

IL LIBERALISMO EGALITARIO CONTRO LA CONCENTRAZIONE DEL POTERE ECONOMICO: L'ORDOLIBERALISMO DI WALTER EUCKEN*

Walter Oswalt**

Abstract: Increasingly larger concentrations of economic power endanger democracy, the constitutional state as well as the ecological and social foundations of life. The antidemocratic concentration of economic power is made possible by numerous power-supporting regulations in constitutions and individual laws. But what is created by politics can also be abolished by politics. The criticism of unequal power came originally from egalitarian liberalism (e.g. Overton, Liburne, Marquis d'Argenson, Paine, Condorcet). In this tradition the first generation of the Chicago school (Henry Simons, Frank Knight) and the first generation of the Freiburg school (ordoliberals: Walter Eucken, Franz Böhm, Alexander Rüstow) created concepts, which prevent and dismantle economic power. "*Not the misuse of economic power is to be fought against, but the economic power itself.*" (Walter Eucken). This paper presents the almost forgotten revolutionary tradition of 'corporate free market economy'. It debates also the methodology of analysing the structures of power (*Ordnungstheorie*). The aim of *strong* liberalism - opposed to the *weak* liberalism of our time - are political sensitivity, resilience, creativity and sustainability by Power Equality.

Keywords: Ordoliberalismo, Eucken, Böhm, Rüstow, Simons, Knight, Freiburg School, Chicago School, economic power, liberalism, market economy, deconcentration, egalitarian liberalism, communitarism, postmodernism, *homo oeconomicus*, *Ordnungstheorie*, decentralization, antitrust policy.

* Traduzione a cura di Raffaele Mele, Università G. d'Annunzio, Chieti-Pescara.

** Walter Oswalt, Walter-Eucken-Archiv, Frankfurt am Main.