The indo-european king, by the very nature of his being, effected the synthesis of the three functions." The author of the present essay seeks to strengthen the evidence for this conclusion by offering new translations and commentaries: an Avestan text (Yast 23, str. 5 and 7), an Irish text (Dindsenchas 40, paras. 5-6), and several Sanskrit texts. Some concern the rājasūya ("the ancient Indian royal consecration"), and the others are extracts from later sources (Rāmāyaṇa I, 68, 1-5 and Markaṇḍeya Puraṇa 20, 1-7).

This testimony confirms that the indo-european conception of royalty was based on a coherent vision of the world and of society. If the king, through various procedures, accomplishes the synthesis of the three functions, it is because he reigns in a society whose structure and basic theology (as well as a part of its literature) were elaborated with the aid of this convenient conceptual framework.

The family and love in the Early Roman Empire

Paul VEYNE

Between the age of Cesar and that of Marcus Aurelius, sexual morality and sexual practice underwent a profound transformation. A sexuality in which the essential thing was to be active, was generally replaced by a heterosexual sexuality; a morality of obligatory acts gave way to a morality of conjugal love, in which the couple was the normal unit; and, finally, marriage became an institution adopted throughout the society. More generally, a morality of statutory acts (which differed according to social class) and of interdictions rooted simply in the feeling of shame gave way to a universalist morality of interiorized virtues, in which the forbidden became a matter of morality or of immora-

lity. *The causes of this transformation were political (transition from a competitive feudal system to a service nobility) and psychological (capacity of self-affirmation, plebian conservatism and self-repression). Now, this pagan morality of the time of the Antonines is identical to Christian morality; yet it took form before the spread of Christianity. This suggests not that we should reverse the relationship morality-religion but rather that we should split up the aggregate called "religion" into a number of distinct aspects.*

***The Cologne market price-list (1531-1797):
market structure and grain prices***

Franz IRSIGLER

The market price-list of the city of Cologne provides an almost uninterrupted record of the average prices and of the quantities traded of wheat, rye, barley, and oats for the period 1531-1797. The study of the relationships between prices and quantities makes it possible not only to examine the city's pricing policy, particularly during crises (for example, those of 1556-1557 and of 1740-1741), but also to analyze the seasonal structure of price movements, as well as its long-term structure. A fundamental change in the structure of the Cologne grain market can be observed in the seventeenth century: the maximum in the quantity of grain offered shifts from the autumn and winter months to the beginning of the summer. In order to account for this change the essay puts forward three hypotheses concerning modifications occurring, respectively, in agricultural production, the grain trade, and consumer behavior.

***The spread of cholera in France
in 1832 and in 1854***

Patrice BOURDELAIS, Jean-Yves RAULOT

By mapping the evidence of excess mortality month by month for these two cholera epidemics, which were the most deadly and most typical of their kind, the authors are able to provide a kinetic description of the propagation of the Asian disease throughout the whole of France. In the first epidemic, the contagion hardly went beyond the outer perimeter of the Paris Basin, where from April to November the departments most seriously affected suffered twice the number of deaths as in the preceding years. On the other hand, in 1854, the epidemic which raged in the Northeastern quarter of France also became rampant in the South, in areas bordering on the Mediterranean. Moreover, in these two centers, the virulence of the disease was such that the number of burials quadrupled during eight months in the departments of Ariège and Haute-Marne.

Traditionally it has been assumed that hydric anademia explains, for the most part, the paths taken by the disease and its varying intensity, but recent epidemiological research demonstrates the importance of direct interhuman contamination. Consequently, beyond those vectors which have often been involved in epidemics, that is to say soldiers and migrants, we should also consider, in France in the first half of the nineteenth century, the evolution in the structure and volume of commercial exchanges. The increase in the circulation of men and goods may account for the fact that new areas of propagation of the disease appeared in 1854, pointing to an increase in mobility and the opening up of entire regions to trade.

The demographic adventures of France and Ireland

Jacques DUPÂQUIER

In the nineteenth century, France and Ireland differed from the rest of Western Europe due to the exceptional character of their demographic history. As early as the first decade of the century, France experienced a major reduction in fertility — to such a degree that its share in the European total fell from 15 % to 7%. And starting in 1850, Ireland adopted an ultra-Malthusian regime which, combined with an enormous emigration (9 million people in all), reduced its population from 8 500 000 to 4 400 000 inhabitants.

In both cases this divergent evolution originated in a crisis resulting from demographic pressure; but the social structures of the two countries gave a different orientation to their respective destinies. During the Ancien Régime, the social structure tended to hold the French population within certain limits; when these broke down in the Revolution, the French began to regulate their problems by the voluntary restriction of births. In contrast, the English landlords, who controlled the distribution of land in Ireland, encouraged population growth at first. When they sought to check it, it was too late; due to the inertia of demographic phenomena, Ireland was unable to avoid catastrophe. The Great Famine seems to have entailed a loss of 2 400 000 persons: 600 000 through excess mortality, 300 000 as a result of a diminished birth rate, and 1 500 000 through excess emigration. It was then that the Irish adopted a strictly Malthusian system: the rate of definitive celibacy in the population rose to 25 % among the women and to 29,5 % among the men; and the average age at marriage rose to 29 years among the women and to 32 years among the men. On the other hand, the first signs of the voluntary restriction of births do not appear until the end of the nineteenth century.

It is only in the twentieth century, and more particularly in the course of the last twenty years, that the convergence of the two demographic systems becomes evident: the exceptional situation of France ended first and then that of Ireland.