

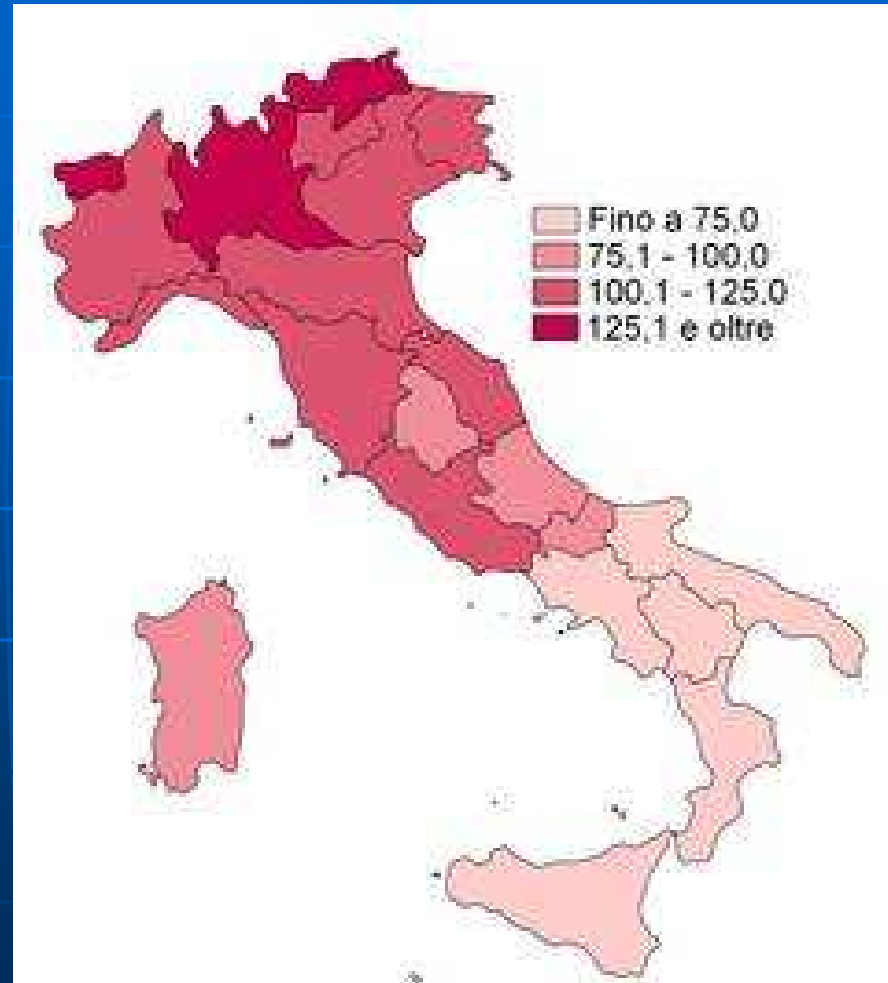
Lesson 2

Cities, landscapes and economic development: the Italian case

Contemporary city:
descriptions and projects

Gabriele Pasqui

Italy 150 years after Unity: a country divided in two ...



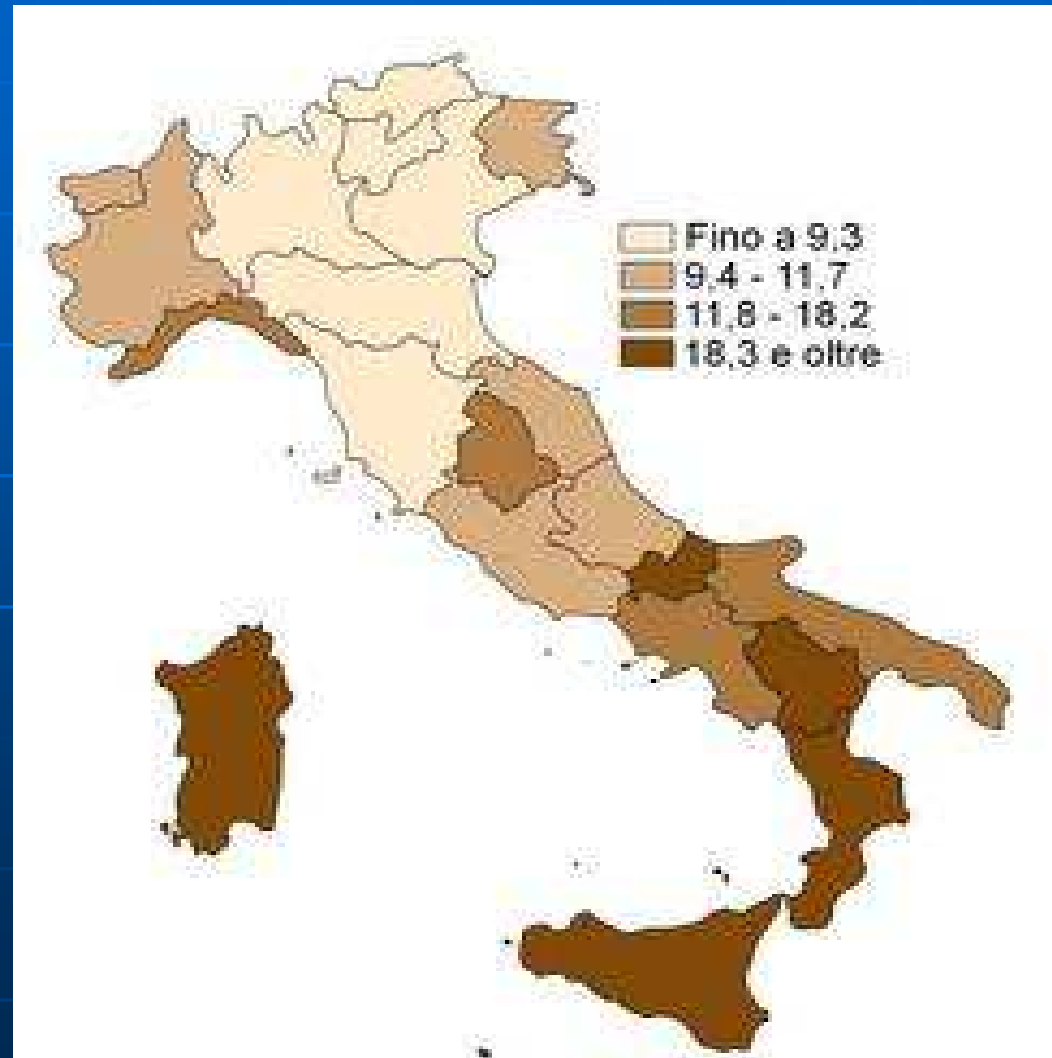
Regional per capita GDP 2008
(Italy = 100)

