

# IBL'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

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## IBL DURING THE PANDEMIC

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- The Covid19 crisis drove IBL to a deep **rethinking of its efforts and operations.**
- As all public events were cancelled, we have swiftly reorganised our efforts to bring our seminars and meetings on the available online platforms.
- In March-December 2020, IBL organized **65 webinars**, with a significant audience (our top achievement was up to **700** viewers live and some **5,000** on-demand viewers).
- The prevailing uncertainty about future circumstances dictates a prosecution of this approach, and the need to **identify new opportunities.**
- Since September 2020 IBL has broadened its offer, organising a series of online courses for paying participants.



### PRONTO INTERVENTO FORENSE

- To deal with the many abuses and the nonsense caused by the limitations to the free movement of citizens enacted as a response to COVID-19, Istituto Bruno Leoni has activated a legal aid initiative to all citizens in cases of abuse of power by the authorities.
- With the help of a number of attorneys working pro bono in several areas in Italy, Istituto Bruno Leoni helps the citizens to challenge in court fines and measures that defy the principles of law and of logic.

## PRESENCE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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- During this year IBL has steadily increased and enhanced its presence on the major social media platforms:
  - **+15%** on average in the **follower base** on all platforms (since March).
  - Some **+100%** increase **per month** (in the last quarter) in **Instagram** interactions.
  - **1,000-5,000 direct interactions per day** on our profiles (reactions, comments, etc).
  - Some **100,000 unique users** reached every **week** by our contents.

# HIGHLIGHTS

In addition to its presence as a recognised and authoritative voice in the Italian political debate, Istituto Bruno Leoni is present in important international news and comment outlets.

Corriere della sera–Economia, 15 February 2021



Italy's ranking improved, but with the COVID-19 pandemic the presence of the government in the economy is growing.

Wall Street Journal, 9 December 2020



Think U.S. lockdowns are bad? Imagine being confined to your town.

Corriere della Sera, 5 December 2020



Governing in these circumstances is hard, but we should have at least some agreement on the policy's goals.

AIER, 2 November 2020



A summary of "The Myth of the Entrepreneurial State," by Deirdre Nansen McCloskey and Alberto Mingardi.

## AWARDS

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IBL confirmed its presence in the “Global Go To Think Tank Index” Report, published each year by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) of the Lauder Institute at the University of Pennsylvania.

The Index evaluates over 11,000 think tanks in the world (153 in Italy) and is made on the basis of the assessment and rankings offered by the international community of research organisations and relevant experts.

Istituto Bruno Leoni was ranked as the **132nd best think tank in the world** overall.

Furthermore, IBL was ranked 76th best Western European think tank, and 124th among non-US think tanks.

RESEARCH





# KEY RESEARCH ITEMS

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- Since January 2020, IBL has published **31** research papers
- Research covered topics of immediate relevance to the pandemic:
  - The constitutional feasibility of Italy's "emergency law".
  - The impact of the lockdowns on the civil liberties of Italian citizens.
  - The impact of the lockdown on education and the role private schools can play in favouring a fairer and more effective educational system.
- The Institute has also worked assessing the problems related with the government's management of the economic crisis and the measures aimed at fostering a recovery. In particular:
  - It researched the benefits for Italy to seek an ESM loan (vs the government's declared intention of not doing so).
  - It researched the need to liberalize the platforms economy in order to strengthen delivery services while allowing social distancing.
  - It researched the importance of supporting private schools, in the post-pandemic educational system.



# COVID-19, GOVERNMENT, AND LIBERTIES

As a response to the COVID-19 crisis, on April 26th the Italian government enacted a very strict lockdown.

After the lockdown was relaxed in the Summer, a second wave of infections prompted the government to enact a new series of restrictive measures. Total or partial lockdowns entail severe curbs on the basic rights and freedoms of citizens.

