

Istituto Bruno Leoni Monthly Report

N. 1 – July-August 2005

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.



Contents:

- Events p. 3
- Publications:
 - Books* p. 4
 - Papers* p. 6
- Articles:
 - Theory and Current Events* p. 9
 - Competition and Globalization* p.10
 - Welfare and Tax Policy* p.12
 - Environment and Energy* p.13

IBL Report



July 13th 2005

Sarà Bob Geldof a salvare l'Africa? Povertà, sviluppo e il ruolo dell'Occidente
(*Will Bob Geldof Be Africa's Saviour? Poverty, Development, and the Role of the West*)

Grand Hotel Duomo, Via San Raffaele, 1 - Milano

Speaker: *Franklin Cudjoe* (Director, "Imani", Ghana)



Africa and the struggle against poverty are at the center of next July's G8 meeting in Scotland, as strongly supported by British Prime Minister Tony Blair. Once again, a further grow of foreign aid is proposed, with the aim of making more substantial and efficient the transfer of resources from the West to the "Global South." Together with debt relief, more foreign aid is the second pillar of the so-called "rockstar economics," promoted by famous singers such as Bono and Bob Geldof, spearheading a media campaign on the ills of Africa.

But is this the proper way to fight poverty?

Istituto Bruno Leoni discussed this subject with Franklin Cudjoe, a young economist from Ghana and Director of the think tank Imani, whose goal is to build a solid foundation for a free society and economic development in his country. Mr. Cudjoe offered the insights of his first-hand experience in fighting day after day the destitution of Sub-Saharan Africa.





Colpirne uno per educarne cento

(Hit One to Teach a Hundred)

by Alberto Mingardi & Paolo Zanetto

The decision against Microsoft by the EU antitrust authority was hailed with enthusiasm from many quarters. The setback suffered by the American giant software corporation at the hands of the EU was apparently a step towards the vision of a more “fair” and “regulated” market. But is it really true that such momentous decisions favour competition? Does Microsoft enjoy in fact a monopoly? Was its market share gained at the expense of more efficient and deserving competitors? Is such a “quantitative” perspective, with its apparent disregard of innovation, the proper way to gauge competition?

This book attempts to provide an answer to these questions. Starting from Microsoft, it investigates the merits of the antitrust doctrine, in the belief that they ought to be judged not for their current victim, as instead for the long-term impact of each decision and sanction. The affair of Microsoft is investigated for the insights it can provide on the future of competition in Europe, keeping in mind that the priority ought to be how to safeguard competitiveness and innovation. As Oscar Giannino writes in the Foreword to this book, the vision underlying the investigation “is that of the Austrian school, with its belief that competition is not a standard amount to guarantee, as instead a process of continuous change at the hand of enterprising firms, whose efforts in innovation and concentration are to be rewarded if their beneficiary is the market and the customers.”

Alberto Mingardi is Director of Istituto Bruno Leoni and Senior Fellow of the Centre for the New Europe di Bruxelles. He recently edited *Antitrust. Mito e realtà dei monopoli* (Rubbettino-Facco, 2004).

Paolo Zanetto is advisor in Public Affairs and Institutional Relations. He held office at the national and international level and co-authored with Alberto Cattaneo *(E)lezioni di successo. Manuale di marketing politico* (Rizzoli-Etas, 2003). He is in charge of the European Antitrust Watch at Istituto Bruno Leoni.



Il diritto dei proprietari

(The Right of Owners)

by Henri Lepage - Murray N. Rothbard

From many perspectives, private property is at the core of liberal theory. At least since John Locke, classical liberalism is a vision of social relationships founded on the identification of justice with the defence of property titles. For this reason, liberals have focused their thinking on what makes a property legitimate and, therefore, which institutions can best guarantee a property order.

