

Alberto Beneduce, a technocrat in the Fascist era

“Layers and Connections of the Political”
International APH conference 2020-2021
14-25 June 2021

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Abstract

Alberto Beneduce was one of the most powerful figure of the fascist regime. In the 1930s, he was considered as “Mussolini’s banker” and as “the owner of the Italian economy”. Due to his competence in the economic field, he was the main financial advisor of the Duce; he founded many public entities, corporations and State-owned companies, then known as “enti Beneduce”; he mastered Italian banking and industrial policy between 1925 and 1940. Beneduce’s career is particularly important for his position within the regime: he was tight with Mussolini, but he never joined the Fascist party neither he got any political role. He remained all the time a very influential technocrat with a strong nationalist commitment.

He represented the spearhead of that bureaucratic and managerial class that neither joined fascist party nor oppose to it, but it chose to cooperate with the regime once this was established. In political terms, the figure of Beneduce has remained in a twilight zone. The thesis of this article is that Beneduce was the most influential representative of this peculiar but well-established élite group which nourished itself of technocratic identity and nationalist vision. The article takes into account the political vision of Alberto Beneduce along his career, focusing particularly on the Fascist period when he played a major role as gatekeeper between financial, industrial and political power.

Author information

Lorenzo Castellani obtained his PhD in Political History from IMT Institute for Advanced Studies Lucca. He was visiting researcher at King's College London and post-doc research fellow at Einaudi Institute for Economic and Finance of the Bank of Italy. Currently he is research fellow at LUISS Guido Carli and lecturer in History of political institutions. His last book is *Managerial Bureaucracy. Reforming the British Civil Service* (Palgrave Macmillan 2018).

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Friday, 18 June - Session 8 - **14,00-16,00 CET (Webex)** - APH Forum for young scholars on "Institutions"

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