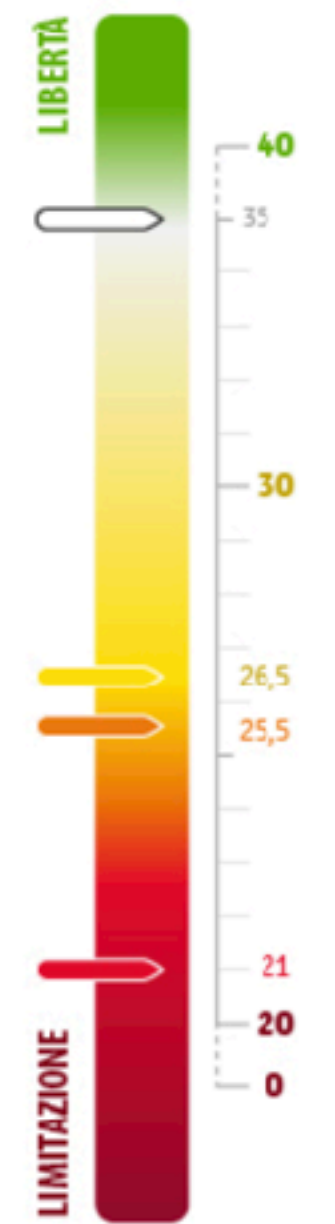
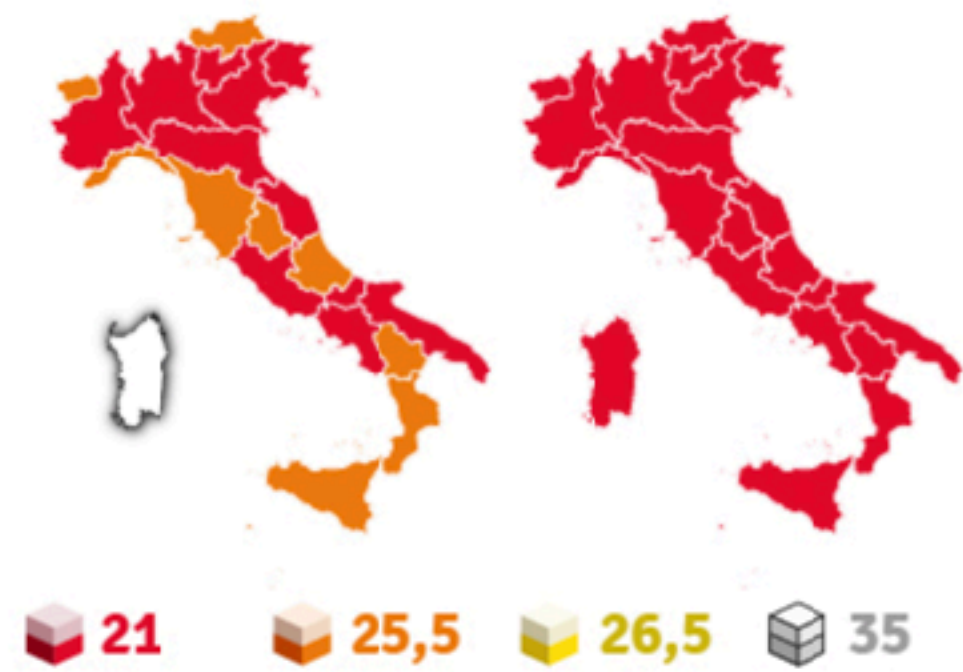
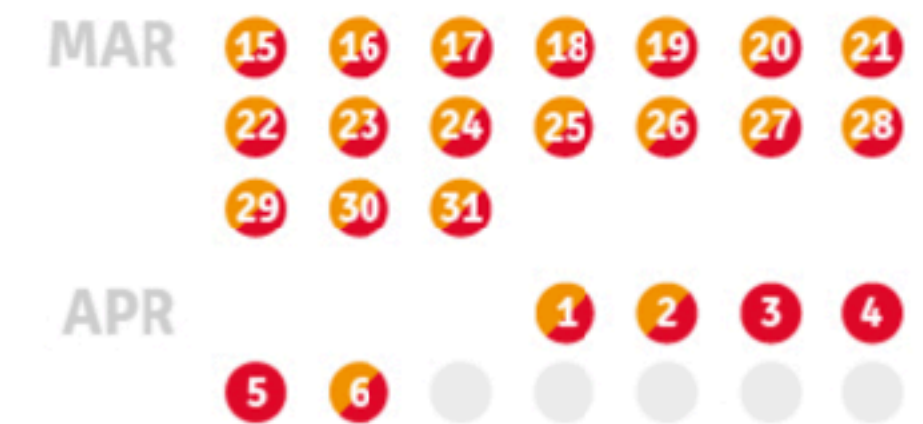
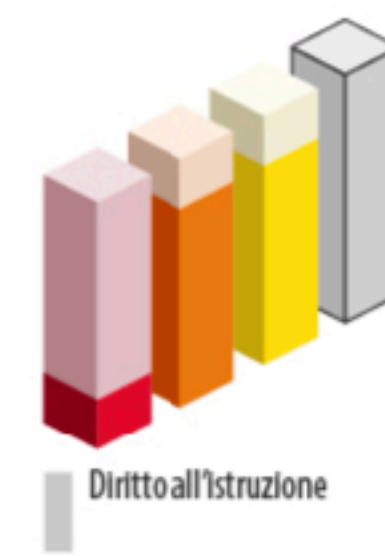
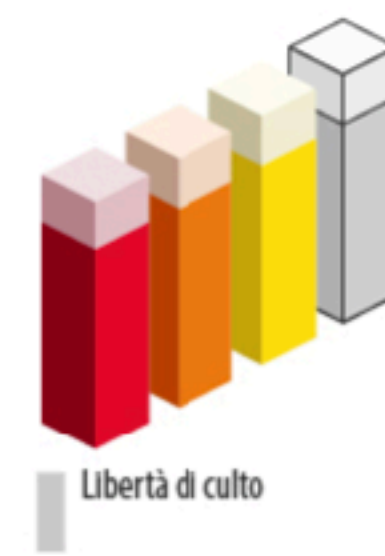
Istituto Bruno Leoni has devised an index to gauge the severity of the loss of liberty on 8 measures along a 0-40 scale, differentiated between regions, and regularly updated in consequence of the national and regional government decrees.

