



EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION IN LUCANIA

BASILICATA

Basilicata is a region in the South of Italy also called Lucania. Basilicata's citizens are also called Lucani



Basilicata is a land historically marked by emigration

Emigration from Basilicata starting in 1846 1848, and continued in the post-Italian period, as well as in the first decade of the 1900s, with a peak in 1913.

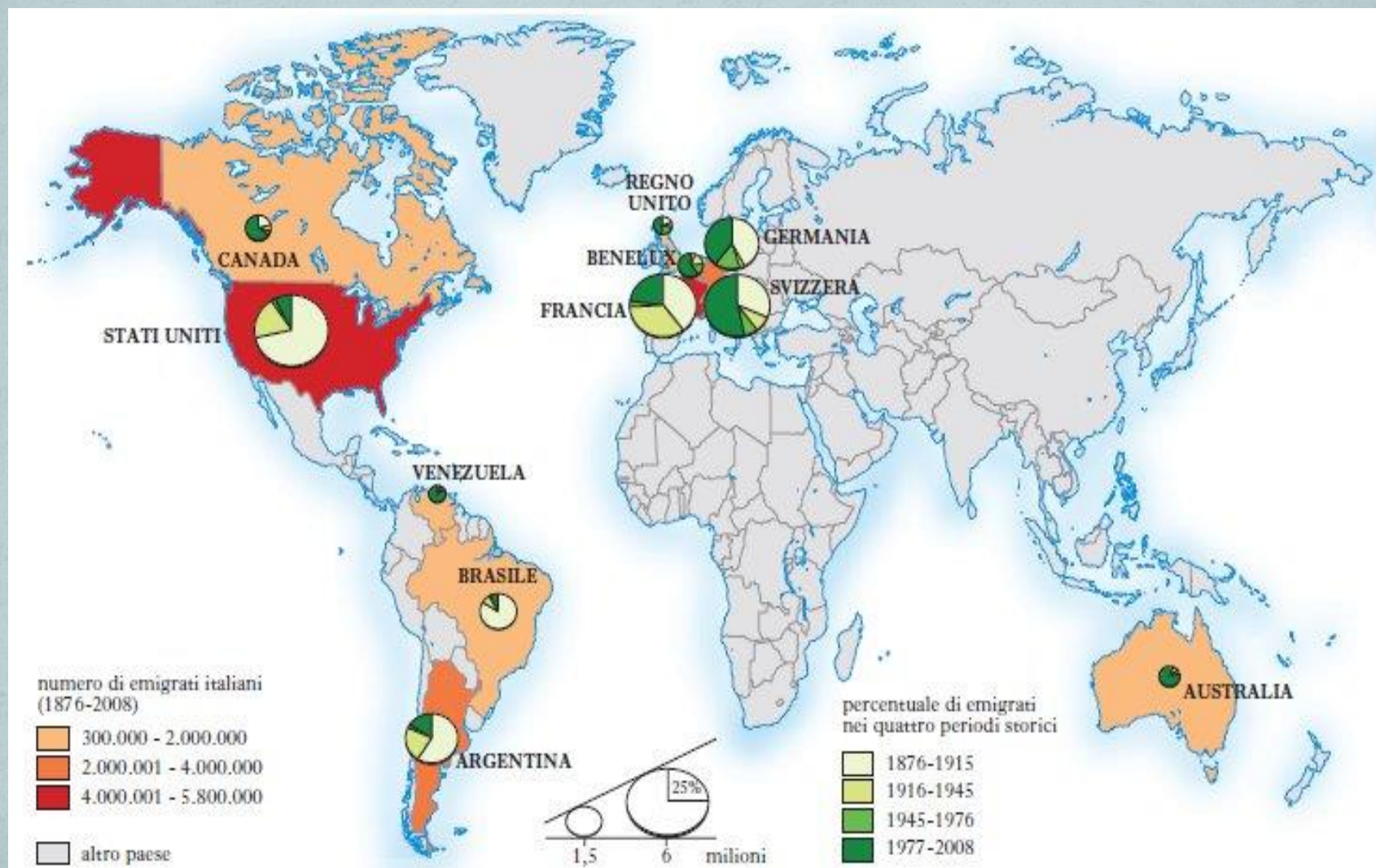
From the second post-war period the destinations were varied: America, in particular Argentina and Australia.