... with low activity rates in the Southern regions...



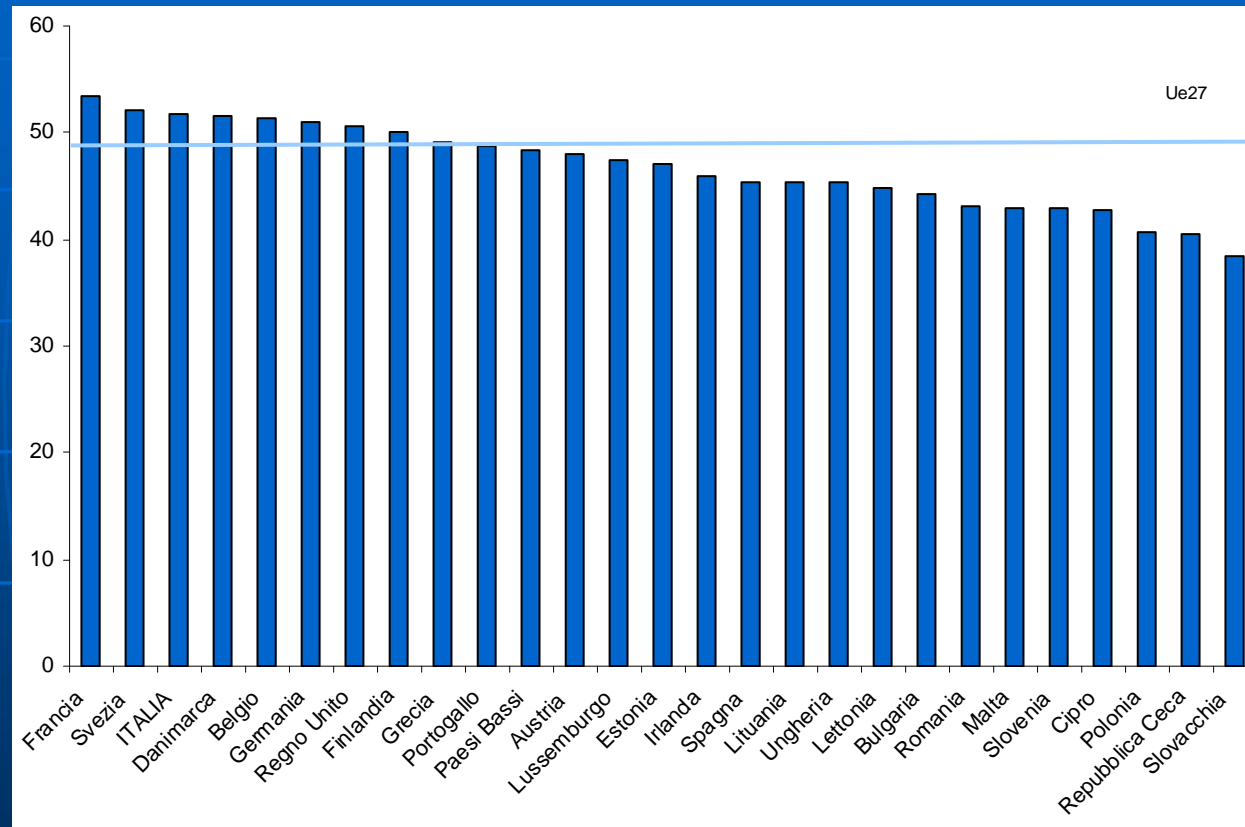
Regional activity rates (2008)

... a high % of irregular jobs in the South...