# COVID-19, GOVERNMENT, AND LIBERTIES

EDUCATION  
 WORK  
 ASSEMBLY  
 MOVEMENT  
 WORSHIP  
 PRIVACY  
 GOOD GOVERNMENT  
 HEALTHCARE



DL 12 MARZO - ORD. MIN. SALUTE 15 MARZO

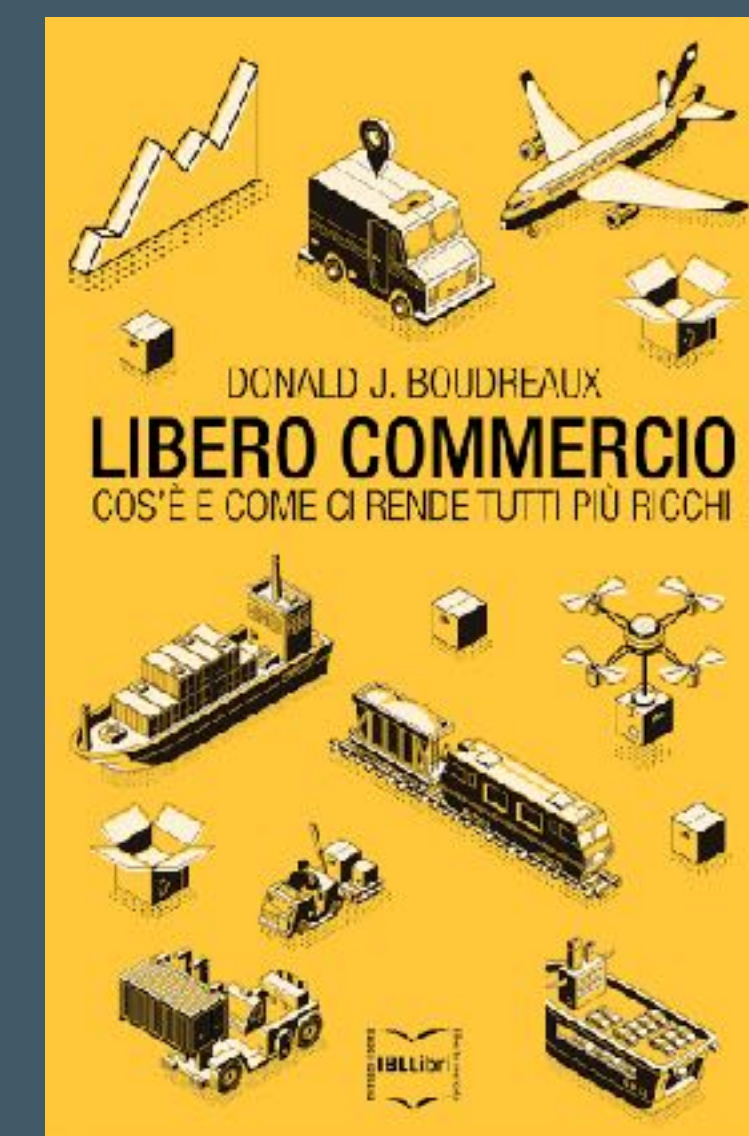
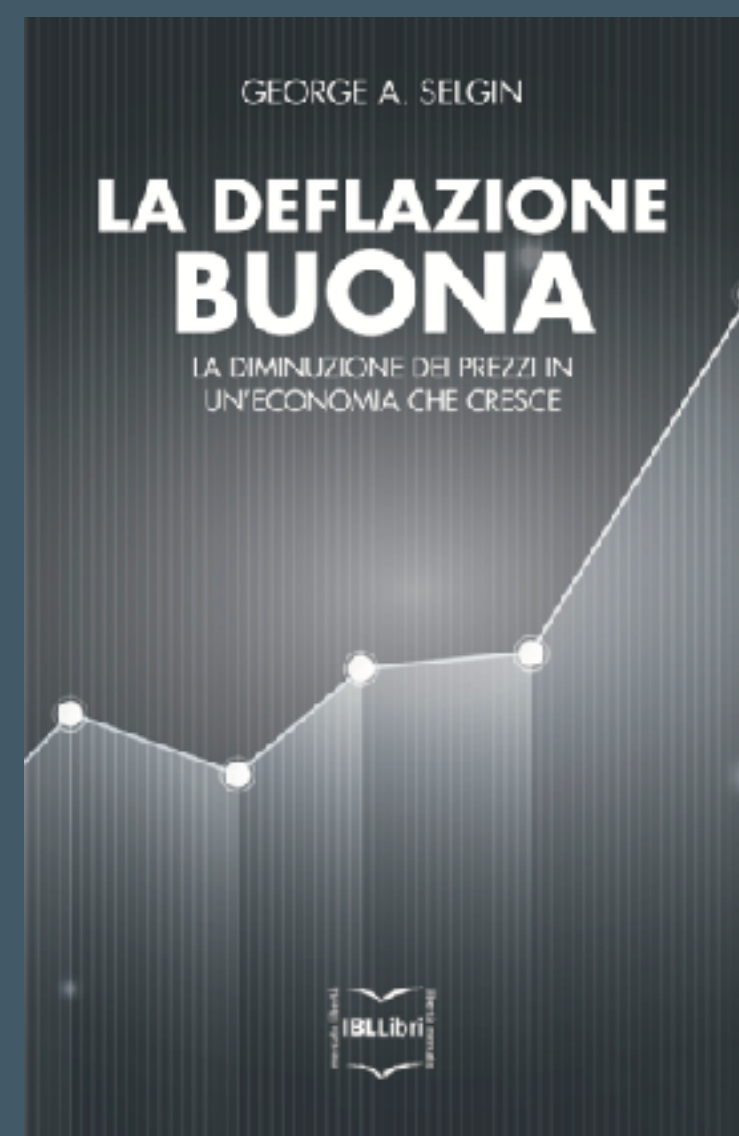
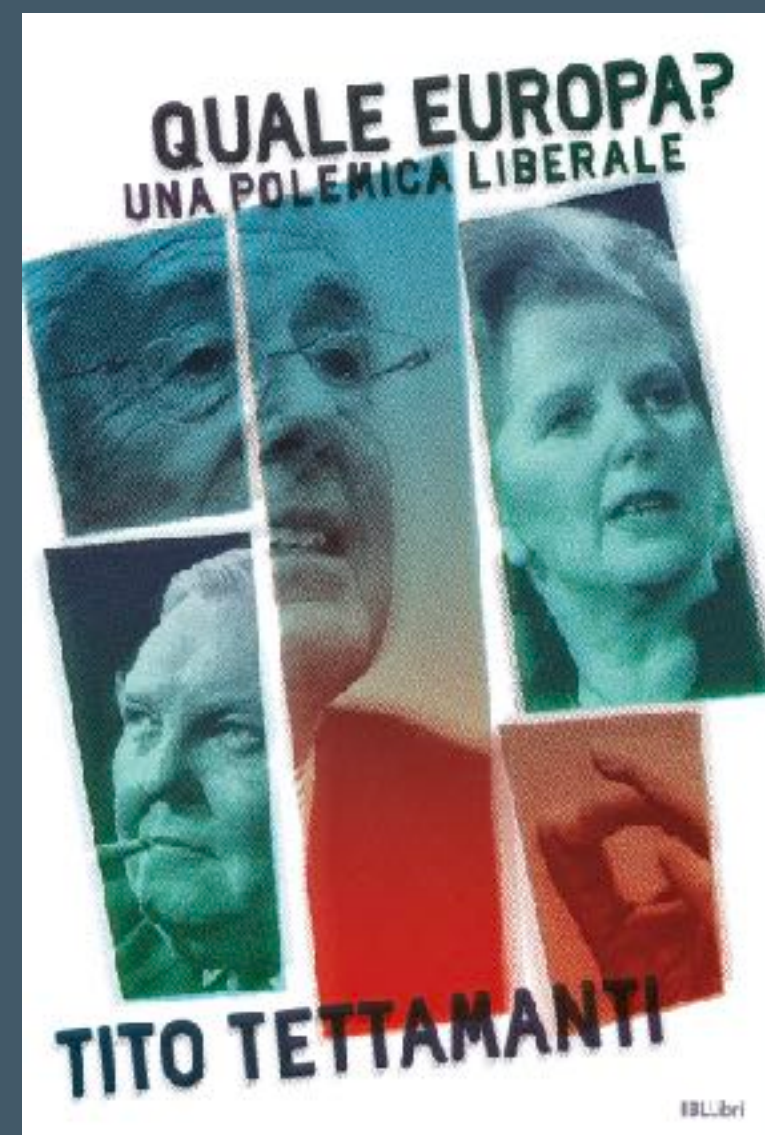
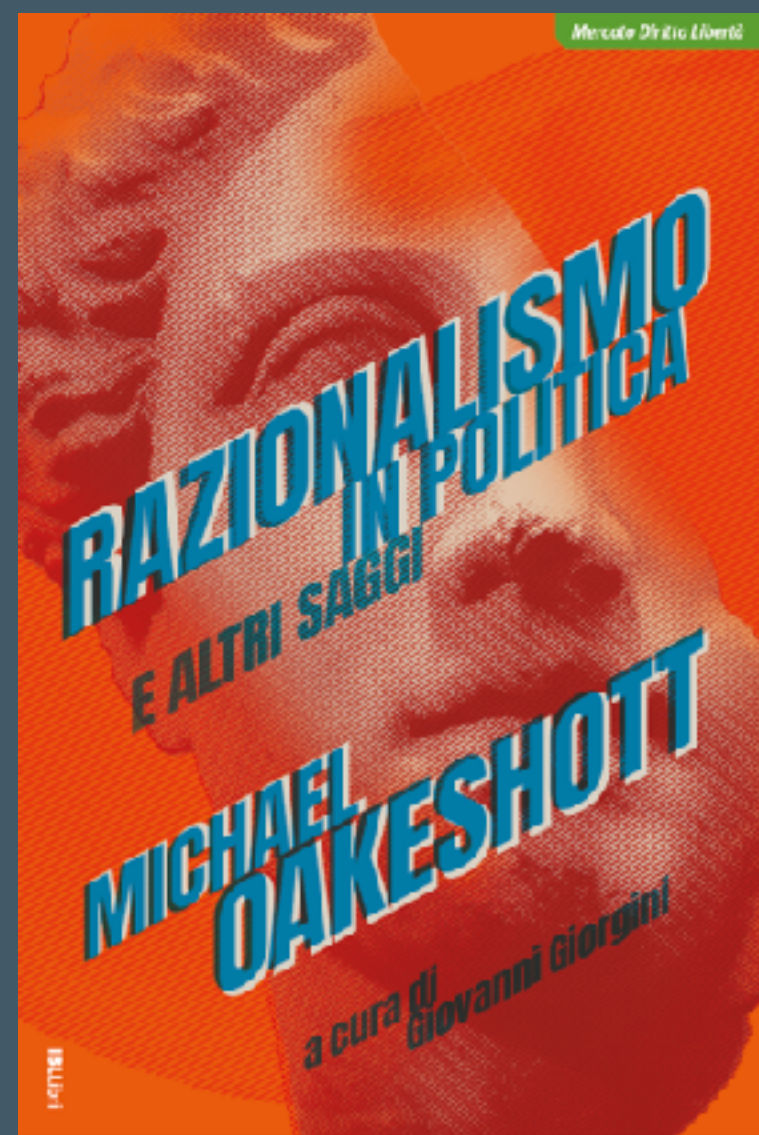


