

ABSTRACT

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The aim of this paper is to show the relations between the leadership of Assolombarda (one of the most important Italian business associations) et three think tanks (the Italian sections of the LECE and CEPES and the UCID) and to verify the real influence of these latter on the Lombard (and Italian) entrepreneurs during the period 1945-1960. The CEPES is the European Committee for the Social and Economic Progress, the LECE is the European League for the Economic Cooperation and the UCID is the Christian Union of Entrepreneurs and Managers. They grouped entrepreneurs who suggest to business associations some solutions for the main social and economic problems: they also desire to organize the first phases of the entry of Italy in the “new Europe”. Their main suggestions concern the attitudes face to the birth of the first European institutions; besides the methods for explaining the relevance of private entrepreneurs (and enterprises) in the Italian society. The leaders of Assolombarda and other Italian business associations follow suggestions concerning the European integration and the related increase of the competition: they ask to the government for a gradual integration and some aids for renewing enterprises and they also organize some trainings for improving the professional quality of their managers, white-collars and blue-collars. On the contrary the suggestions concerning the new role of entrepreneurs in the Italian society and the improvement of human relations in the enterprises are partially rejected: the business associations increase the welfare in favour of workers and their families, but the payment of higher real wages is refused and also the project of the UCID of a new more efficient enterprise which is based on the collaboration between classes.