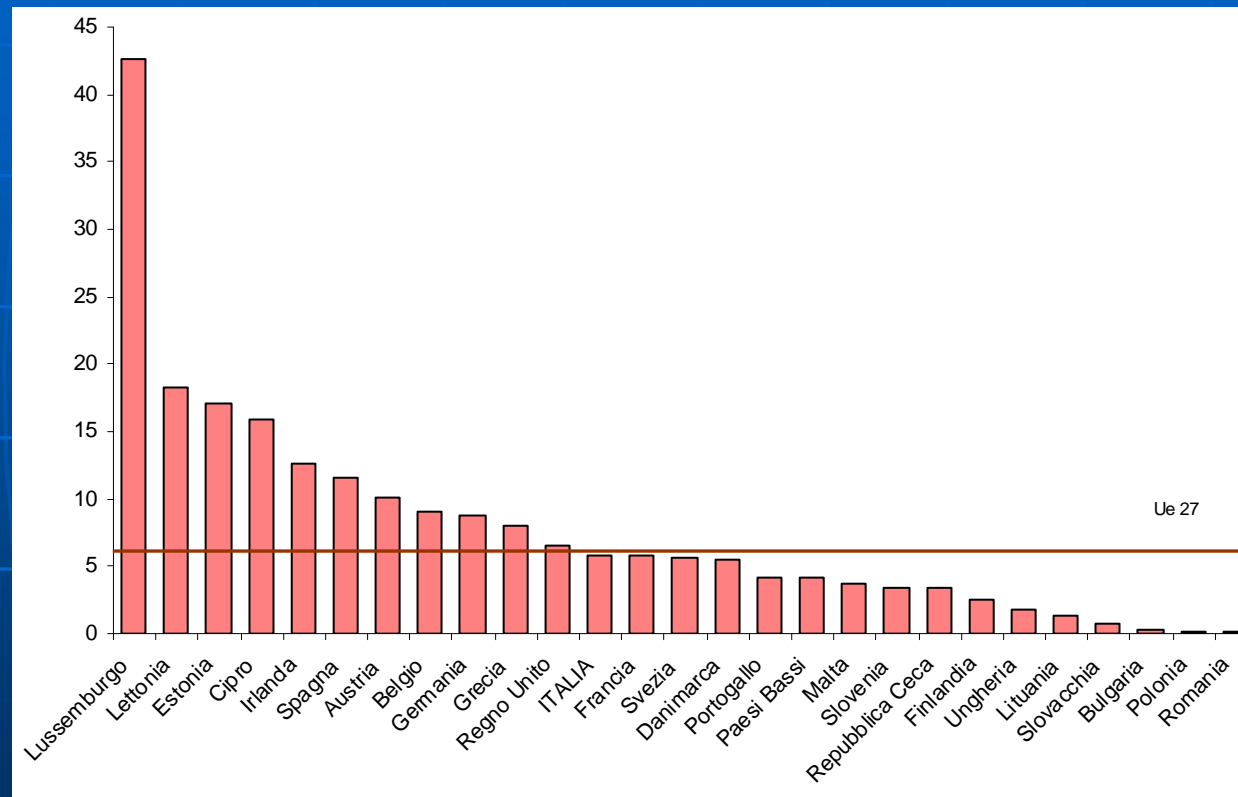
% of irregular jobs in Italian regions (2008)

... a dramatic phenomenon of ageing...