The feature that best characterizes the two essays collected in this book is that they are well within that tradition which in the Twentieth century was almost annihilated by the triumph of egalitarian and illiberal beliefs. Both essays

clearly refuse the hobbesian notion of liberty (and, therefore, of coercion) that characterizes today's thinking and tends to identify liberty and licence. In contrast, in the Lockean view shared by both thinkers freedom is identified with the power of disposing at will of all legitimate property titles. Clearly, both in the view of Rothbard's and Lepage's, if property is the mere outcome of 'political' decisions (as obtains in today's social-democratic systems), justice gives way to the force and the bullying of whoever can bend the law to their interests.

The freedom to dispose at will of one's property is also the source of the impressive creativity of the market that obtains in every society respectful of property. Further proof that a strict defence of individual rights lays the foundation of a general development of the economy and of society at large.

Henri Lepage (1914-) was among the most renowned 'nouveau économistes' and for several years directed the Institut Euro 92 in Paris. In 1978 he authored *Demain le capitalisme*, which encountered an immediated success and was translated in several languages. In the following years he wrote *Démain le libéralisme* (1980), *Vive le commerce* (1982), and *La nouvelle économie industrielle* (1989). Co-founder of the Institut Turgot, in 1999 he edited the volume *Vingt économistes face à la crise*.

Murray N. Rothbard (1926-1995) was the major libertarian thinker of our age. Student of Ludwig von Mises at the New York University, he taught first at the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute and later at the University of Nevada. He was among the founders of the Cato Institute and of the Ludwig von Mises Institute, he is author of a number of fundamental works of classical liberal and libertarian thought of the Twentieth century, Among his major works are: *Man Economy, and State* (1962), *Power and Market* (1970), *For A New Liberty* (1973), *The Ethics of Liberty* (1982), *Economic Thought Before Adam Smith* (1994) and *Classical Economics* (1995).

July 22nd 2005 – Briefing Paper n.21

Acqua: troppo importante per non lasciarla al mercato

(Water: Too Important Not To Be Left to the Market)

by Giorgio Bianco

The regular cries of alarm about the scarcity of water and the danger of drought are likewise regularly echoed by requests for more governmental control on water resources and, as it might be expected, more money.

The author, on the strength of the experience of other countries, particularly of Britain's, shows how the problem originates instead in the governmental control and operation of the waters and that the solution is to be found in the private ownership of water resources.

August 11th 2005 – Briefing Paper n.22

La corsa all'oro nero

(The Rush to Black Gold)

by Carlo Stagnaro

The operation of the free market can guarantee the efficient management of the demand and offer of oil. Current problems are originated less in insurmountable technical problems or economic issues than in political hostility and misunderstandings.

August 2nd 2005 – Occasional Paper n.17

Clima: stabilizzazione o adattamento?

(Global Climate: Stabilization or Adaptation?)

by Indur M. Goklany

This paper investigates the risks related to warming and suggests a number of very cost-effective solutions. The Author is an analyst of the US Department of Interior and shows convincingly that poorer societies need to be helped to improve their ability to adapt to climate change. A number of measures is available that focus on current critical issues (malaria, hunger) and can guarantee significant improvement in the future. Moreover, a flexible approach can be always be tailored to any new contingency.

July 7th 2005 – IBL Focus n.3

Kyoto: costa tanto e serve a niente

(Kyoto: A Costly and Useless Affair)

by Carlo Stagnaro

The treaty on global climate originates in a misunderstanding of the real state of the scientific debate. It is perfectly possible that the observed warming may be originated in a natural cycle and that any measure taken to curb it may turn out to be completely useless. Moreover, Kyoto only involves a small minority of developed countries and, as such, any (costly) emissions reduction will only have a negligible impact on global emissions.

July 19th 2005 – IBL Focus n.4

Scambi e protezionismo

(Trade and Protectionism)

by Franklin Cudjoe

How often is necessary to slam into a wall to realise that we are in a blind alley? In the view of the many bleeding hearts convinced that poverty—and particularly African poverty—can be solved by ever more money and economic planning, slamming into a wall should be a neverending affair.

But a different—and significantly more fruitful—approach is available: in this brief paper Franklin Cudjoe shows how raising duties and tariffs had catastrophic effects on the African economies and that only the opening to trade has produced concrete achievements in poorer countries.