# PUBLICATIONS

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# IBL BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 2020





ONLINE SEMINARS. MARCH-DECEMBER 2020

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# IBL'S WEBINARS

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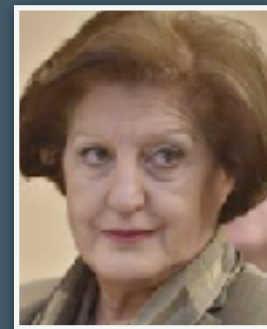
## IMPACT

- **65** webinars.
- Between **100** and **700 live viewers** for each seminar.
- Up to **5,000 views on-demand**.
- An average of **50 questions** asked to the speakers during the webinars.
- Live **tweeting**.
- A dedicated **newsletter**.



# IBL'S WEBINARS

## OTHER NOTABLE GUESTS



Anna Maria **Ajello**  
President, Italian Assessment Authority for  
the Educational System



Carlo **Cottarelli**  
Public Accounts Overview Agency



Francesco **Pizzetti**  
Former Head of the Privacy Authority



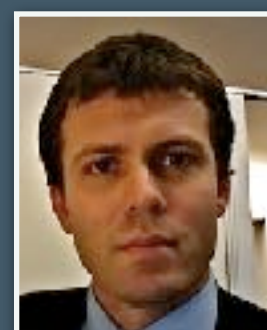
Lorenzo **Bini Smaghi**  
Chairman, Société Générale



Steven **Davies**  
Institute of Economic Affairs



Rino **Rappuoli**  
GlaxoSmithKline Vaccines



Lorenzo **Casini**  
Italian Ministry of Culture



Nils **Karlson**  
The Ratio Institute



Giovanni **Tria**  
Former Minister of Economic Affairs



Gilberto **Corbellini**  
National Research Council



Terence **Kealey**  
University of Buckingham



Nicolò **Zanon**  
Head Justice, Italian Constitutional Court

# PODCASTS



CARLO AMENTA • SERENA SILEONI • CARLO STAGNARO

- Every week, with Carlo **Amenta** (University of Palermo), Serena **Sileoni** (IBL) and Carlo **Stagnaro** (IBL).
- The weekly podcast Leoni Files saw an increase of its average downloads number, which grew from some 400 to **800-1,000** per podcast (on all platforms). The show featuring US-based Italian virologist **Ilaria Capua** reached a record **30,000** views.
- The issues debated during the lockdown touched the developments of the epidemic and its social impacts (for instance, with Guido **Silvestri**, virologist, Professor and Head of Department at the Emory University, and Gabriele **Pelissero**, board member della Union Européenne de Hospitalisation privée), its economic consequences, and the different responses (as with Filippo **Patroni Griffi**, President of the Italian Council of State and Vito **Tanzi**, fmr. Director, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF). Furthermore, a number of political figures were hosted in our podcasts: Matteo **Renzi**, fmr. Prime Minister and influential political figure, and Emma **Bonino**, co-founder of the Italian Radical Party, fmr. Minister of Foreign Affairs and civil rights leader.
- Other podcasts focused on European issues such as the Recovery Fund, the European Stability Mechanism, and the challenges posed by the purchase and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.

# ONLINE COURSES AND SEMINARS

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## ON LINE SEMINARS FOR HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

- In the school year 2013/14 we have activated our “IBL nelle scuole” program. In the school year 2019/2020, before the lockdown, IBL had held 59 lecture cycles and emphasised the new comics book series “What really happens if...?”
- Since the start of the pandemics, IBL organized **3 updating and training webinars for teachers**, together with AEEE-Italia (the Italian affiliate of the Association for European Economic Education).
- The “IBL nelle Scuole” program was restructured and adapted to the new circumstances and is active in the new school year.
- We have introduced a new regular feature, “La scuola libera” (A Free School), by Sister Anna Monia Alfieri, that focuses on the challenges posed by the COVID pandemic to Italian schools, with the participation of academic and scholars, as well as teachers and school administrators.



