

Concepts of the freedom and the states among the selected representatives of the Austrian School of Economics

Summary

The PhD dissertation is an attempt to analyze of the perceptions of the two key categories in the social science – freedom and the state – among the representatives of the one of the most influential economics school. Area of the scientific base and the heritage of the representatives of the Austrian School of Economics can't be reduced to the economic sphere. Representatives of the Austrian School deal with the important issues in the social science – especially in the Political Science.

The introduction shows aims, hypothesis, and the scientific method, which were using in the dissertation. The aim of the dissertation is a comprehensive analysis and interpretative categories of the freedom and the state in theoretical heritage of the selected representatives of the Austrian School, especially in the area of differences in exegesis of this concepts in the social science. Despite of the compatibility of the representatives of the Austrian School to rejections of the interventionism and socialism, does not exist agreement in the perceptions of the categories of the freedom and the state. This dissertation is an attempt to investigate, what factors were causing a different concepts of the freedom among representatives of the Austrian School. Another problem to investigate is an issue of necessity of exist of the state, or his rejection. Also what factors were causing, that late representatives of the Austrian School decided to abandon of the concepts of the minimal state. Representatives of the Austrian School have a different point at view to utilitarianism, and his ethical implications and also to cognition of the natural law. Late generation of the research abandon the classical state concepts as “the night watchman” and move into more utopian, anti-state concepts of the political and social order. Author used an interpretative approach, hermeneutic method and content analysis. Author also direct interviewed with contemporary representatives of the Austrian School.

Chapter one is analyzing and interpretative of the *Principles of Economics* by Carl Menger. Publication this work in 1871 has begun of the Austrian School. In the next pages author discusses a methodological individualism, and also he analyzes and interpretative a praxeology – theory and method, which differ Austrian School from the others school. Author also discusses terms of liberalism and libertarianism.

Chapter two provides an analysis and interpretation of the concepts of the freedom among selected representatives of the Austrian School. This chapter show rational-utilitarian concept of the freedom by Ludwig von Mises, in which freedom is a concept free from ethical considerations. Later, author is analyzing and interpretative a concepts of freedom by Murray Rothbard, in which American philosopher rejected a utilitarianism. Rothbard extended his concepts of the freedom on rational ethics of natural law. In another part of the chapter author present a concepts of freedom by Hans-Hermann Hoppe, which basis on the argumentation ethics. On the next pages author discusses concepts of freedom in thought of Llewellyn Rockwell, Mark Thornton and Walter Block.

Chapter three discusses concepts of the minimal state (minarchism), which follower was L. von Mises. Later, it is presented critics of the state written by M. Rothbard and Hans-Hermann Hoppe. Also, it was presented position of the representatives of the Austrian School to democracy. In later part of this chapter discusses a concept of the anarchocapitalism – the political, social, and economic system in which all functions of the state, are produced by private organizations, which are working on the rule of voluntaries transactions.

Chapter four discusses relations between theory of the Austrian School and political practice. Author proved a relevance of the historical revisionism in the creations of the concepts of the freedom and the state. This chapter shows the influence of the war on the increase of the state power and reduction of the liberties. Later author analyzes the critics presented by a representatives of the Austrian School about selected public policies, on the base of the historical examples. Author presents a revision of the historical events like: American Civil War, First World War, “Great Crisis” from 1929, Second World War, and also American and Soviet policies in the time of the Cold War.

In conclusions author discusses most important thesis of the PhD dissertation and also presents opinion about effectiveness of the libertarian movement.

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