

Istituto Bruno Leoni Monthly Report

N. 9 – April 2006

Istituto Bruno Leoni (IBL), named after the renowned Italian lawyer and philosopher, was established to encourage public debate from a strictly classical liberal perspective. IBL strives to investigate, to promote and to spread the ideals of the free market, private property, individual liberty, and free trade. IBL publishes both scholarly and popular works, organizes seminars and meetings, publishes articles in the daily press both in Italy and abroad, as well as short studies and briefing papers. Its main purpose is to orient decision-making, inform the public and foster a new generation of intellectuals and scholars devoted to the cause of liberty.



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IBL Report

Events

28 April 2006

Grand Hotel Duomo, via San Raffaele 1, Milano

Healthcare Seminar

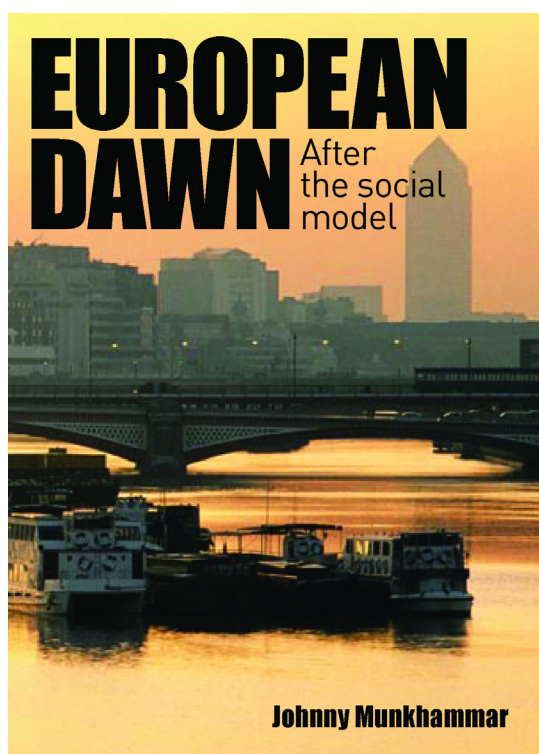
Social Models: What Lessons From the Nordic Countries?

Speaker: *Johnny Munkhammar*



Johnny Munkhammar is Director at Timbro, a free-market institute in Sweden and responsible for the program “Free markets”. He graduated in economics and political science at Uppsala, and authored several articles in daily newspapers, magazines and journals, both at home and abroad.

Munkhammar authored three previous books on economic policy and recently published “European Dawn”, in which he accuses the so-called European social model to be the real cause, and not the solution, of Europe’s malaise. Only decreasing the size of the state and liberating the forces of development, Western Europe will face a new dawn.



Freedom and the Law

by

BRUNO LEONI



D. VAN NOSTRAND COMPANY, INC.

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

TORONTO

NEW YORK

LONDON

The first edition of Bruno Leoni's most significant work: *Freedom and the Law* (1961)

8 April 2006 – Occasional Paper n.29

Political Rent-Seeking and the State
Il parassitismo politico e lo Stato

by Max Nordau

In this essay written about a hundred years ago, Max Nordau (nom-de-plume of Maximilian Simon Suedfeld) explains the not-so-noble origins of the State, rooted in the conquest and submission of peaceful and productive peoples by bands of marauders which, after having consolidated their rule, establish a vast and pervasive system of parasitical exploitation of their subjects. Even in our times, these pages of Max Nordau are still relevant, as established institutions keep resisting all attempts at liberalization, thus allowing the 'political class' to reproduce itself by co-optation and grow stronger by re-distributing tax revenues

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IBL OCCASIONAL PAPER

14 April 2006 – Occasional Paper n.30

Climate of Superstition
Clima di superstizione

by Nigel Lawson

Lord Lawson of Blaby, former Chancellor of the Exchequer 1983-89 is a member of the economic affairs committee of the House of Lords, which last year conducted an inquiry into, the economics of climate change. In this Occasional Paper, Lord Lawson highlights the many scientific, economic and logical flaws of the Kyoto protocol and of the assumptions that underpin it. Instead of plunging headlong in the treacherous waters of the central planning of the economy—as entailed by the Protocol—a more sensible approach is to promote economic growth, which would create the resources needed to mitigate the effects of climate change and to develop new energy sources alternative to fossil fuels.

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IBL OCCASIONAL PAPER

29 April 2006 – Occasional Paper n.31

Welfare States and Economic Performance: The European Nordic Countries

Stato assistenziale e performance economiche

by Vito Tanzi

A number of observers have pointed to the Nordic countries of Europe as examples of welfare states with some of the highest levels of public spending in the world but with economies that are doing rather well. These countries seem to defy the claim that large public sectors are damaging to economic performance. But the reality of the 'Nordic model' is far different from this rosy picture: these countries responded to the severe fiscal and economic crisis caused by their pervasive welfare system by enacting significant reforms of their welfare state and dramatically cutting public spending.

