



UNIVERSITY OF PALERMO
MIGRANTS, HUMAN RIGHTS
AND DEMOCRACY
SUMMER SCHOOL

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

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, <i>Dossier Statistico Immigrazione 2019</i> , Idos, Roma 2019, p. 75. (2) Centro Studi e Ricerche Idos, <i>Dossier Statistico Immigrazione 2017</i> , 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, <i>Dossier Statistico Immigrazione 2019</i> , Idos, Roma 2019, p. 466. (5) Ibidem. (6) Ibidem.	

Immigrants as a workforce

Area	% immigrants on total workforce
Building sector	17,2%
Agriculture	17,9%
Hotels and restaurants	17,9%
Domestic sector	68,9%
Source: Centro Studi e Ricerche Idos, <i>Dossier Statistico Immigrazione 2019</i> , 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 authorization 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 idoneo”), 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, <i>Irregolari, sanatorie e rimpatri, qualche dato di sfondo</i> , in MigrantiTorino, website, 5th September 2018, http://migrantitorino.it/?p=46795	

Thanks to you all



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