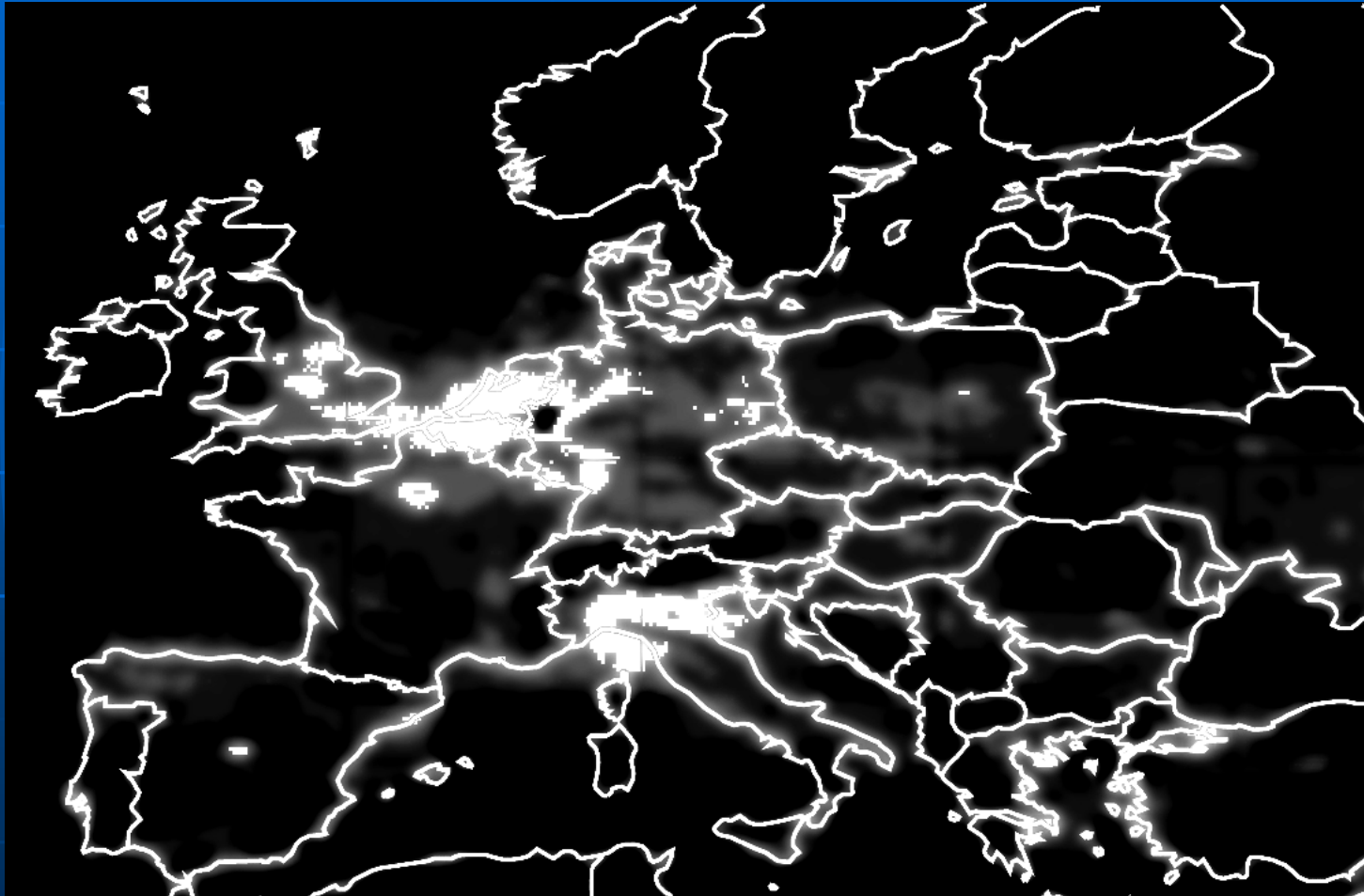
Age dependence index in EU countries (2007)

... a growing, but not so high, rate of immigrants



% of foreign citizens in EU countries (2008)

... an unsustainable growth model



Nitrogen dioxide in the troposphere (Europe, 2007)

How was it possible?



Italy in the second half of XIX Century is a less developed country...

.. based on agriculture and especially large landed estate ..



.. a peripheral country,
with 70% of workers occupied in primary sector..



... a country with strong social problems and inequalities
and with a low quality of life and health especially in rural
areas in the Southern regions
(78% of illiterate on population in 1861)



In the second half of XIX Century starts the first cycle of emigration towards America and northern Europe (between 1876 and 1900 more 5.2 millions of italians emigrate)



In the last decades of XIX Century industrial areas are limited and concentrated in the North, especially in sectors as textile and food...



... between XIX and XX Century there is the first industrial take off, concentrated in the North Western regions and in some sectors

(automobile, steel industry: Agnelli, Falck, Pirelli, ...).

Crucial is the role of the State and of private banks



In these years there are dramatic changes in Italian society, with an important role of the organisations of workers (cooperatives, trade unions) and with strong social conflicts



After World War I Italy is a country in crisis. The reorganisation of industry from military to civil sectors is slow and the capitalistic class is not able to oppose to fascism



During fascism Italy is economically a closed country (autarchy), with a strong role of state and an authoritarian approach ...



... some important economic institutions and infrastructures
born in the fascist period (i.e. IRI)



After the defeat in II World War Italy was a destroyed and divided country, struggling for reconstruction..



During the '50 there is a new migratory cycle, especially internal and from countryside to cities



In the '50s and '60s cities grow without planning, with a crucial role of informal and illegal settlements ...



.... or with the building of new public housing that represented a cultural shock for immigrants



Nevertheless, after reconstruction, Italy lives the long-standing growth period of its history.

Starting from the hal of the '50s Italian GDP grows very quickly (between 1958 and 1963 the annual medium growth rate is 6,6%)



These are the years of the so called “economic boom”, in which consumption and lifestyles change dramatically (car ownership and mass tourism)



During the '60s Italy is a young country, with strong conflicts but also with a strong social mobilisation and the search of happiness for individuals and groups



