

## Summaries of articles

### *The Greek Egyptologists*

F. HARTOG

*Egypt, that ancient land with a faultless memory in which the first relations between men and the gods developed, always interested and even fascinated the Greeks. We will discuss here certain Greeks' views of this strange country, from Herodotus to Porphyry, taking up Plato and Diodorus along the way. Our concern will not be to measure their accuracy but rather to relate them to the logic—working within Greek culture and leading the Greeks to scrutinize themselves on numerous occasions—which underlies them and accounts for their meaning. The Greek Egyptologists will thus be considered on the basis of the shifts in their discourse about “the other” over a long period of time.*

### *Geometries of India*

J.-C. GALEY

*This article's backdrop is India's civilization and contemporary situation, as well as the present state of Indian Studies. It takes up facts considered peripheral by various disciplines, and combines an ethnology of history with a history of ethnology in a critical approach. The following five points are developed: 1. In trying to understand religions and castes, Western orientalist and nineteenth century evolutionist rationalists viewed India as an object constructed with motives and categories foreign to Indian self-representations. 2. The relationship between Brahman thought and Hindu society reveals internal transformation within certain limits. 3. The complex interactions between “castes” and “tribes” legitimate a thorough reconceptualization of their postulated independence. 4. A comparison of different regional caste system configurations and of Hindu values in societies without caste organizations points out the variable forms a cultural order can assume as well as its methodological limits. 5. India's former relations with neighboring countries account for many of the borrowings which play a significant part in its make-up; India's exported elements reflect important features of its specificity.*

***The Duke and the Archbishop: Political Action, Representation and Power in Richelieu's Time***

Chr. JOUHAUD

*In November of 1633 a conflict between the Duke of Epernon, one of the richest and most powerful men in the kingdom, and the Archbishop of Bordeaux broke out in the public arena, creating a scandal and an important political affair. The main object of this study is to attempt to make an autopsy of this event, bringing out the way it was staged and the stakes involved, and following up lines of inquiry which lead us to the very heart of the state apparatus. This quarrel over precedence (which turned out for the worse) can be read as a symptom and an illustration of the state of monarchical power in France in the 1630's. It also allows us to glimpse an aspect of Cardinal Richelieu's politics in action, and leads to reflections on the very notion of political action at the time of his ministry.*

***State, Social Classification and Compromise under Louis the Fourteenth: the 1695 Capitation***

A. GUERY

*Historians and sociologists use the social classifications they find in administrative documents to try to account for a society's social structures at any given moment in time. These documents, drawn up for other than sociological purposes, are utilized not simply to criticize other sources on the basis of a particular theory; the political events in which a country is involved, and the short-, middle-, and long-term goals of its established powers play a determining role in the elaboration of complex social classifications. France's 1695 capitation offers a good example of this. The word "class" appeared here for the first time in descriptions of the society. While the capitation was not first introduced in 1695, it nonetheless broke with the social exclusion characteristic of previous capitations. This does not mean that we can consider it to be akin to modern-day taxes: it made the state into the society's unifying and hierarchizing principle as a result of pressure created by very particular circumstances: war. The primary criterion for the social classification system used in determining tariffs was proximity to the state—as conceived of by Louis the Fourteenth and his ministers—to the war-besieged state. The 1695 capitation and its various tariffs illustrate the fact that social classifications are never innocent, but they represent stakes linked to current problems.*

***Marc Bloch, Historian and Resistance Member***

B. GEREMEK

*The analysis of Marc Bloch's (1886-1944) historical work demonstrates his role as precursor of new tendencies in historiography. In his study of the past, he attributed the determining role to the social realm which he did not take as an object of a separate historical discipline, but of history as a whole. His project emphasized the study of the mental element and of the biological realities in which he found social relations to be deeply rooted. Advocating rigorous comparatism as a tool for the study of phenomena whose temporal and spatial reference points are identical, he emphasized the importance of comparing whole civilizations. His concern with his epoch's scientific epistemology led him to see the critique of evidence as history's important contribution to the renewal of the social sciences. The life and death of Marc Bloch—pursued by the Nazis for being Jewish, and involved in the French Resistance—provide a dramatic message concerning the historian's place in public life.*

***Military Technology and Political Power, 900-1300***

R. BARTLETT

*By 1100, a particular military technology had arisen within central Western Europe (France, Germany, and England). It was marked by the preponderance of heavy cavalry, the employment of crossbowmen, and the development of castles—small centers of local power to be contrasted with the large communal fortifications of the early Middle Ages. During the 12th and 13th centuries, this military technology spread into the outer regions of Europe. In certain cases it was brought by conquering invaders; in many others it was adopted by native populations in response to invasion; in still others it was encouraged by perceptive local dynasties willing to introduce immigrants possessing the new military skills. Livonia and Scotland are discussed as detailed examples of the way new military techniques generated new political and social conditions.*

***Living with Conflict in Stateless France: A Typology of Conflict Regulation Mechanisms from 1050 to 1200***

P. J. GEARY

*The author argues that conflicts in feudal society should be understood as integral and positive social structures rather than as events, and that specific outbursts should be seen as social dramas in which these structures broke down, were used for certain social purposes, and then seemed to disappear, only to reemerge later. Lacking an authoritative jurisprudential system, medieval conflict handling was quite similar to that seen in traditional acephalous societies today, and involved certain ritualized forms of violence and certain “violent” rituals through which opponents negotiated a settlement. The author suggests a typology of such mechanisms, and suggests that a negotiated settlement aimed more at restructuring the relationship between the parties to the altercation than at resolving any particular point of contention. Involving the community at large, it usually failed to put an end to the conflict, simply returning it to its dormant state.*

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