

#### UNIVERSITY OF PALERMO

MIGRANTS, HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY SUMMER SCHOOL

### **Summer School 2020**

### **Forgotten Immigrants**

Sergio Bontempelli

# "Forgotten Immigrants"



#### See:

- Sergio Bontempelli, *I migranti*«dimenticati», in «A-Dif»,
  website of ADIF-Associazione
  Diritti e Frontiere, 6th February
  2016, http://rs.gs/L82
- The italian public debate on migration policy is entirely focused on the asylum issue, and particularly on people landing in south-italian shores: for many journalists and opinion leaders, the word "immigrant" is often a synonymous of "asylum seeker"
- ♦ In this framework, the so-called "economic immigrants" can be defined as "forgotten immigrants"

### Migrants landing on Italy's shores

Year	Immigrants
2011	62.692
2012	13.267
2013	42.925
2014	170.100
2015	153.842
2016	181.436
2017	119.369
2018	23.370
2019	11.471
Totale	778.472

Sources: for yeas 2011-2013, Redazionale, *Gli sbarchi in Italia negli ultimi 10 anni*, in OpenPolis, website, http://bit.ly/2LUp2xW, 5th February 2018; for years 2014-2016: Centro Studi e Ricerche Idos, *Dossier Statistico Immigrazione 2017*, Idos, Roma 2017, p. 122; for 2017-2019: Ministero dell'Interno, *Cruscotto Statistico Giornaliero*, data on migrants landed in Italy, updated to 31th December 2018, in http://bit.ly/2AuIzAU.

## Comparisons...

Immigrants arriving in Italy, 2017	343.440 (1)
Immigrants arriving in Italy by sea, 2017	119.369 (2)
Asylum applications, 2017	130.119 (3)
New non-asylum residence permits released in 2018	178.361 (4)
New asylum residence permits (including asylum application residence permits) released in 2018	63.648 (5)

#### **Sources:**

- (1) Centro Studi e Ricerche Idos, *Dossier Statistico Immigrazione 2019*, Idos, Roma 2019, p. 75.
- (2) Centro Studi e Ricerche Idos, Dossier Statistico Immigrazione 2017, Idos, Roma 2017, p. 122.
- (3) Ministero dell'Interno, Domande di asilo in Italia. Riepilogo anno 2017, in https://bit.ly/3jPdifW.
- (4) Centro Studi e Ricerche Idos, Dossier Statistico Immigrazione 2019, Idos, Roma 2019, p. 466.
- (5) Ibidem.
- (6) Ibidem.

### Immigrants as a workforce

Area	% immigrants on	
	total workforce	
Building sector	17,2%	
Agricolture	17,9%	
Hotels and restaurants	17,9%	
Domestic sector	68,9%	

Source: Centro Studi e Ricerche Idos, Dossier Statistico Immigrazione 2019, Idos,

Roma 2019, p. 261.

### The italian "quota system" (1)

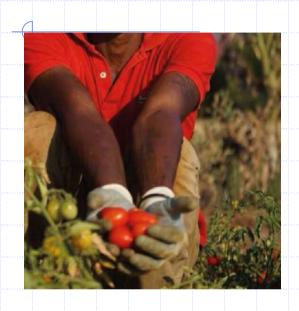


#### Reference to the italian law:

- Testo Unico Immigrazione, decreto legislativo 286/98, artt. 3 e 22 (Legislative Decree 25.7.1998, No. 286 on "Consolidated Act of Provisions concerning immigration and the condition of third country nationals", art. 3 and 22)

- In Italy, policies on labour migration are based on a "quota system"
- Every year, the government has to establish "quotas" or "limits" to the number of foreigner workers that will be allowed to entry into the country to fill labour needs
- ♦ For this purpose, the government issues a special Quota Decree (the so-called "decreto flussi")

### The italian "quota system" (2)



#### Worth noting:

- According to the italian law, immigrant workers are allowed to enter into the country only with a work visa, and have to apply for a residence permit once arrived. There is no "work permit", because the autorization to work is "embedded" in the residence permit

- All new work visas are issued within the limits of the annual quota
- ◆ This "quota system", however, regulates only the new immigration from abroad; immigrants already living or working in Italy are not included in this system

### New policies during the crisis



After the onset of the economic crisis, the ministries of labor and of the interior decided to tighten the rules that regulate the entry of migrants

### "Zero Immigration"?



At the end of November 2011, the Ministry of Labour announced the suspension of the quotas for the years to come

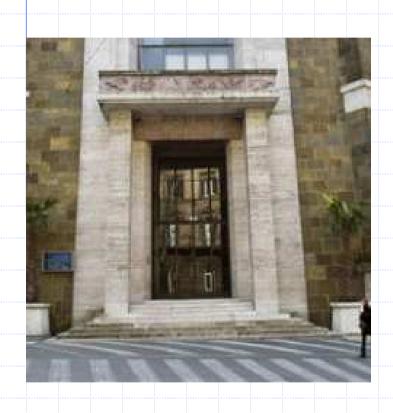
#### See for example:

Corrado Zunino, "Il lavoro non c'è più", immigrati a rischio stop, in «La Repubblica», newspaper, 28th November 2011, p. 1