## ONLINE COURSES

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- Building on the positive experience of our web-based seminars and events, IBL decided to launch a series of online courses, to offer an in-depth educational opportunity to the general public.
- The courses are articulated into 7-10 online lectures each, held by academics, professionals and IBL fellows. Each lecture includes teaching materials (slides and a reading list), and is followed by a Q&A session.
- The participation to our online courses requires the payment of a fee. This serves both to support our efforts and to gauge the appreciation and dedication fo our followers.
- A brief outline of the three course held in 2020 follows.





# A BRIEF HISTORY OF LIBERALISM

## BREVE STORIA DEL LIBERALISMO

July 3-17, 2020

### **Adam Smith e la nascita dell'economia politica**

Adam Smith and the Birth of Political Economy

Alberto Mingardi (Director General, Istituto Bruno Leoni)

### **John Locke e il liberalismo dei diritti naturali**

John Locke and Natural Rights Liberalism

Carlo Lottieri (Education Director, Istituto Bruno Leoni)

### **Il liberalismo dopo la rivoluzione francese**

Liberalism After the French Revolution

Biancamaria Fontana (Professor of History of Political Thought, University of Lausanne)

### **La repubblica dei diritti naturali: la nascita degli Stati Uniti d'America**

The Natural Rights Republic: the Birth of the United States

Luigi Marco Bassani (Professor of History of Political Thought, University of Milan)

### **La Scuola austriaca e il dibattito sul calcolo economico**

The Austrian School and the Economic Calculation Debate

Nicola Iannello (Senior Fellow, Istituto Bruno Leoni)

### **L'economia delle scelte pubbliche e il liberalismo nell'era della regolazione**

The Economics of Public Choice and Liberalism in the Age of Regulation

Carlo Stagnaro (Director, Digital Economy Observatory, Istituto Bruno Leoni)

### **La Costituzione e le regole di responsabilità fiscale**

Constitution and Fiscal Responsibility Rules

Nicola Rossi (Professor of Political Economy, University of Rome)





# ENEMIES OF LIBERTY

LA LIBERTÀ E I SUOI NEMICI

September 7-28, 2020

## 1. **Jean-Jacques Rousseau**

Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Luigi Marco Bassani (Professor of History of Political Thought, University of Milan)

## 2. **Karl Marx**

Karl Marx

Nicola Iannello (senior fellow, Istituto Bruno Leoni)

## 3. **Gli Utopisti: da Platone all'età contemporanea**

Utopia: from Plato to the Contemporary Age

Roberta Adelaide Modugno (Professor of History of Political Thought, Università of Rome 3)

## 4. **I benecomunisti**

The Ideology of Common Goods

Carlo Lottieri (Education Director, Istituto Bruno Leoni and Professor of Philosophy of Law, University of Verona)

## 5. **John Maynard Keynes**

John Maynard Keynes

Natale D'Amico (Councillor, Italian Courts of Accounts)

## 6. **La Scuola di Francoforte: Adorno, Habermas, Horkheimer e Marcuse**

The Frankfurt School: Adorno, Habermas, Horkheimer, and Marcuse

Sergio Belardinelli (Professor of Sociology, University of Bologna)

## 7. **Herbert George Wells**

Herbert George Wells

Alberto Mingardi (Director General, Istituto Bruno Leoni and Professor of History of Political Thought, IULM University)

## 8. **Hans Kelsen**

Hans Kelsen

Serena Sileoni (Vice-Director General, Istituto Bruno Leoni and Assistant Professor, Università Suor Orsola Benincasa)

## 9. **Sigmund Freud**

Sigmund Freud

Roberto Festa (Professor of Philosophy of Science, University of Trieste)

## 10. **I postmoderni: Derrida, Foucault e Lacan**

Postmodernism: Derrida, Foucault, and Lacan

Roberto Festa (Professor of Philosophy of Science, University of Trieste)

October 1-29, 2020

**1. Cos'è la finanza. Il suo scopo e i suoi rapporti con l'economia**

**What Is Finance?**

Enrico CASTROVILLI (former President AEEE Italia)

**2. Finanza comportamentale. Motivazioni sociali e psicologiche delle scelte dei risparmiatori**

**Behavioural Finance**

Emanuela E. RINALDI (Assistant Professor of Sociology, University Milano Bicocca)

**3. Intermediari e prodotti finanziari. Dagli strumenti personali ai grandi investimenti**

**Financial Products and Intermediaries**

Francesca DOSSI (Lecturer of Corporate Economics)

**4. Innovazione finanziaria, criptovalute e regolazione: il caso delle ICO**

**Financial Innovations and Cryptocurrencies and Regulation**

Carlo AMENTA (senior fellow Istituto Bruno Leoni and Associate professor of Management, University of Palermo)

**5. Globalizzazione e finanza. Come il denaro ridisegna le distanze**

**Globalization and Finance**

Paolo BELARDINELLI (research fellow Istituto Bruno Leoni and fellow London School of Economics)

**6. Cosa succede se usciamo dall'euro?**

**What Happens If We Leave the Euro?**

Carlo STAGNARO (Director of the Observatory of the Digital Economy, Istituto Bruno Leoni)

**7. Finanza aziendale. Le imprese a caccia di capitali**

**Corporate Finance**

Fabio BANDERALI (Lecturer in Corporate Economics and President of AEEE Italia)

