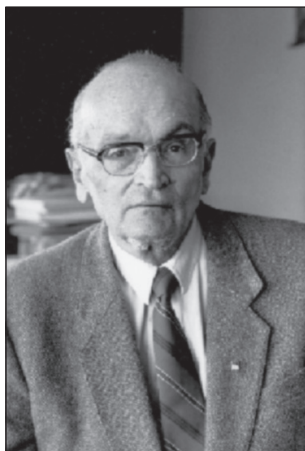


IN MEMORIAM

On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the death of Professor Emeritus Branko Horvat – the giant of our economic science



The autumn in 2003, economic science, not only in Croatia, but worldwide, was struck by another heavy earthquake with an echo like the one when casting down centuries-old oak trees. At the end of 2003, Branko Horvat, Professor Emeritus passed away (died on 18th December 2003), the founder and president of the Scientific Association of Economists and Academician Jakov Sirotković had passed away the year before. Somehow, the departure of any individual is painful, but life has taught us how to accept it stoically. However, hardly were we able to rationally accept a great loss when, one after the other, the two gigantic scientific authorities left us. Certainly, it is not an exaggeration to say that their departure was such a

blow for Croatian economic science that it has not recovered yet, and the question is when it will. By losing them we have lost authoritative knowledge and skills of strategic thinking, and it is just what is missing today. We daresay, it is not only the loss for economic science in Croatia, but also worldwide. Branko Horvat was also a candidate for the Nobel Prize in 1982 (according to the applicant's words, in the first round he had the advantage).

Professor Emeritus Branko Horvat is remembered as the world's scientific authority, and there might be only few who are not aware of that fact. Furthermore, among other things, his enormous scientific work contributed to the coexistence of socialist self-management and modern market economic system. In the last phase of his scientific work, he provided an energetic resistance to neoliberal doctrine and its ideologization of economic and financial policy. In one of his last scientific texts published in this journal, we have had the honour to read the evidence of delusions and unscientific nature of neoliberal doctrine implemented into economic and development policy. Since Branko Horvat was a great scientist, it is not surprising that he had offered the answers to the Croatian economy deviations by designing scientific guidelines for the future. In his scientific work, he was led by his syntagm: "I do not think, I know it!". Of course, such a direction was opposite to the ruling political nomenclature and did not fit its party-political pragmatism. What's more, politicians tried to push him through their epigones from the scene, almost procuring him the fate of the Roman Etruscans. And, they did succeed in it. Branko Horvat fell into oblivion. However, forgetting Branko Horvat was not

only the case in Croatia, but also very convenient to all apologists of neo-liberalism and advocates of the system of unequal relations and injustice in the world. They managed to get rid of a powerful scientific opponent. However, we believe not for long as this world, with its relations of injustice, cannot be changed without changing the social relations based on greed and exploitation. It is just Branko Horvat's theory that offers these changes to our era and future generations. Since he was the scientist who had never traded his scientific criteria and commitments, it was logical that his initiative to establish scientific association of economists in 2002 had the purpose to institutionalize scientific approach to research and analysis of the Croatian economic reality. Although we all know, the scientific paradigm in the environment of the powerful party-political pragmatism does not create many opportunities, and what is even worse, in the past few years, it has completely ignored the above mentioned structures. The economists, who were gathered by Branko Horvat, have not changed their views about the wrong orientation and economic development policy since the beginning of the nineties, especially about the so-called famous "stabilization program" that prevented the development of the Croatian economy. It was later confirmed by a deep economic and social crisis with such tectonic disturbances that dominant neoliberal-monetarist model neither have the solution here nor in other European countries.

It should be recognized that by the departure of Professor Emeritus Branko Horvat and Academician Jakov Sirotković a year earlier, our economic science has lost its breath. And, on the other hand, the existing scene is arrogance and fascination with the socio-economic framework of the ruling neo-liberal ideology, above all permeated by ignorance. It is therefore not surprising that a good part of the Croatian economic science fell into the vastness of disorientation and inability to observe and respect the objective value which must be fought to bring about social balance in the development of society, as a civilization goal. Thus, it remains that economic scientists grouped behind the scientific heritage of abandoned models go on teaching his direction in the struggle for social justice and sustained development of Croatian society, in raising the welfare of our people. In this way, we shall best give tribute and pay back to our scientific Coryphaeus and keep the memory of him.

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