Abstract

Social Conflict, Union Density and the Struggle Against Inflation (1st Chapter)

The essay deals with the ‘alarmism’ on inflation that started in the 1970s and the economic policies aimed to fight it. It shows that after the great wave of industrial action in that decade, and the unions’ subsequent defeat due to the decentralising of production in small units and the elimination of the automatic indexation wage mechanism, union density started to decline, and so did the wage share. The essay also presents the CGIL’s position on the 1992 and 1993 tripartite agreements that eliminated wage indexation and promoted a new bargaining system, and concludes with an appendix on the CGIL’s proposals for the economic development.