

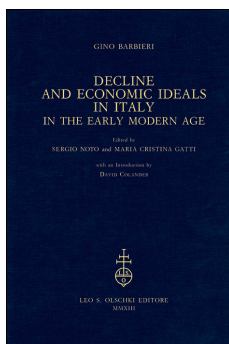
GINO BARBIERI
DECLINE
AND ECONOMIC IDEALS
IN ITALY

IN THE EARLY MODERN AGE

Edited by
SERGIO NOTO and MARIA CRISTINA GATTI

with an Introduction by
DAVID COLANDER

Decline and Economic Ideals in Italy in the Early Modern Age (1940) is certainly the most important work of Gino Barbieri, who developed it from his graduation thesis. It is the result of five years of studies, and an example of deep economic insight, as it investigates the writings of theologians, men of law and of business, to disclose the Italian outlook on money and wealth in the XVIth century. Among



the many reasons for its new release is the capacity to tackle fundamental current issues, such as the pivotal role of finance as a way to make profit in the Renaissance, surprisingly similar to our days. The original Italian version is published alongside this new English translation, as a way to encourage the international public to better know an important part of Italian historiography.

GINO BARBIERI (1913–1989) has been one of the greatest Italian economic historians. He was born in Legnago, and studied with Amintore Fanfani. He started his academic career first in Cagliari, then in Bari, Padua, and Verona, where he contributed to the foundation of the local University together with Giorgio Zanotto. He then became the Head of the Department of Economics, and President of the Cassa di risparmio di Verona, Vicenza, Belluno e Ancona. He was able to combine in both his academic activities and as a banker, a broad interdisciplinary culture, the knowledge of the inner workings of economy, and a great respect for his cultural heritage.

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