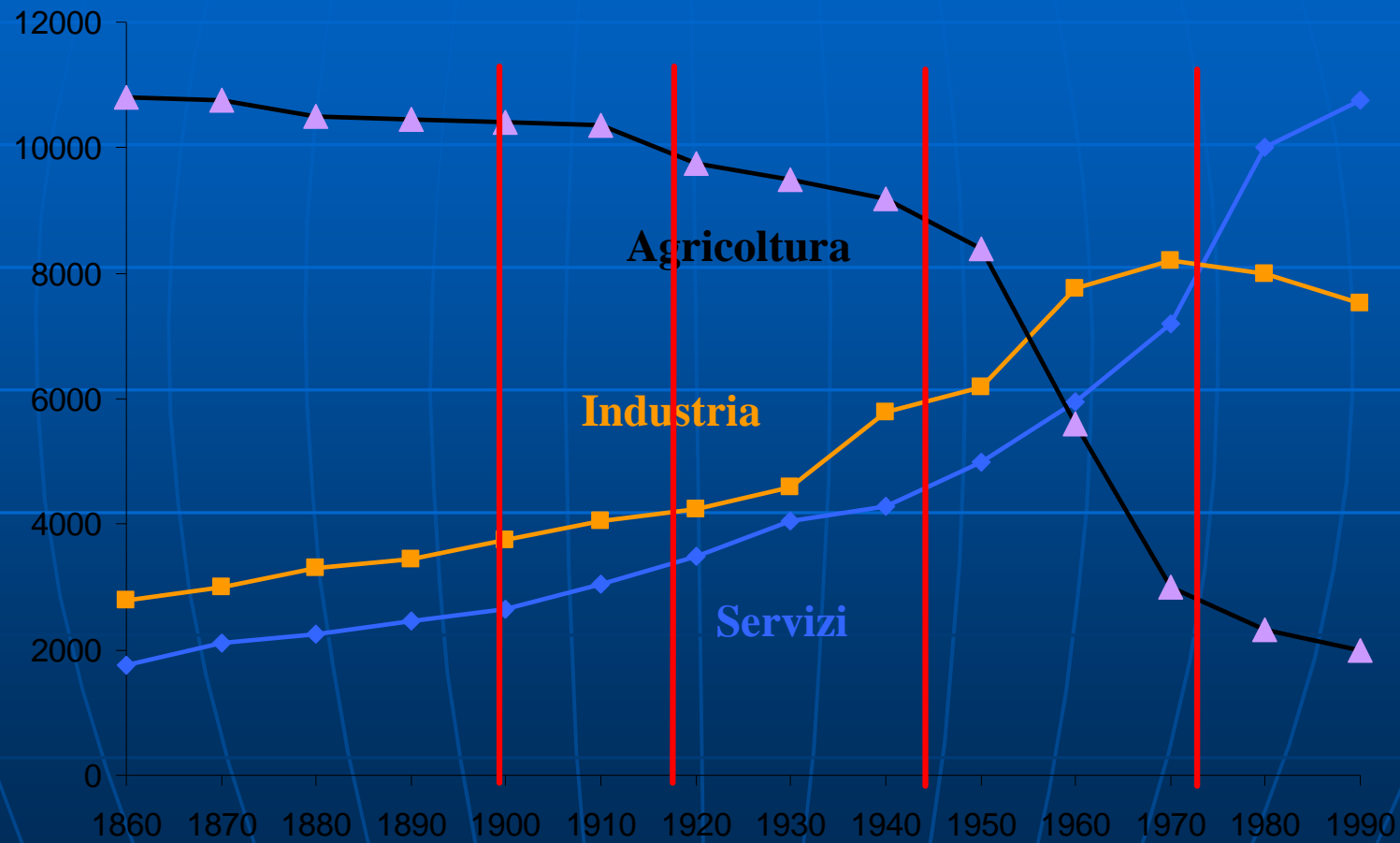
The problems of the North-South are faced with huge but partially ineffective public investments (the so called “cathedrals in the desert”) and with deficit spending policies



Urbanisation, growth of family income and consumption, standardisation of lifestyles shift the focus of social processes from production to consumption



The number of workers in agriculture decrease, while industrial and tertiary workers grow



The geography of manufacturing changes, with a new role of SMEs. It is the “personal capitalism” model, with a mix of different typologies of activity