The causes are determined by the misery of a large part of the population, by the depressive conditions of agriculture and industry and by the post-war problematic local administration .

From the 1950s, Lucani chose Central Europe: Switzerland, Germany, France, Belgium.

Emigration to central Europe is due to more time to build the house (almost a status symbol) and to improve the condition of life.

Unfortunately, many times, Italians have become foreigners twice: in the host country and in Italy (Italian on one side, Swiss, German ... on the other).





LUCANI: a people with suitcase

Today the economic crisis re-proposing the need to emigrate.

The suitcase is also taken to go looking for a job, also who starts a university career abroad, never return. It starts no longer with the cardboard suitcase, but with a laptop.....

Depopulation is increasing, cities are empty, despite the petroleum, weak attempt at industry

Looking at the future of young people, it becomes more than ever the ancient proverb of Quebec: "Parents give to their children only two things: roots and wings".



From land of EMIGRATION to land of IMMIGRATION



Basilicata, from the land of emigration has become, for about 30 years, a land of immigration with the arrival of North Africans, Indians and East Europeans.

They are engaged in agriculture, in farms, in caregiving and services.

Today, the Region is a crossroads for numerous migratory flows, especially from Eastern Europe (Romania in the first place), Africa (most of all are refugees) and East.

Particular is the case of Matera, which hosts a community of about 800 Chinese immigrants.

“GIVE US MORE MIGRANTS”, the Basilicata exception focuses on hospitality

In contrast to all the other Italian regions, Basilicata has welcoming the immigrants fluxes especially of African refugees. An opportunity for local development especially for internal areas .

The Region, responding to the requests of the Government, collaborate with the "mare nostrum" operation by accepting to host groups of people, families, asylum seekers, waiting to attend to the paperwork.



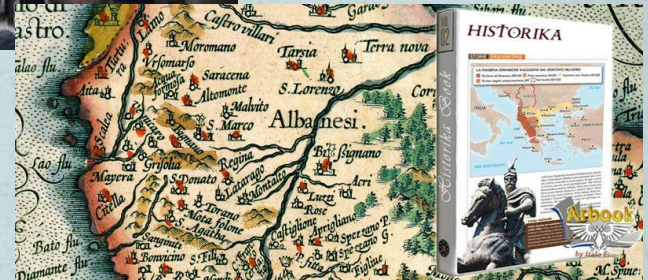
The identity Italian-Albanian: the ARBERESHE in Basilicata

Barile, Maschito, Ginestra, San Costantino Albanese and San Paolo Albanese are the villages where Albanian communities are present.

The Albanian presence in Basilicata is due to escape the ottoman-turkish yoke in the middle of xvth century. Later the famines, the pestilences, the earthquakes had led the lucan farmers to leave the countryside and the landowners, for their own advantage, offered the refugees the opportunity to settle and work in the countryside.

Nowadays there is a compact and homogeneous Albanian settlements, the Arbereshe which live in harmony with the Italians sharing language, culture and tradition.

Basilicata
ArBëreshe



MUSEUM of LUCAN EMIGRATION



The Museum of Lucan Emigration is located in the castle of Frederick II and at Lagopesole.

It is created to have an exhibition space on the theme of Italian Emigration, especially from Lucania, with particular regards to the theme of travel.

The project foresees, by the use of multimedia tools, interactive installations and visual arts, to allow through faithful reproductions of environments and places that to relive the journey, the emotion, the hope, the rebirth.





The most significant sources of reference is the magazine “Basilicata in the World” which first documented the phenomenon of emigration from Basilicata with particular attention to that towards North America.



The purpose of the Museum is to keep alive the memory of our emigrants, of their sacrifices and their conquests, realities that are still very current today.