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Abstracts

GIGLIOLA SOLDI RONDININI, *La «quiete d'Italia»*. Sguardi sulla politica italiana del secondo Quattrocento

This essay aims at analysing the policy that the Italian states – both the ‘great powers’ and the ‘lesser states’ – implemented to maintain a system of balance in the Peninsula and in their relations with the European monarchies. The alliances (or leagues) with political and territorial characteristics answered this purpose: an example was the Italic League (1455) which followed the Peace of Lodi (1454).

The complex situation which was brought about by these events has induced me to suggest that also for the Medieval Period be applied to the relation between territorial space and power. Particular situations have been taken into consideration in order to have an idea of the problems and to find a clue to their interpretation. Our analysis has focused on the states listed below and the relationships they established among themselves and with the European Monarchies: the Dukedom of Milan (from the time of Duke Filippo Maria Visconti to Galeazzo Maria Sforza), the Serene Republic of Venice, the Republic of Genoa, the Signoria of Florence and the lesser States of Savoy and Romagna, the Kingdom of Naples and the Roman Church State.

A prominent position has been given to Galeazzo Maria Sforza and to his vision of the state based on the principle of authority (which triggered off a rebellion inside the dukedom that eventually led to the Duke’s murder); in fact he played an outstanding role, as we can infer from the extensive documentation dealing with the negotiations for the renewal of the general League promoted by Pope Paul II in 1470.

The developments on the diplomatic level of the negotiations concerning this League are here followed through the examination of original documents which have never been used before. They throw light on the situation of the whole of Italy and on the relations between the Sforza and the Medici, which were one of the pivotal points of the League and conditioned the political trends of the other powers.

The negotiations to reach a settlement were very difficult; an agreement was eventually reached on the 22nd of July 1470, but the original spirit that had informed it had changed. In fact it was not ratified by the Duke of Milan; Florence and the Kingdom of Naples followed suit.

The proposal which was put forward was for a new League consisting of four members only (Milan, Venice, Florence and Naples, with the exclusion of the Pope), but more deeply concerned with such European countries as France, Burgundy, the Empire, Spain and Hungary, which were somehow involved in Italian affairs, were all more important than the small Italian states and all aimed at political expansionism.

The last section of the essay is devoted to an analysis of the diplomatic activities of that time and to the people, the princes and the ambassadors involved in them. Some brief biographies have also been included.