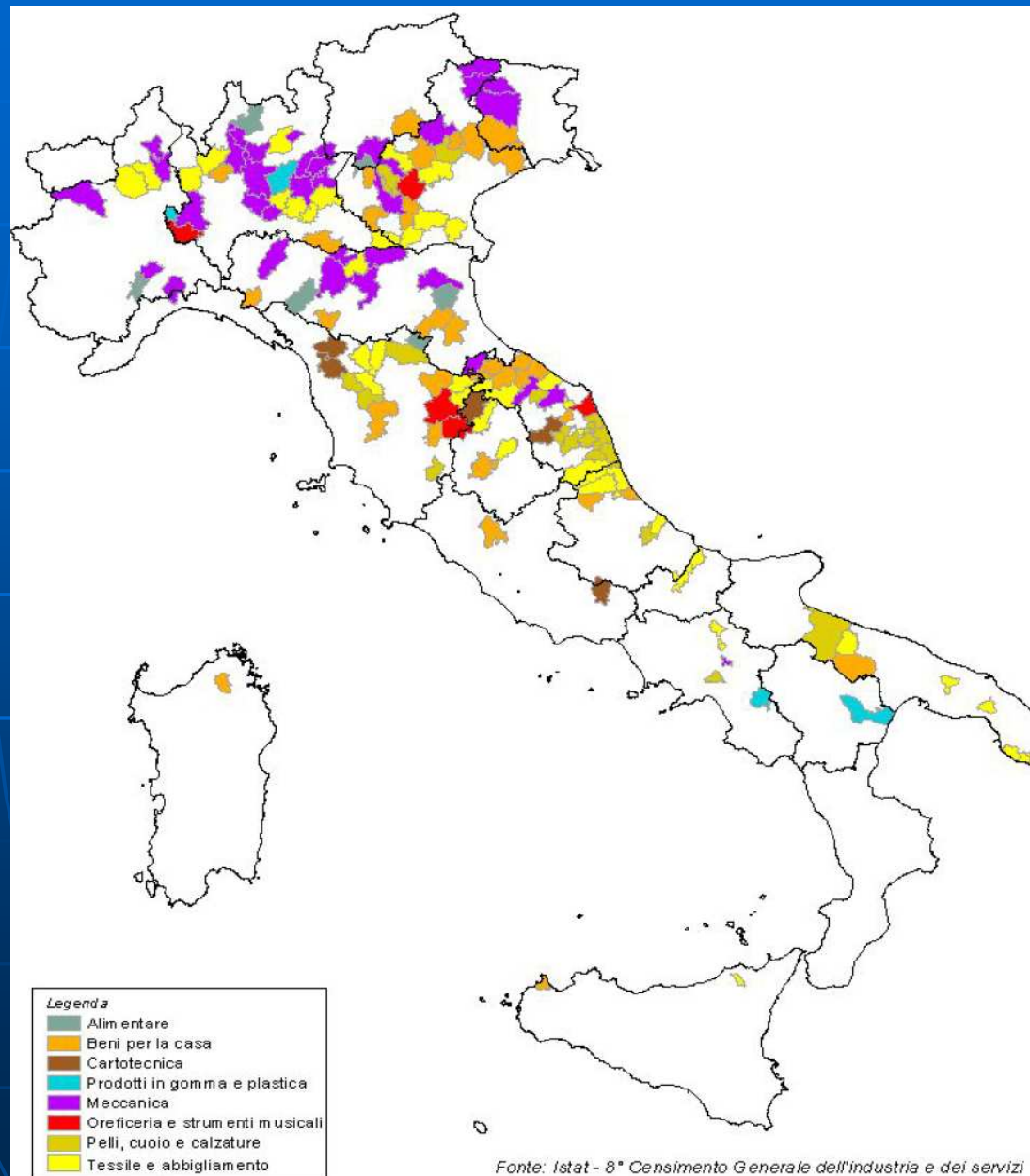
These are the years of an emerging “third Italy”...

6.1 La terza Italia



6.1 Il riorientamento dell'interpretazione dello sviluppo italiano in "La problematica territoriale dello sviluppo italiano" di Bagnasco, 1977

... with its industrial districts and the “made in Italy”



It is a growth model that has its costs in terms of sustainability: the diffused city uses intensively the land and gives poor services