July 24th 2005 – IBL Focus n.5

Come cambia il ruolo del medico nella società moderna

(The Changing Role of the Physician in Modern Society)

by Delon Human

The medical profession is subject to many pressures from a number of sources: regulation, tight budgets, more demanding patients. The role and status of the physician in modern society no longer are what they used to be and surveys suggest a diffuse pessimism in the physicians' ranks. In this IBL Focus, Delon Human—former Secretary General of The World Medical Association—investigates the condition of the medical profession and suggests that physicians ought to take part in the political debate which is transforming healthcare systems all over the world.

August 7th 2005 – IBL Focus n.6

Non saranno gli aiuti a debellare l'AIDS

(More Aid Will Not Cure Aids in Africa)

by Franklin Cudjoe

As in the broader case of development, the fight against AIDS is framed in Western countries in the simple terms of “more aid=more results.” On the basis of the available evidence, Franklin Cudjoe shows that the effectiveness of the battle against AIDS (as well as against other diseases in the African continent) depends on the quality and quantity of the medical infrastructure and staff. The conclusion is that the only policy that does not entail perverse effects is the economic development of African countries, necessary condition for overcoming poverty and disease.

August 21st 2005 – IBL Focus n.7

La rivoluzione della flat tax nell'Europa dell'Est

(Eastern Europe's Flat Tax Revolution)

by Daniel J. Mitchell

After decades of Communist oppression, Eastern European countries entered courageously the road of free-market reform. One of the clearest and shicking examples—at least from the perspective of the high priests of welfare-statism—is the flat tax. The brilliant economic results achieved in Eastern Europe seem to be rewarding such a daring choice.

1) Section “Theory and Current Events”

Il Riformista, 1 July 2005, Accendete un cero per Rosmini, liberale profeta della sussidiarietà, by Alberto Mingardi

L'Indipendente, 5 July 2005, L'America è cambiata, ma sempre America rimane, by Carlo Lottieri

L'Indipendente, 6 July 2005, Il “non voto” è scetticismo di fronte al potere, by Carlo Lottieri

L'Unione Sarda, 10 July 2005, Interviste immaginarie: Ronald Reagan. “Per la libertà dell'uomo, lo Stato va limitato”, by Carlo Stagnaro

L'Unione Sarda, 10 July 2005, Ripensare la politica estera, sulle orme di Jefferson, by Carlo Lottieri

L'Indipendente, 10 July 2005, La Svezia dei coniugi Myrdal. Tra socialismo ed eugenetica, by Carlo Lottieri

Il Riformista, 12 July 2005, Educazione libera o libertà educativa?, by Alberto Mingardi

La Provincia by Como, 13 July 2005, No alla licenza di uccidere, sì all'autodifesa, by Carlo Stagnaro

La Provincia by Como, 15 July 2005, Quello strano europeismo in salsa francese, by Alberto Mingardi

Il Corriere del Veneto, 16 July 2005, La sfida del Patriarca. Veneto, Islam, mondo globale, Paolo Bernardini

La Provincia by Como, 17 July 2005, Esiste un'America profonda: lontana e isolazionista, by Carlo Lottieri

Ludwig von Mises Institute Working Papers, 20 July 2005, Vatican City as a Free Society: Legal Order and Political Theology, by Carlo Lottieri

Il Riformista, 9 August 2005, Lo «Stato nemico» di Enrico Leone, by Alberto Mingardi

L'Indipendente, 9 August 2005, Londra non è lontana da Hiroshima. Le radici del terrorismo sono nell'ideologia statuale, by Carlo Lottieri

L'Indipendente, 11 August 2005, Questione morale? Liberiamo il capitalismo, by Carlo Lottieri

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 12 August 2005, Free-marketeers get up, by Karen Horn

Frankfurt Allgemeine Zeitung, 12 August 2005, Die wirtschaftlichen Freigeister stellen sich auf die Hinterbeine, von Karen Horn

