Introduction to Milan

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Milan, the economic capital of Italy

Per capita GDP > 150% of national average (2013)
Urban Hierarchy in Europe: 1987

Milan sole second-rank city in Europe, after the two world cities London and Paris
Milan leads a group of second-rank cities in Europe
A node in a space of flows
Where does the FUA – Functional Urban Area end?

A first answer: where pollution stops!
The institutional «Città Metropolitana»

The old Province (almost the conurbation)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Population (inhabitants)</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Municipality of Milano</td>
<td>1,360,000</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Città metropolitana (Province)</td>
<td>3,208,500</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUZ and Metropolitan city (Eurostat)</td>
<td>4,252,246</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agglomeracion Metropolitana (A.M. Barcelona)</td>
<td>6,114,556</td>
<td>1997</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Metropolitan Agglomeration

From Novara (Piedmont) to Brescia
Urban theory states that (large) cities always drive the expansionary phases of the national development cycles, thanks to the presence (and sometimes monopoly) of knowledge, organisation, entrepreneurial capability, political power, external accessibility.

In the recent afterwar period, we have assisted to the development of 2 and ½ cycles: 1950-1975; 1975-2000; and 2000 - ……

In the first two cases, Milan had really driven the development and restructuring of the country, and now we have evident signs that history is repeating itself: a Third Renaissance?
After the post-war reconstruction phase (completed in only 5 years) the competitiveness of the «industrial triangle» (Milan, Turin, Genoa) was guaranteed by three main factors:

- advanced technologies (mainly imported through the surplus of traditional sectors like textiles),
- a skilled, abundant and relatively cheap labour force,
- a dynamic entrepreneurship, looking at the new durable goods.

In the first decade, national GDP growth was on average 5%; 10% in Milan. 550,000 people in-migrated to Milan, hosted 50% in the city and 50% in the NW-N ring.

Lombardy: 20% of nat. GDP in 1951, 23,5% in 1961, 35% of industrial output and 38% of exports (83% of which were represented by the Milano province).

As New York, Milan represented «1/10 th of a nation»
The first cycle 1950-75: backwash

The second part of the cycle witnesses:

- the emergence of the contradictions of a too spatially concentration of development: inflation, social and industrial conflict, loss of competitiveness;
- increased suburbanisation and delocation of industry in other areas (N-E Italy, Mezzogiorno, overseas),
- beginning industrial restructuring, with displacement of labour.
The second cycle 1975-2000: reconversion

Milan starts to lead again in the country, thanks to fast adoption (and production) of new IC technologies and the launching of a concentrated terriarisation process.

A large corridor between the northern and the north-eastern axis of the metro area increasingly host high tech industry, in strict linkage with the scientific universities and research centres (located in the N-E of the Milano city).

Starting from 1985 Milan benefits from the launching of Delor’s project of the Single European Market which drives till 1992 a large amount of multinational investments (mainly industrial and commercial headquarters) into the main «gateways», the large European cities.

In 1985 Milan was rightly called «the capital of southern Europe» (own research)
Starting 1992, the country slows down considerably. Milan loses industry, even if the job reductions are balanced by tertiarisation. The city starts a loss of population that lasts until 2003, touching the 500,000 units. For the first time the entire metro area loses population.

International standing of Milan is jeopardised. Other capitals and large cities develop more fastly (Munich, Madrid, Barcelona, Vienna, Amsterdam).

Low quality planning does not cope with the evident drawbacks of the city: congestion, scant green, absence of valuable buildings, cost of living.
The third cycle: renaissance?

3+1 drivers of the relaunch: finance, fashion and real estate + the initial blossoming of a new economic paradigm, namely the cultural-cognitive one.

Concerning real estate, a clear turn towards planning de-regulation, a good international marketing of large initiatives, committed to archi-stars and the international success of EXPO 2015 have led to an increased interest of international investments in the field. At least up to the 2008 crisis, the building and construction industry benefitted from a long period of expansion (apparently relaunched since two years).

In this field success is clarify apparent. But important negative elements remain: liveability and quality of urban design in new districts are often not high; excessive densities and obsession for development volumes; low attention to the «public city» and low planning obligations («oneri di urbanizzazione») with respect to more advanced countries; lack of transparency in planning negotiations and often corruption.
The third cycle: the cognitive –cultural paradigm

The paradigm of the knowledge society pushes new sectors and new functions arise in the fields of culture, science, creative industries.

Milan, with a few cities in Italy, leads once again. Its new specialisation is in farmaceutical and medical equipments, publishing, information and communication, informatics, finance and insurance, consulting, real estate, scientific research, education and university, creative activities, entertainment.

All these activities have a strong locational bias towards the central areas. New districts and new building are blossoming: Porta Volta (Fondazione Feltrinelli and Microsoft), Fondazione Prada in the southern part of the city relaunching a large urban belt (project Symbiosis of Beni Stabili, the new fair area, Porta Nuova.)
The new economic paradigm is likely to generate new divides inside advanced societies (and cities). A limited share of workers acting on codes, symbols and languages in scientific and cultural fields confronts an increasing share of workers acting on materials and information: the former work and live mainly in central or re-generated neighbourhoods, the latter are pushed towards the periphery.

This dychotomy, already visible in US cities (Scott, 2015; Florida, 2017), may lead to a new «urban crisis», and in fact the EU Commission is pushing policy strategies towards the goal of inclusive and cohesive growth.

In Milan, this new divide is visible but not so extreme: segregation and squalor are not a problem, but another economic effect is worrying.
## Città Metropolitana

### 2001-2011

**Growth of population and employment in non-agricultural sectors**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATI</th>
<th>AREA</th>
<th>Absolute Variation 2001-2011</th>
<th>Variation % 2001-2011</th>
<th>Absolute value 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>POPULATION</strong></td>
<td>Milano Comune</td>
<td>-14.088</td>
<td>-1,12%</td>
<td>1.242.123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Milano Città Metro</td>
<td>97.841</td>
<td>3,33%</td>
<td>3.038.420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Milano Hinterland</td>
<td>111.929</td>
<td>6,65%</td>
<td>1.796.297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Italia</td>
<td>2.463.744</td>
<td>4,32%</td>
<td>59.433.744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EMPLOYMENT</strong></td>
<td>Milano Comune</td>
<td>74.132</td>
<td>9,17%</td>
<td>88.2774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Milano Città Metro</td>
<td>75.329</td>
<td>5,03%</td>
<td>1.571.898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Milano Hinterland</td>
<td>1.197</td>
<td>0,17%</td>
<td>689.124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Italia</td>
<td>536.394</td>
<td>2,76%</td>
<td>19.946.950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT</strong></td>
<td>Milano Comune</td>
<td>-18.392</td>
<td>-23,27%</td>
<td>60.640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Milano Città Metro</td>
<td>-88.677</td>
<td>-28,17%</td>
<td>226.110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Milano Hinterland</td>
<td>-70.285</td>
<td>-29,81%</td>
<td>165.470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Italia</td>
<td>-942.338</td>
<td>-19,54%</td>
<td>3.881.249</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Economic and social polarisation may become a new spatial polarisation inside large Metro areas.

New antagonist attitudes may emerge in peripheries: no place-loyalty, no sense of belonging to the urban community, crime (possibly turning to terrorism).

Political sustainability of the present trends might be at risk.

A more equitable p/p sharing of surplus-values emerging from transformations in central areas should be realised, in favour of the public sphere and the “public city”.
Many thanks for your attention!

Merci pour votre attention!

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