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29 April 2006 – Briefing Paper n.30

Milan–London 7 euros.

How Ryanair reduced prices, broke monopoly and united Europe

Milano - Londra, 7 euro. Come la Ryan Air ha ridotto i prezzi, spezzato il monopolio e unito l'Europa

by Andrea & Mauro Gilli

Ryanair has dramatically changed the face of air transport in Europe, turning flying from a luxury to an affordable commodity. The authors recount the history of the tumultuous growth of the Irish company, remarking how it was made possible by the liberalization of the air transport market in the 80s and 90s. The success of Ryanair is analyzed in the general framework of the benefits of the free market and against the background of the beneficial effects of the tax-cutting and market-opening policies adopted by Ireland in the same time frame.

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7 April 2006 – Focus n.21

How to Defend Rents. The Case of Pharmacists

Come si difendono le rendite. Il caso dei farmacisti

by Andrea Gilli

The campaign to break the monopoly of licensed drug stores on the sale of non-prescription drugs has gained a measure of visibility on the media. Federfarma, the chemists' trade association, responded by claiming an alleged greater 'safety' guaranteed by the current system as opposed to a liberalized one. In actual fact, as shown by Andrea Gilli, the chemists' position is a classical instance of the defence of a monopoly privilege rent-seeking and the feared safety loss is but a bait-and-switch rhetorical device.

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29 April 2006 – Focus n.22

Europe in Decline. Why the Irish Model Is Working, While the Nordic One Is Not

Il declino europeo. Perché il modello irlandese funziona, quello scandinavo no

by Anthony de Jasay

The so-called 'European social model' is increasingly proving to be inadequate in a globalized world. If the real economic achievements are taken in consideration, the notion that a heavyweight, 'social' State might improve the welfare of its citizens is shown to be a delusional one. In this Focus the causes of the success achieved by the Irish reforms are analyzed and compared with the performance of the Nordic countries, often touted as the paradigmatic instance of 'efficient welfare'.

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IBL Report



1) Section “Theory and Current Events”

Il Foglio, 31 March 2006, [Il potente ha bisogno di intellettuali, il ricco ne subisce il risentimento. Là dove l'invidia nasce e alimenta l'ideologia](#), by Carlo Stagnaro

L'Indipendente, 3 April 2006, [Milton Friedman, l'uomo che scelse la libertà](#), by Tiziano Buzzacchera

Istituto Bruno Leoni, 5 April 2006, [L'invidia e la società. Lo choc di rileggere Schoeck. Liberilibri ripubblica il classico del sociologo austriaco](#), by Paolo Bernardini

Il Foglio, 6 April 2006, [Metafisica dell'invidia e storia dell'Occidente](#), by Carlo Lottieri

L'Indipendente, 10 April 2006, [Le tre maggiori sfide del futuro governo](#), by Carlo Lottieri

TCS Daily, 13 April 2006, [Read Italy's Lips...](#), by Carlo Stagnaro

La Provincia di Como, 13 April 2006, [E ora si riapre la questione settentrionale. Con il Nord all'opposizione può aprirsi una fase nuova](#), by Carlo Lottieri

Liberio, 18 April 2006, [E il Caimano si mangiò la cultura](#), by Alberto Mingardi

Il Foglio, 25 April 2006, [Antonio Martino, Milton Friedman](#), by Enzo Arceri

Journal of Modern Italian Studies, n.1/2006, [Book Review: David I. Kertzer \(2004\) Prisoner of the Vatican: The Pope's Secret Plot to Capture Rome from the New Italian State](#), by Paolo Bernardini

Liberio

The 'governmental culture' of a modern conservative movement is a liberal culture that does not confine itself to high-minded generalities, to great books, to the classics of political thought, but that focuses on the hard terrain of public policy, of number-crunching, of small ideas...

2) Section “Competition and Globalization”

Finanza & Mercati, 1 April 2006, [Gli eredi del commissario Monti](#), by Enrico Colombatto

Liberal Risk, No.8, April 2006, [WTO, ormai è l'ultimo round. Da Doha a Cancun, la lunga crisi dell'Organizzazione](#), by Carlo Stagnaro

Independent Institute, 3 April 2006, [Protectionism Will Kill Europe](#), by Carlo Stagnaro & Alberto Mingardi

TCS Daily, 4 April 2006, [Corporate Social Restriction](#), by Carlo Stagnaro & Lawrence A. Kogan

Il Foglio, 5 April 2006, [Finanza, mercato unico, protezionismi, politica industriale. C'è un mondo economico che cambia, il Cav. e Prodi se ne accorgono?](#), by Marco Ferrante

