

Conclusion¹

The Gavazzi family appears to be a typical example of the company-family-industrial sector connection, the sector being those of silk manufacturing and banking, which the family-company faithfully followed from their early developing stages through to their drastic decline, especially in the case of the silk sector.

The Gavazzis' capacity to react to the economic and social downturns, which in other families frequently brought about the break-down and pitiful decadence of the social status, generally proved to be successful, thanks to a number of investment diversifications.

Extraordinary examples of this include the case of Carlo, with his Carlo Gavazzi Company, the family's banking activities, and the «deviations», even during periods of major development in the textile industry, to other sectors such those of motor navigation in the early 1800s, woodworking, hydro-electrics, wool manufacturing, mining, etc.

The family, therefore, has proved to possess the characteristic chromosomes of the entrepreneur. The Gavazzis have taken their risks gladly yet with intelligence and far-sightedness, steadfast champions of economic liberty and private initiative, hard workers, practising Catholics and believers in the family.

The Gavazzis today

Today, at the beginning of this new millennium, much has changed and the size of the Gavazzi family has led to a branching-out in the activities of its various members.

Are there any remaining Gavazzi industries? Are there still entrepreneurs within the family?

The virus of industriousness in Lombardy and Brianza, we may say, has not yet died out. I refer, for example, to the Carlo Gavazzi Company, which is quoted in the Zurich Stock Exchange; the Bank of Desio, quoted in the Milan Stock Exchange; Boffi Kitchens of Roberto Gavazzi (b. in 1953) and, last but not least, the various business activities of the Gavazzis in Brazil, founded by Vico Gavazzi (1913-1996) and run today by his sons Pio and Giorgio.

I must also mention the Gavazzi Ribbon Manufacturers (the oldest family business), which is now, however, owned by the Torrani family, offspring of a Gavazzi mother.

And so we mark the passing of half a millennium of constant industrial activity – let us hope that the story continues.

¹ Partly from Roberto Romano, «Gavazzi», in *Dizionario biografico degli Italiani*, Istituto della Enciclopedia Italiana, Rome, 1999.