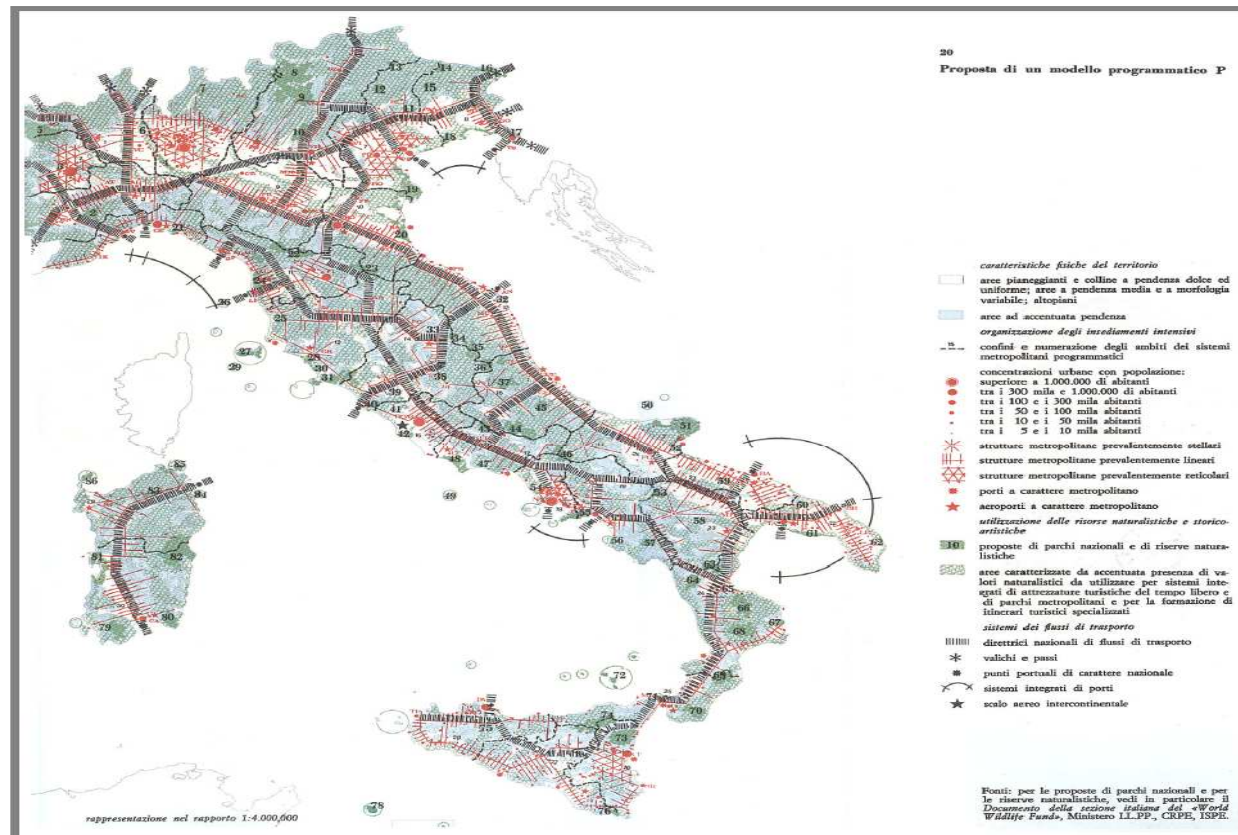


In the '60s Italy tries, without a long period success, to develop new hi-tech industrial sectors (electronics, ..)



The centre-left governments in the '60s try to promote a national program of spatial development

Il riequilibrio a scala nazionale



3. Proposta di un modello programmatico P dal Progetto 80 "Urbanistica", 57,1971

The growth decade stops in the middle of '60s, and new strong social and political conflicts emerge



After the oil crisis and the crash of international monetary system at the beginning of the '70s Italy enters in a long standing crisis, with inflation and stagnation (stagflation)



The crisis is partially limited by the role of some SMEs that are able to internationalize their markets (examples Benetton, Luxottica, ..)



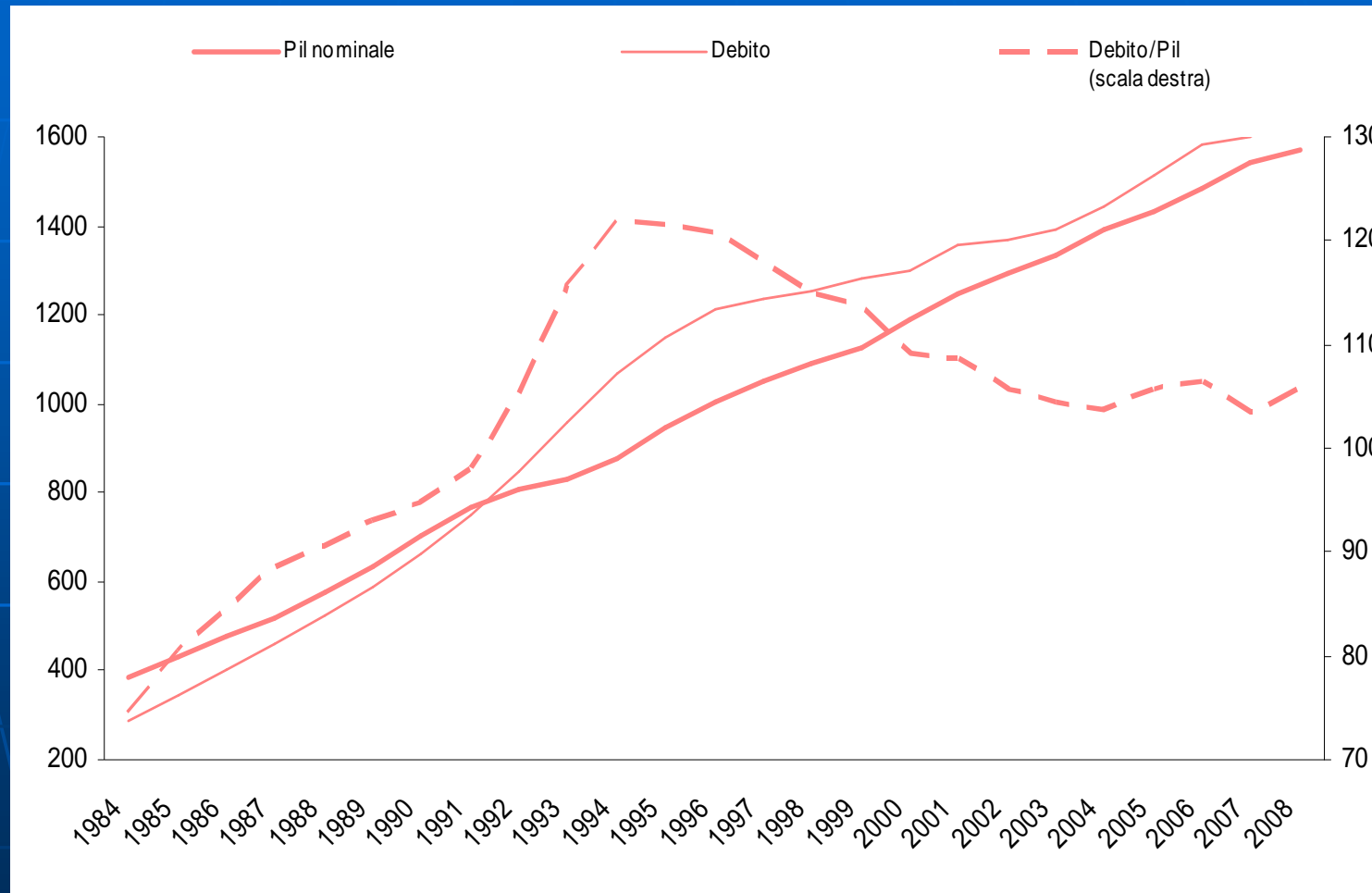
Some new districts grow up, also in the Southern regions and in different sectores (the example of Natuzzi)...



