



Giuseppe Toniolo

A "prophet"
economist

Assisi, 23rd September 2022



Biography

Giuseppe Toniolo was born in Treviso (Italy) on 7th March 1845 in a middle class family

1845

He graduated in Law at the University of Padua. After a brief experience as a notary, he started a career as a lecturer of Economics at the University of Padua. His maiden lecture ***Dell'elemento etico quale fattore intrinseco delle leggi economiche*** emphasized his socio-economic thought.

1867

He became full professor of Economics at the University of Pisa, keeping this role until his death

1873

He founded the ***Unione Cattolica per gli studi sociali*** and became its president, promoting a social system in which institutions and social classes cooperate to achieve the common good. His thesis was exposed in the so-called Milan Program.

1889

He founded the *Settimane Sociali* to study the relationship between catholic message and poor people's needs. He published his major work ***Trattato di economia sociale***

1907

1918

Giuseppe Toniolo passed away on 7th October 1918 in Pieve di Soglio, near Treviso. His dream to found a Catholic University was realized in 1920 by his friend Fr. Agostino Gemelli and Armida Barelli. He was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI in 2012 becoming the first economist beatified by Catholic Church



Toniolo`s socio-economic contribution

Definition of economics as a **social** activity, thus in the service of human beings and common good, in **harmony with the etics.**

A good integral healthy economy is efficient:

- (i) when the human being is promoted as individual as well as society;
- (ii) when the socio-institutional framework recognizes the supremacy of civil society over the State, which has subsidiary duties towards poorer people;
- (iii) when economic actors follow ethical norms.

HUMAN SOLIDARITY

- Human solidarity, peace and prosperity among social classes should be criteria to manage the economic processes, promoting trans-classes unions.
- Research and studies on social issues led to proposals such as resting time and limit to working hours, promotion of ownership of small properties, and protection of women's and children's labour.



Distinction of entrepreneurship between direct capital-risking and mere financing to get a speculative return: the former needs to be promoted, the latter needs to be taxed in order to redistribute the wealth.

Get to know more about Giuseppe Toniolo

THANK YOU!

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