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978-0-521-03985-7 - Causes of Growth and Stagnation in the World Economy

Nicholas Kaldor

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RAFFAELE MATTIOLI LECTURES

In honour of the memory of Raffaele Mattioli, who was for many years its manager and chairman, Banca Commerciale Italiana has established the Mattioli Fund as a testimony to the continuing survival and influence of his deep interest in economics, the humanities and sciences.

As its first enterprise the Fund has established a series of annual lectures on the history of economic thought, to be called the Raffaele Mattioli Lectures.

In view of the long association between the Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi and Raffaele Mattioli, who was an active scholar, adviser and member of the governing body of the University, it was decided that the lectures in honour of his memory should be delivered at the University, which together with Banca Commerciale Italiana, has undertaken the task of organising them.

Distinguished academics of all nationalities, researchers and others concerned with economic problems will be invited to take part in this enterprise, in the hope of linking pure historical research with a debate on economic theory and practical policy.

In creating a memorial to the cultural legacy left by Raffaele Mattioli, it is hoped above all that these lectures and the debates to which they give rise will prove a fruitful inspiration and starting point for the development of a tradition of research and academic studies like that already long established in other countries, and that this tradition will flourish thanks to the lasting partnership between the Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi and Banca Commerciale Italiana.

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RAFFAELE MATTIOLI FOUNDATION

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PREFACE

Professor Nicholas Kaldor delivered the Mattioli Lectures on 'Causes of Growth and Stagnation in the World Economy' in May 1984. The participants were numerous and listened to the lectures with attention and – one dares to say – passion. Many looked forward to reading the written version because the Author both expanded and detailed the dualistic growth model based on the interaction between two sectors – agriculture vs industry or developing countries vs developed ones – and offered many insights – sometimes quite provocative – on fundamental problems.

As usual one Italian scholar acted as liaison between the Author and the Scientific Committee – Professor Carlo Filippini. The preparation of the volume was suspended because of Professor Kaldor's death in 1986. As time was rapidly passing and many works were being published either on Kaldor's ideas and theories or as collected papers, a few problems arose on how to edit the material – a provisional written text and the recorded one delivered at Bocconi University.

Many urged the print of the book because of the relevance of the topics dealt with in the 1984 Mattioli Lectures and of the contributions they offered. In the end, Professor Antony P. Thirlwall was asked to edit the Lectures avoiding major alterations to the text while providing if and when deemed necessary additional notes, references and tables. Professor Thirlwall accepted and provided the final text with Professor Ferdinando Targetti as coeditor. The volume now published has been long awaited: the joint efforts of many people and institutions – namely Banca Commerciale Italiana and Bocconi University – have resulted in further evidence of the depth and originality of Professor Kaldor's thought.

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