**8. Finanza pubblica. Perché non c'è crescita senza rigore?**

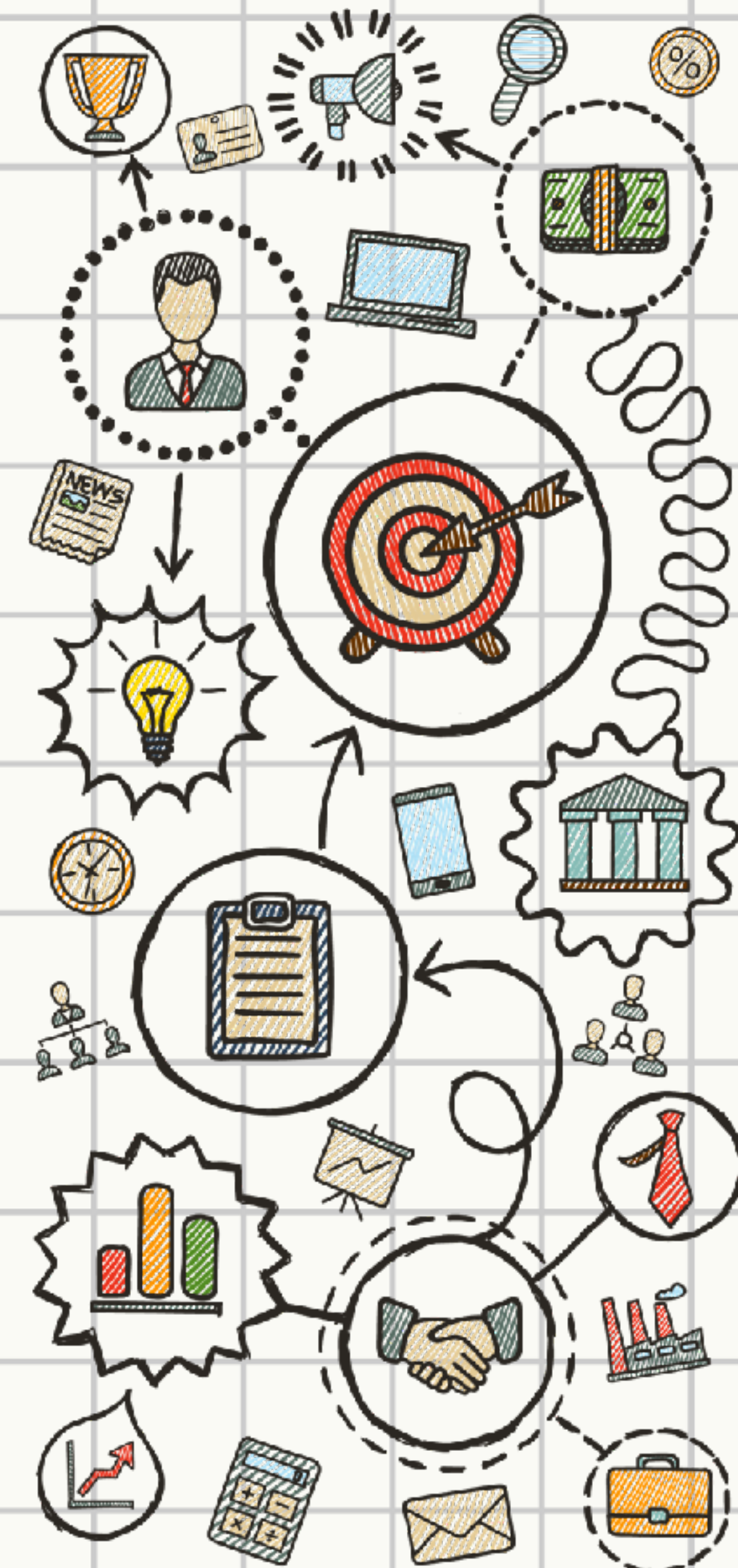
**Public Finance**

Natale D'AMICO (Councillor, Italian Government Audit Court)

**9. Gestione del risparmio e mercati finanziari. I fondi di investimento**

**Savings management and Financial Markets**

Francesca DOSSI (Lecturer of Corporate Economics)