Carlo Mercuri, *Immigrati, la Cei chiede più ingressi. Il Ministero: "non ora, c'è la crisi"*, in «Il Messaggero», newspaper, 28 November 2011, p. 9

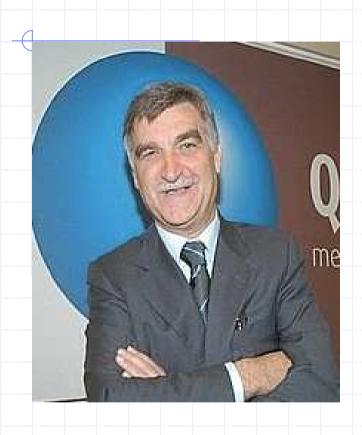
Redazionale, *Poco lavoro*, *verso lo stop del decreto flussi*, «Il Corriere della Sera», newspaper, 28th November 2011, p. 21

### Declared reasons...



According to the italian decision makers, the economic crisis has reduced the labour shortages, and therefore there is no need for new labour immigration flows

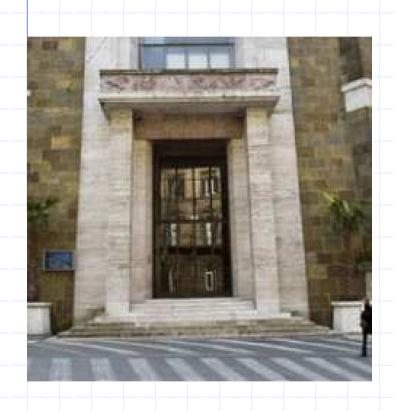
### Natale Forlani, La Repubblica



«There will be no quota decree in these year. In our opinion we no longer need immigrants, because there are too many unemployed workers in Italy», the Director General for Immigration at the Minister of Labour, Natale Forlani, told the newspaper La Repubblica

Corrado Zunino, "Il lavoro non c'è più", immigrati a rischio stop, in «La Repubblica», 28th November 2011, pag. 1 (my translation)

### ... and undeclared purposes



However, the actual political will of the ministerial offices is to regain control of migratory flows, by imposing restrictions on entry

### "The quota system no longer works"

\*We have to rethink our approach on the management of migratory flows (...). The annual "decreti flussi" (quota decrees) have been actually a permanent amnesty for immigrants and for their employers (...). But [today] this system no longer works. There is a bogus use of the quota mechanism: many immigrants apply for the quotas just to bring their friends into Italy»

Camera dei Deputati e Senato della Repubblica – XVI Legislatura - Comitato parlamentare di controllo sull'attuazione dell'Accordo di Schengen, di vigilanza sull'attività di Europol, di controllo e vigilanza in materia di immigrazione. Seduta del 29/11/2011, Audizione del direttore generale immigrazione del Ministero del lavoro e delle politiche sociali, Natale Forlani, resoconto stenografico, http://rs.gs/9PA, pag. 5. (my translation)

### Annual quotas after 2011



#### See:

- Sergio Bontempelli, *Perché i flussi, e non la sanatoria?*, in «A-Dif», sito dell'Associazione Diritti e Frontiere, 6th February 2016, http://rs.gs/nNU
- Sergio Bontempelli, *I migranti «dimenticati»*, in «A-Dif», sito dell'Associazione Diritti e Frontiere, 6 Febbraio 2016, http://rs.gs/L82

- After 2011, the annual decrees have no longer provided for quotas for "ordinary" (i.e. unskilled) employed workers: all quotas were reserved for specific kind of workers, such as seasonal, highly skilled workers and so on
- There is now what we could define as a "soft ban" on labour immigration

### Family reunification in Italy (1)



- ◆ The ricongiungimento familiare (family reunification) is a procedure which allows a foreign citizen from a non-EU country to enter to Italy provided that he or she has another family member living here
- ◆ In Italy, visas for family reunification are not included in the annual "quotas"

### Family reunification in Italy (2)



- ◆ Foreigners who apply for ricongiungimento familiare must have "appropriate accommodation" ("alloggio ideoneo"), that is suitable to accommodate other people
- ♦ The requirements relating to housing suitability are those contained in the Decree of 5 July 1975 of the Ministry of Health, which establishes the main hygiene and sanitary requirements of the housing areas

### Family reunification in Italy (3)



- Rules on "appropriate accommodation" are very strict, and sometimes not so reasonable...
- ◆ For example, in the 1975 Decree you can read the following rule (art. 7): «For each accommodation, at least one bathroom must be equipped with the following sanitary facilities: toilet, bidet, bathtub or shower, sink.»

### Regularization programs in Italy

Year	Immigrants involved
1986 (Foschi Act)	105.000
1990 (Martelli Act)	222.000
1995 (Dini Decree)	246.000
1998 (Turco-Napolitano Act)	217.000
2002 (Bossi-Fini Act)	647.000
2006 (decreto flussi)	170.000
2006 (decreto flussi bis)	350.000
2009 ("Pacchetto Sicurezza")	300.000
2012 (Monti Act)	99.000
Tot.	2.356.000

Sources: Redazione, *Irregolari, sanatorie e rimpatri, qualche dato di sfondo*, in MigrantiTorino, website, 5th September 2018, http://migrantitorino.it/?p=46795

# Thanks to you all



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