

## Political life in the age of technological capital

Can economic science tell us something about the political life of the modern man? The answer to this question defines the relevance of economic theory to face the problems that our time cannot avoid. The alarming political changes in the world, as the radicalization of nationalist positions in the core as well as the peripheral countries or the military conflicts in which not even an end through the victory of one of the parties is in sight and instead stretch over time indefinitely, call upon us to offer an answer.

Modern science, born from Enlightenment, understands the practical life of man from two perspectives: his life in civil society, based on his economic activities as buyer and seller of goods and his life as a citizen of the State. Civil society and State are then seen as constituting a polar relation. In one sphere, man is an independent individual, who is not subordinated to the power of any other man; he is a private producer free to establish contracts with other on equal terms. On the other hand, as a citizen of the Modern State, man is part of a social body that ties him to all others through reciprocal rights and obligations where his freedom becomes manifest. It is in the State, then, where universal interest and welfare find their place. Political Economy is the science that concerns itself with the first sphere.

Paradoxically, the term “political” in its name, if we were to define its field strictly, should be questioned. We would have to conclude that Political Economy could not -and should not- offer any clue about political life. Not because it fails an attempt to do so but because the question itself falls outside its scope. The transformation of our science name into *Economics* is a testament to this claim.

Yet, we will argue, on the contrary, that the question about political life has become relevant to our science. But to show that relevance and to achieve the conditions necessary to address the issue, its fundamental concepts should be brought up to date.

The transformations of the capitalist system render the inherited concepts and categories insufficient to truly understand current history. The emergence of power relations from economic relations and their consolidation in the era of technological capital compels us to revisit the foundations of Political Economy through its history and to transform them so our science can rise to the challenges of our time.

Certainly, the task of Political Economy is no other than the comprehension of the economic life of modern man, of the individual member of civil society. But in the pursuit of such end it will have to face its own limits and, from there, start an irreversible process of transformation. We will come then to the conclusion that the issue of political life not only falls within its field but becomes a core priority.