Istituto Bruno Leoni, 29 August 2005, Un'estate particolare. In America nei templi del libero mercato, by Rosamaria Bitetti

2) Section “Competition and Globalization”

Il Tempo, 1 July 2005, Gli aiuti non costruiscono ricchezza, by Alberto Mingardi

Liberò, 1 July 2005, Meno aiuti per salvare l’Africa, by Alberto Mingardi

Liberò, 3 July 2005, Canta che ti passa? Certo non l’acquolina, by Alberto Mingardi

Il Giornale, 4 July 2005, Live 8, sprecata l’occasione per dare un segnale diverso, by Gualtiero Vecellio

Il Riformista, 7 July 2005, Brevetti e software. L’open source è socialismo?

La Provincia, 10 July 2005, Europa e Africa, il paradosso dell’agricoltura, by Alberto Mingardi

Liberò, 10 July 2005, Bilancio del G8. Più aiuti e meno dazi: ma servirà all’Africa?, by Alberto Mingardi

Liberò, 14 July 2005, L’Africa si vuole liberare da Bob Geldof, by Martino Cervo

Il Riformista, 14 July 2005, Il presidente della Esso fuga i luoghi comuni sul petrolio. La risposta alla sfida ambientale è lo sviluppo, by Carlo Stagnaro

Il Tempo, 15 July 2005, Nell’UE strategia dello struzzo, by Alberto Mingardi

Liberò, 19 July 2005, Al farmacista non far sapere... I farmaci al supermarket fanno bene ai consumatori, by Alberto Mingardi

Il Riformista, 20 July 2005, Revival dell’intervento pubblico. L’energia tra Stato e mercato, by Carlo Stagnaro

Il Tempo, 22 July 2005, Le barriere che fermano il mercato, by Alberto Mingardi

Liberò, 23 July 2005, Nella finanza le regole del Palio di Siena, by Clemente Alessandrino

Il Sole 24 Ore, 26 July 2005, I frutti inattesi della pirateria, by Franco Debenedetti

Il Tempo, 29 July 2005, Imprenditori ma non speculatori, by Alberto Mingardi

L’Indipendente, 28 July 2005, Petrolio, il fattore politica. Ci sono le condizioni per far calare il prezzo del greggio, by Carlo Stagnaro

L’Indipendente, 4 August 2005, Autoritaria, non autorevole. L’Authority per le Telecomunicazioni, by Carlo Stagnaro

Il Riformista, 5 August 2005, La difesa della 'americanità': i cinesi no pasaran. Vittorie di Pirro sui mercati petroliferi, by Carlo Stagnaro

Il Tempo, 5 August 2005, Impossibile resistere al mercato, by Alberto Mingardi

Liberio, 6 August 2005, Il foglietto che ha fregato Bertinotti, by Alberto Mingardi

Istituto Bruno Leoni, 8 August 2005, C'è speranza per l'Europa? by Richard W. Rahn

Istituto Bruno Leoni, 9 August 2005, Occupazione: Stati Uniti, Europa, Italia, by Antonio Martino

La Provincia by Como, 7 August 2005, È urgente separare Stato e capitalismo, Scontri tra bande e socialismo "all'italiana", by Carlo Lottieri

Istituto Bruno Leoni, 11 August 2005, Perché il mercato fa paura? Costa, Sylos Labini, e il destino del Veneto, by Paolo Bernardini

Il Tempo, 19 August 2005, I vantaggi della tassa unica, by Alberto Mingardi

The Wall Street Journal, 19 August 2005, Il Giappone: una nazione come le altre, Di James P. Lucier, Jr.