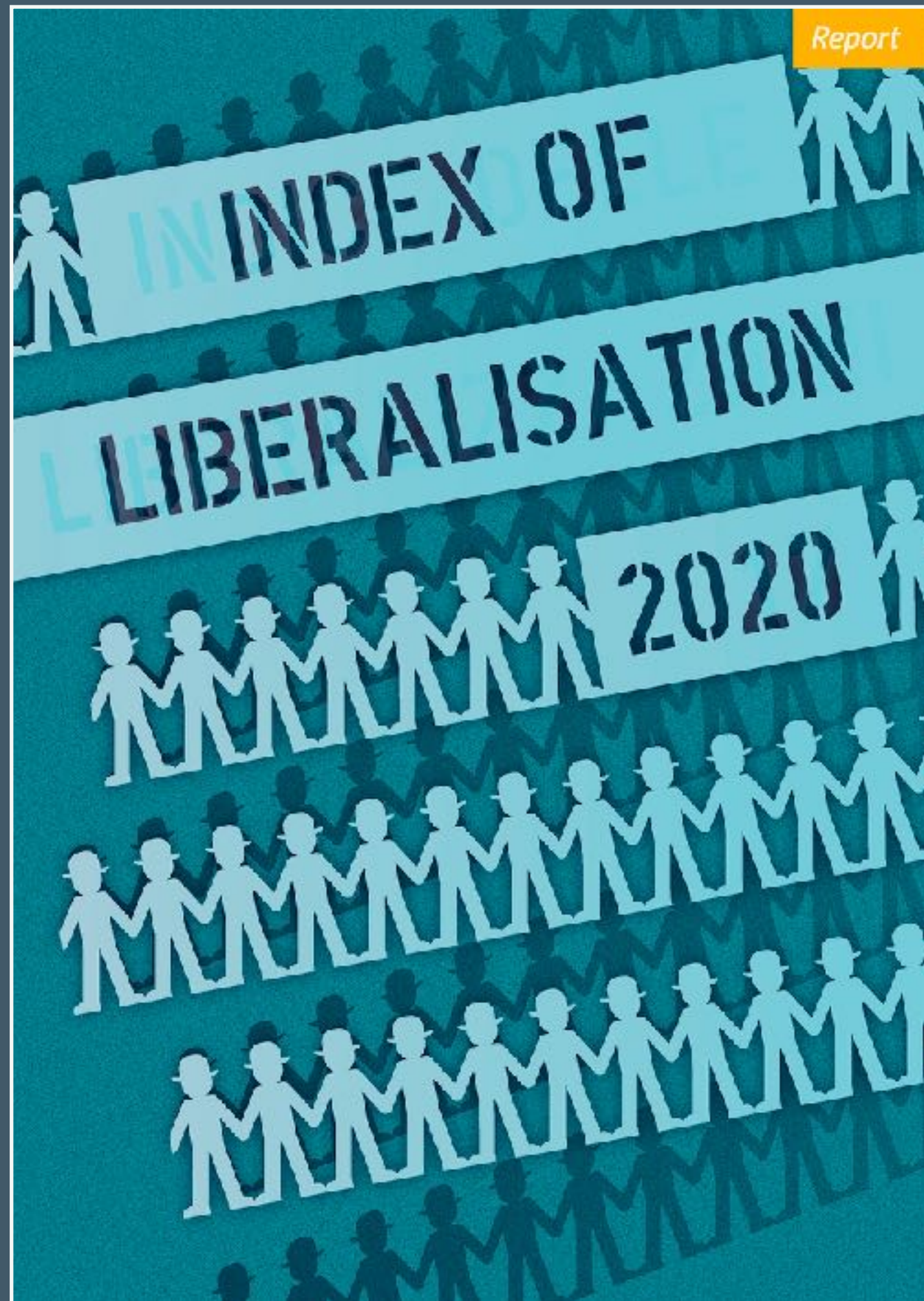




# HIGHLIGHTS 2021

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# INDEX OF LIBERALIZATIONS 2020



Since its first edition in 2007, IBL's Index of Liberalisation ranks the European countries in economic liberalisation. In 2020 the United Kingdom was the most liberalised country in Europe, with a score of 93 out of 100, whereas Italy was in sixth place, with a score of 75 out of 100.

The Index identifies both competition barriers and the best economic practices across nine sectors of the economy in the 27 member states of the European Union and the UK. The report finds that the highest scores in the Index are associated with lower entry costs, greater dynamism, and a larger plurality of operators, offers, and products. This implies that liberalisation is strongly associated with a country's economic growth and level of innovation.



# AGAINST THE ABUSE OF REASON: THE POLITICAL THOUGHT OF MICHAEL OAKESHOTT

## CONTRO L'ABUSO DELLA RAGIONE: IL PENSIERO POLITICO DI MICHAEL OAKESHOTT



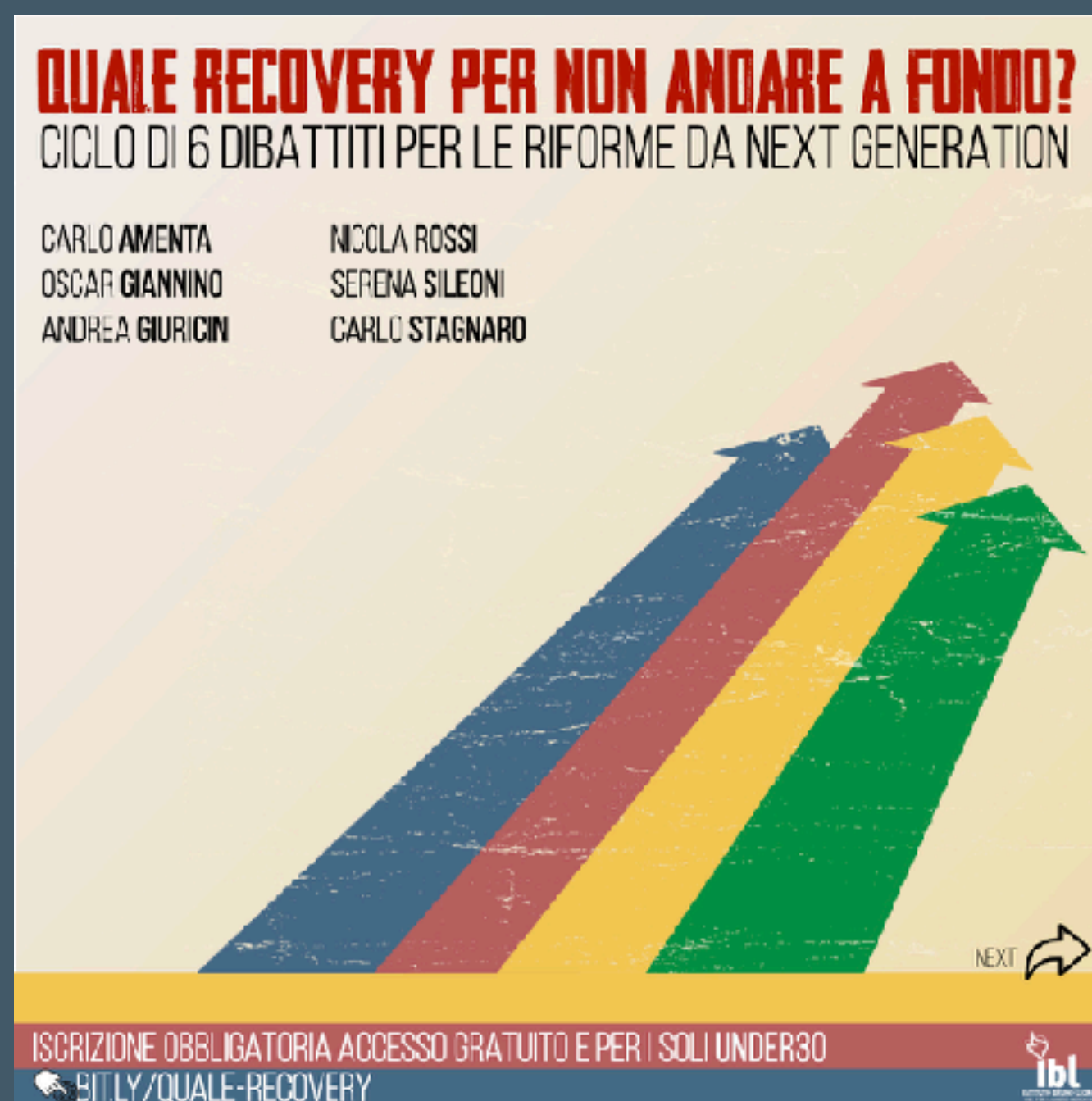
In December 2020 IBL Libri published the Italian translation of Michael Oakeshott's *Rationalism in Politics and Other Essays*.

We accompanied the book with a series of online seminars reserved for the members of our Book Club, held between January 18th and February 22nd.

Each webinar saw a lecture offered by an academic presenter, followed by a Q&A session with the participants. The lecturers: Sergio Belardinelli, Agostino Carrino, Raimondo Cubeddu, Giovanni Giorgini, Alberto Mingardi e Giovanni Orsina.

