



Sebastiano Nerozzi

Associate Professor of History of Economics & Business History -Catholic University of Milan, Dpt. of Economics and Finance- and Istituto di Storia Economica e Sociale "Mario Romani"

“*Italians first*”: economic decline and the rise of populism in Italy”
(Conference given in English)

* * * *

Italy, which for many decades was the most enthusiastic supporter of the European community, is now the first among the major European countries where anti-EU parties hold power. In this peculiar sense “Italians” are really “first”, as the far-right leader and minister of the interior Matteo Salvini has been widely and successfully proclaiming during the voting campaign. The last European elections have boldly confirmed the increasing disaffection of most Italians for European institutions and policies, together with a rising social alarm toward immigration and globalization at large.

Are these radical changes somehow linked to Italy’s bad economic performance during the Euro’s years? What are the economic/non-economic drivers of widespread social turmoil and political hostility to European institutions?

Italy is today the “great sick man” of Europe. After 2008 Italy has suffered the most spectacular blow in its real per capita GDP among European countries, with the sole exception of Greece: its real GDP is below its pre-crisis level. Actually, the roots of Italian economic decline started before the onset of the global financial crisis. By the late 1990s, most economic indicators -labour productivity, employment, investment, real wages- turned down and have not progressed since then. High unemployment rates, increasing inequality, widespread poverty, an enlarging divide between North and South, and, last but not least, a huge public debt, are the most dramatic legacies of the last two decades. Euro-sceptics have easy play in showing how the misfortunes of Italian economy started with the Euro. An oversimplified tale, that has taken hold on Italian public opinion, risks to distract from the deeper structural diseases affecting their economy.

The analysis of electoral tendencies at the national and regional level must be read under the perspective of economic and social factors such as the impact of migration, unemployment rates, income inequality, firms mortality and the quality of institutions. Huge differentials between the North and the South, between urban and non-urban areas, between stagnating and dynamic local economies, may help explain how and why populism has taken momentum in Italy and, could, perhaps, do the same in other parts of Europe.

Sebastiano Nerozzi’s research interests focus on the history of economic thought and policy, the history of financial institutions, the history of Italian catholic movement, international economics.

He is currently editor (with Giorgio Ricchiuti) of the Series “Economia a più voci” published by Nerbini Editore, Florence; member of the board of the journal History of Economic Thought and Policy; coordinator of the Master degree in “Philosophic competences for economic decisions” at the Catholic University of Milan.

Se ruega confirmación de asistencia
a la siguiente dirección de correo:
info@clubderomagv.org

Fecha de la conferencia: 2019-07-05
Hora: 17,00

Lugar: Deusto Business School, Aula 16

Mesedez, hitzaldi honetara etortzekoa bazara
eman ezazu izena honako helbidera:
info@clubderomagv.org

Hitzaldiaren data: 2019-07-05
Ordua: 17,00

Lekua: Deusto Business School, 16 Gelan