Il Sole 24 Ore, 21 August 2005, «Flat tax»: l'Est dà lezioni, by Daniel J. Mitchell

Il Riformista, 23 August 2005, Le vedove del Vioxx rischiano di vincere la guerra dei farmaci, by Alberto Mingardi

Il Foglio, 24 August 2005, Aliquota unica, un'idea per Berlino buona anche per l'Europa. Angela Merkel punta sulla flat tax, by Carlo Stagnaro

L'Indipendente, 26 August 2005, E gli ultimi spengono la luce. La crisi energetica e l'equivoco della concertazione, by Carlo Stagnaro

La Provincia by Como, 26 August 2005, La questione morale è assenza di mercato, by Carlo Lottieri

The Wall Street Journal, 29 August 2005, The World Is Flat. But America is a laggard in the tax-reform revolution, by John Fund

Il Foglio, 31 August 2005, Portate (troppo) in tribunale, le imprese faranno più fatica a investire, by Carlo Stagnaro

Il Foglio, 31 August 2005, Trasporti e mercato, le liste nere non risolvono il problema

Il Sole 24 Ore, 31 August 2005, Nel vicolo patriottico. L'inganno dei campioni nazionali, by Alessandro De Nicola

3) Section “Welfare and Tax Policy”

L'Indipendente, 7 August 2005, I sindacati contro la libertà contrattuale. Tra Svizzera e Italia, un episodio emblematico, by Carlo Lottieri

Il Tempo, 12 August 2005, L'Italia, l'Argentina e l'ombra della politica. Nello stivale si guarda al 'chi' e si trascura il 'cosa', by Alberto Mingardi

Italia Oggi, 19 August 2005, Tasse di scopo e fiscalismo federale, by Marco Bertoncini

Istituto Bruno Leoni, 22 August 2005, Una rivoluzione fiscale?, by Antonio Martino

L'Unione Sarda, 21 August 2005, Se anche la Germania scopre l'aliquota unica, by Carlo Lottieri

Il Tempo, 26 August 2005, Oltre il bipolarismo?, by Alberto Mingardi

La Provincia di Como, 30 August 2005, Tasse: in Europa si profila una via tedesca?, by Carlo Lottieri

4) Sezione “Environment and Energy”

Liberio, 1 July 2005, Il protocollo di Kyoto serve solo a farci spendere una fortuna in energia. Le emissioni europee crescono, by Carlo Stagnaro

L'Indipendente, 7 July 2005, Kyoto non regge senza petrolio. Bush non si nasconde dietro a un dito come l'Europa, by Carlo Stagnaro

Il Giornale del Popolo, 29 July 2005, L'alternativa USA che fa bene all'ambiente. Il protocollo “anti-Kyoto”, by Carlo Stagnaro

La Provincia di Como, 5 August 2005, Oltre Kyoto più ambiente e più sviluppo. La Partnership voluta dall'America aiuta i paesi poveri, by Carlo Stagnaro

Il Riformista, 10 August 2005, Lo shock è passeggero, il caro petrolio no. Dietro il balzo a 64 dollari mutamenti di lungo periodo, by Carlo Stagnaro

Liberio, 11 August 2005, Pieno meno caro se anche la benzina fosse al supermarket. Merlo suggerisce di ripensare la distribuzione, by Carlo Stagnaro

L'Indipendente, 13 August 2005, Perché in Italia esiste ancora il tabù del nucleare. Il greggio a 70 dollari spinge l'atomo, by Carlo Stagnaro

Il Giornale del Popolo, 20 August 2005, Le cifre rosse non aiutano il verde. Economia ed ecologia, by Carlo Stagnaro

Il Riformista, 25 August 2005, Senza ridurre le accise sarà dura sbrogliare la matassa energetica. Possibili anche misure di breve termine, by Carlo Stagnaro

Italia Oggi, 11 August 2005, Kyoto, norme non uguali per tutti. Nessuna riduzione prevista per 87 dei 121 paesi ratificanti, by Alessandra Nucci



OUR INSTITUTE

The mission of Istituto Bruno Leoni (IBL), named after the renowned Italian lawyer and philosopher, is 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.



OUR AIM

Our philosophy is known under a number of labels: “liberal,” “individualist,” “libertarian.” Names do not matter. What really matters is instead our pledge to what Lord Acton called “the highest political end: individual liberty. In an age in which the enemies of freedom seem to regain strength, IBL aims to promote the spread of ideas on liberty through rigorous and accurate research, which at the same time can be accessible to a broader audience.