Nevertheless, 70s and 80s are a very difficult period for Italian economy and also for Italian territory, with a complex process of financiarization



In this years the public debt blows up



Debt and Debt/GDP ratio in Italy (1984/2008)

... there is a new tertiarization of urban economics with new economic clusters (fashion and design)



Economic sectors use intensively landscapes and environmental resources in tourism...



... in the economy of culture ...



... in new local development paths based on the valorisation of local resources



Nevertheless, the general condition is: a low productivity,
low level of investments in R&D, specialisation in low tech
sectors



In the first part of the '90s, Italy faces a strong financial crisis, but it is able to enter in the new monetary system and in the Eurozone, using EU constraints as an opportunity

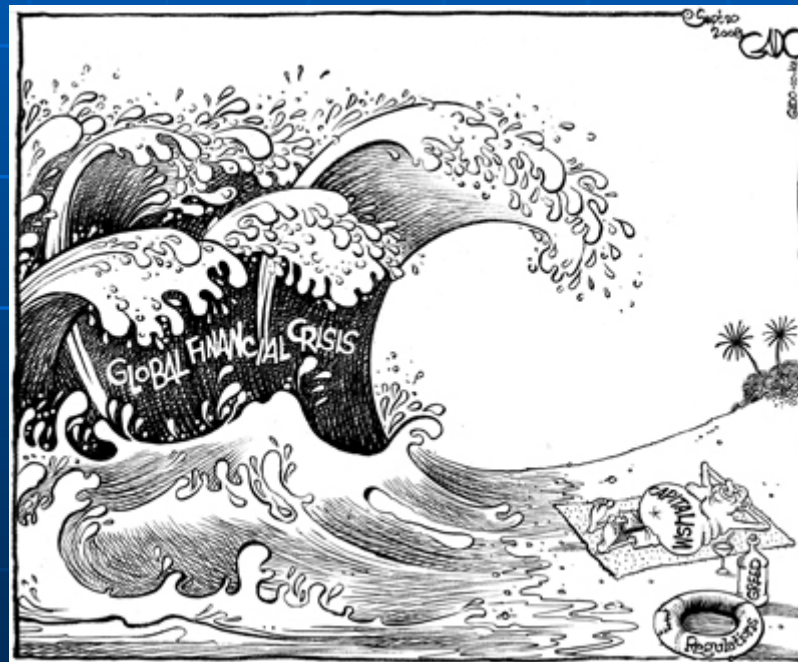


In the last 15 years Italy is a country with low levels of economic growth, a high public debt, a limited number of excellent firms, based on a dissipative development model. The recent real estate and financial crisis can generate a long stagnation



Now Italy is living a strong financial and economic crisis,
as other European countries.

This crisis is connected with a general restructuring of
global economic and political relations



... the country is more and more “old”...



... with a strong individualisation and a growing feeling of fear (for example for immigrants)...



... immigrants are not considered as an opportunity...



.. The labour market is more and more insecure, with a strong precarisation...



..differences between North and South are strong, and the role of criminal organisation in the control of territory is high



Three scenarios (1)

The continuity scenario

- Italy as a productive platform, with a new economic growth but a limited role of the country in international economic dynamics..
- .. Land consumption and environmental crisis, with new under-used area...
- A development model based on mass tourism and logistic
- A real estate growth in cities without quality,
- .. A strong social uncertainty and individualisation

Three scenarios (2)

The decline scenario

- Italy as a stagnant economy, with a persistent economic crisis and a financial downgrading in Europe..
- .. A country characterized by strong degradation of infrastructures, services and common goods, and the growth of ruins and new derelict areas and settlements...
- ..a society under pressure in an old country, with strong social inequalities and a political fragmentation

Three scenarios (3)

The quality scenario

- Italy as a country able to experiment a new development model, based also on some traditional resources..
- .. With an economic development model based on a new consumption style, the valorisation of landscape and environmental resources, the identification of new innovative clusters open to international markets...
- ..a younger society, able to attract high quality human capital and to invest in science and technology, experimenting a new idea of smart cities and a new welfare model