## WHAT RECOVERY LEST WE FOUNDER? 6 MEETINGS FOR AN UNDER-30 AUDIENCE

### QUALE RECOVERY PER NON ANDARE A FONDO?: 6 DIBATTITI DEDICATI AGLI UNDER30



An open discussion for each policy macro-area covered by the NextGeneration EU program, with an introduction by an IBL fellow. The series was reserved to participants under-30. This series saw the participation of more than 250 young men and women.

The discussions focused on the real challenge facing Italy in the management of the European funds it is poised to receive: how to make the younger generation the real driver of the recovery, starting with the sorely needed reforms that should have been enacted well before the NextGeneration EU scheme.

We have dealt with taxes, impact and assessment of public spending, justice and rule of law, privatizations, energy and the challenge of nurturing an informed public willing to support the reforms we need.

The meetings saw the participation of Carlo Amenta, Oscar Giannino, Andrea Giuricin, Nicola Rossi, Serena Sileoni, and Carlo Stagnaro.



# ONLINE COURSE: THE ORIGINS OF THE ITALIAN STATE MODEL



In the fourth online course offered by IBL, we partnered with University Suor Orsola Benincasa in Naples to investigate the cultural and historical foundations of the Italian governmental model, to best appreciate its critical features and the challenges to reform and innovation.

The course was articulated into 10 lectures, each held by an authoritative academic figure (including IBL staff) and provided for an interactive session with the lecturer, as well as a forum open to participants.



# ONLINE COURSE: THE LAW & ECONOMICS SCHOOL



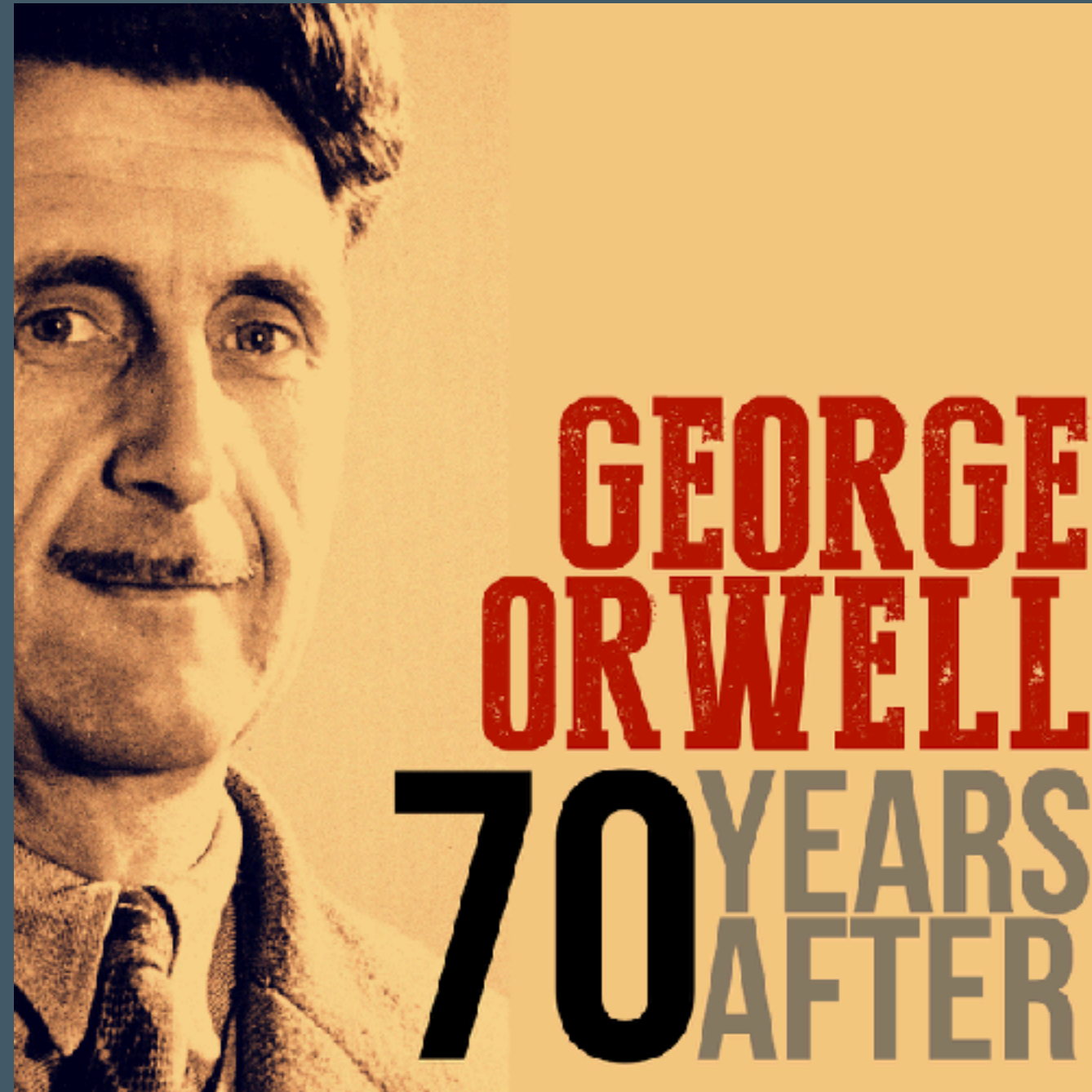
IBL is adding an online course on Law & Economics. The organisation of the course is proceeding apace and the first lecture is scheduled to be held soon.

The course is composed of 12 Lectures and aims at investigating how an economic analysis of the law (Law & Economics) can help to better appreciate both actual economic developments and the interaction between regulations and the behaviour of individual actors.

The overall goal is to help dispel the widespread demand for top-down rule-making and legislation to regulate and manage our economy and society, which is particularly acute and relevant during the pandemic.

# GEORGE ORWELL 70 YEARS AFTER HIS DEATH

## GEORGE ORWELL A 70 ANNI DALLA SCOMPARSA



In the occasion of the 70th anniversary of George Orwell's death, IBL is organising a series of online webinars to investigate several facets of his thought and how Orwell can be relevant to our times.

Orwell's works offer a window on the several facets of his thought: his anti-Communism, the importance of political language, the experience of the Spanish Civil War, dystopian literature, and the shadow cast by totalitarianism on the 20th century (and on ours?).