Matematica ed ideologia: la politica degli infinitesimali

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Dedicato alla memoria di Mariano Hormigón

«Ma per quanto riguarda l'analisi delle vicende quotidiane di sociopolitica quello che filtra e s'infiltra nel processo d'informazione e di opinione è, consumata e ingenua, ideologia»[1].

The Mathematical Manuscripts of Karl Marx were translated into Chinese in 1975, at the end of the Cultural Revolution, by two teams of scholars working in China, one in Beijing, the other in Shanghai. The response to these translations by mathematicians, philosophers, and even the public at large, is discussed here, including the role nonstandard analysis played in the reception of Marx's ideas in China. Marx's understanding of the calculus, which he based on the concept of infinitesimal, was given new currency thanks to Abraham Robinson's theory of nonstandard analysis. How nonstandard analysis was a subject of growing interest among mathematicians, philosopher and logicians in China is also considered, including the first Chinese symposium for nonstandard analysis held in 1978.

Keywords: *Mathematics, Nonstandard Analysis, China, XIX Century, Karl Marx, Mao Zedong, Cultural Revolution, Science and ideology*.

Il tema di questo articolo è stato originariamente proposto da Mariano Hormigón per il Terzo Simposio Internazionale in memoria del matematico García de Galdeano tenutosi presso l'Università di Saragozza nel settem-

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[1] Hormigón Mariano (1996a) «También el Rojo está en el Arco Iris». In: E. Ausejo (ed.) «También el Rojo está en el Arco Iris», Zaragoza, SEHCTAR, pp. 347-348.