Il Foglio, 22 April 2006, [Laar, liberista per caso che ha reso l'Estonia la tigre del baltico. Il Cato Institute premia l'ex premier di Tallin](#)

Il Riformista, 29 April 2006, [Mercato. Il problema non è Microsoft ma l'innovazione bloccata](#), by Clyde Wayne Crews Jr & Alberto Mingardi

L'Indipendente, 29 April 2006, [Autostrade-Abertis, equivoco politico](#), by Tiziano Buzzacchera

Il Corriere del Veneto, 29 April 2006, [La fusione tra Autostrade e Abertis. Il mito dell'interesse nazionale](#), by Paolo Bernardini

Il Sole 24 Ore, 29 April 2006, [I mercati e il capitalismo d'antan](#), by Rudi Boggi

Liberio, 30 April 2006, [Se in Sardegna non c'è più libertà di cielo](#), by Alberto Mingardi



Protectionism provides an open space for rent seeking. Such an uncompetitive environment is not good for consumers, employees, and shareholders

3) Section “Welfare and Tax Policy”

Italia Oggi, 4 April 2006, [Le gambe corte \(e il naso lungo\) delle promesse elettorali](#), by Marco Bertoncini

Il Foglio, 5 April 2006, [L'invidia, il fisco e la ricetta di Ronald Reagan. Perché togliere la ricchezza ai ricchi è un modo di condannare i poveri](#), by Carlo Stagnaro

L'Indipendente, 8 April 2006, [La proposta di Giuseppe Guarino. Vendere beni pubblici per liberalizzare l'Italia](#), by Carlo Lottieri

Emporion, 19 April 2006, [Una crescita sull'onda della flat tax](#), by Carlo Stagnaro

L'Opinione, 20 April 2006, [E ora rinasce la questione settentrionale. Intervista a Carlo Lottieri](#), by Stefano Magni

Libero, 26 April 2006, [Nuove tasse: altro che Silvio, serve una rivolta](#), by Alberto Mingardi

L'Indipendente, 29 April 2006, [“I rivoltosi di Parigi? Vogliono il posto fisso dallo Stato”. Intervista a Pascal Salin](#), by Tiziano Buzzacchera

generazione II

In his "Lettera ad un amico no global" Alberto Mingardi (Director of Istituto Bruno Leoni) addresses an imaginary anti-globalist friend with the aim of explaining the most basic ideas of classical liberalism.

EMPORION

Western Europe needs to choose: either follow the liberal tide that comes from the East, or struggle against this new dispensation.

4) Section “Environment and Energy”

Istituto Bruno Leoni, 3 April 2006, [Futuragra a Vienna per difendere la libertà di semina. Contro la moratoria decisa dal Governo italiano](#)

Brussels Journal, 9 April 2006, [Your Fat Is Europe's Concern](#), by Carlo Stagnaro

Corriere Economia, 10 April 2006, [La scarsità di petrolio e il paradosso liberista dei Suv. Un libro, un caso](#), by Marco Ferrante

Il Riformista, 20 April 2006, [Il metodo Bersani-Tabacci per un'Italia senza energia. Soluzioni bipartisan](#), by Carlo Stagnaro

La Provincia di Como, 24 April 2006, [Liberalizzare il mercato contro il caro-petrolio](#), by Carlo Lottieri

Il Foglio, 27 April 2006, [Perché non tutto il male del caro petrolio viene per nuocere](#)

The European Journal, Vol.13, No.3, March/April 2006, [Beyond Kyoto](#), by Carlo Stagnaro





CHI SIAMO

L'Istituto Bruno Leoni (IBL), intitolato al grande giurista e filosofo torinese, nasce con l'ambizione di stimolare il dibattito pubblico, in Italia, promuovendo in modo puntuale e rigoroso un punto di vista autenticamente liberale. L'IBL intende studiare, promuovere e diffondere gli ideali del mercato, della proprietà privata, e della libertà di scambio. Attraverso la pubblicazione di libri (sia di taglio accademico, sia divulgativi), l'organizzazione di convegni, la diffusione di articoli sulla stampa nazionale e internazionale, l'elaborazione di brevi studi e briefing papers, l'IBL mira ad orientare il processo decisionale, ad informare al meglio la pubblica opinione, a crescere una nuova generazione di intellettuali e studiosi sensibili alle ragioni della libertà.



COSA VOGLIAMO

La nostra filosofia è conosciuta sotto molte etichette: "liberale", "liberista", "individualista", "libertaria". I nomi non contano. Ciò che importa è che a orientare la nostra azione è la fedeltà a quello che Lord Acton ha definito "il fine politico supremo": la libertà individuale. In un'epoca nella quale i nemici della libertà sembrano acquistare nuovo vigore, l'IBL vuole promuovere le ragioni della libertà attraverso studi e ricerche puntuali e rigorosi, ma al contempo scevri da ogni tecnicismo.