

Preface

The European left wing, in particular the Italian and the French, is the only social force able to put on the ropes the conservative block in Germany and in England through the strengthening, in the name of the shield of the unemployed, of the opposition, that in these countries still exists. The contrast to unemployment is a goal as meritorious for such a left wing, as it is stodgy for those governments which today are slowing down the recovery and the pro-Europe instances. This is the reason why the contrast to unemployment [...] does not represent only the first step towards the European Union, but also, maybe, a political guideline aiming at joining all the left wing parties in Europe. Is this just Utopia? The Utopia of the weak is not, maybe, the strong ones' fear¹?

This is what Ezio Tarantelli wrote a few weeks before being murdered by two red brigades killers when he was 44, on 27th March 1985. This book aims at reconstructing his contribution to economic analysis and the economic and socio-logical theories which inspired his economic policy proposals.

The content is organized in five chapters, the Appendix includes Tarantelli's scientific writings bibliography.

The first chapter aims at providing a historical framework to describe the social, political and economic setting for Tarantelli's analysis.

The second chapter offers a short profile of Tarantelli's intellectual biography. In this context, Joan Robinson's analytical contribution to the scheme of analysis of Tarantelli will be firstly examined. It is, in fact, mainly thanks to Robinson's approach that Tarantelli was able to formulate his cyclic version of the mark up principle. As it will be seen later on, it is based on the notion of "subjective normal price" which she expounded in the *Accumulation of capital*. We will then concentrate on Tarantelli's intellectual connection with Modigliani. Though they wrote

¹Tarantelli (1985 [7], pp. 576–577). The number in the squared brackets refers to the appendix of Tarantelli's scientific writings bibliography.

several remarkable essays together, concerning analytical refinements of Phillips curve, this connection has been very fruitful, not only from the analytical point of view. Also Tarantelli's methodological revision of his "four cards" Post Keynesian labour market model can be largely traced back to Modigliani's influence.

The third chapter will focus on Tarantelli's analytical refinements and generalizations to the Post Keynesian labour market, moving from his criticism to the new labour microeconomics approach.

The fourth chapter will deal with Tarantelli's reformulation of the Post Keynesian model in a conflictual scenery. Within this context, Tarantelli's social conflict theory will be examined. As is known, it rested on the generation leap hypothesis, i.e. the emergence at the end of the sixties of a more cultivated labour force, which could not be structured in a hierarchical and authoritative organization model inherited from the past. Such a phenomenon would cause a short circuit between the two "collective brains", that is the conflict.

The fifth chapter will be dedicated to a survey of the main economic policy measures elaborated by Tarantelli, i.e. the OPEC surplus recycling, the inflation recovery proposal and the shield of the unemployed and to a brief exam of economists' attitudes towards them.

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