

# **The Politics of Peripheral Incorporation: Italy's Mezzogiorno and Turkey's Kurdistan**

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Authors: Nicola Degli Esposti & Angelo Rinaldi  
London School of Economics and Political Science, UK

## Abstract

This paper analyses two historical experiences of regional subordinate integration into national polities: Italy's annexation of the 'Two Sicilies' in the 1860s and Turkey's integration of most Kurdish-majority areas in the 1920s. In both regions, after the initial revolts, the integration of the landed aristocracies into the national political system led to a crystallisation of their class structure and the widening of the development gap with the countries' centre. On the one hand, the two regions came to occupy a similarly subordinate position in their national economy, largely focused on agriculture and mining and, later on, supplying cheap labour to the industrialising core. On the other hand, the local ruling classes became an essential component of the social bloc in power and played a pivotal role in maintaining conservative parliamentary majorities. This paper analyses these two cases to develop the concept of peripheral incorporation theoretically, including its differences and similarities with the experiences of colonialism.

## Author information

**Angelo Rinaldi** holds a BA and an MA in Philosophy from the University of Bologna and an MA in Philology, Literature, and History from the University of Foggia. His Master's thesis, 'Attendibili di Capitanata: sorveglianza poliziesca e repressione politica', won the 24th edition of the Spadolini Prize in contemporary history and has been published by Società e Storia under the title 'Controllo della mobilità e sorveglianza politica nel Risorgimento: riflessioni a partire dal caso di studio degli Attendibili di Capitanata (1848-1860)'. He is currently pursuing a PhD in history at the University of Teramo.

**Nicola Degli Esposti** is a Fellow at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He holds a PhD in International Relations from the LSE, an MA in Middle Eastern Studies from Leiden University, and a BA in History from the University of Bologna. In his PhD thesis analysed the history of Kurdish nationalism focusing on the role of class politics in shaping the divergent trajectories of the Kurdish national movements in Iraq and Turkey and was based on extensive fieldwork in Iraqi Kurdistan and Europe. He teaches international relations of the Middle East and international political theory.

### Contact Information

[n.degli-esposti1@lse.ac.uk](mailto:n.degli-esposti1@lse.ac.uk) - [arinaldi@unite.it](mailto:arinaldi@unite.it)

**Wednesday, 23 June** - Session 14 - **14,00-16,00 CET (Webex)** - APH Forum for young scholars on "Identities"

**Luiss**  
School of Government

Via di Villa Emiliani, 14  
00197 Roma  
T +39 06 85225052  
[sog@luiss.it](mailto:sog@luiss.it)