

Freedom in tension: State, Economy and Human Rights

Freedom, a fundamental concept in contemporary democracies, is currently under strain. In a world marked by political crises, economic turmoil, and debates about ethics in governance, the intersection between the state, the economy, and human rights is becoming increasingly complex. This issue of *Cultura Económica*, issue 109, delves into this dilemma, exploring different perspectives that help us understand how these dimensions impact our daily lives and the social order. Some of the articles presented here offer in-depth analyses of the ideas of Roger Scruton and other contemporary thinkers, providing a critical context for reflecting on the role of freedom in today's world.

The first article, “Roger Scruton and the Autonomy of the Political”, by Andrés Rosler, examines how Scruton views the importance of the state in preserving social order in the face of revolutionary movements. At a time when populism and extremism of various stripes threaten stability, Scruton's work invites us to consider the value of an effective state that respects traditions and fosters the reconstruction of the political sphere. This approach is essential for understanding how to safeguard freedom amid current social and cultural challenges.

Next, in “The Economy as the Order of Freedom: The Political Philosophy of the Social Market Economy”, Markus Krienke presents an analysis of the social market economy as a model that fosters individual freedom through a solid institutional framework. In times of global economic crises, where the foundations of capitalism are being questioned, this article raises the need to rethink economic systems so that they truly promote freedom. According to the author, the economy should not only be an engine of growth, but also a promoter of justice and freedom.

In his article “Scruton and Human Rights as a Secular Religion”, Santiago García offers a reflection on how human rights have come to function as a kind of secular faith in our societies. In a global context where human rights violations are increasingly evident, this text challenges us to consider the solidity and limits of a human rights agenda that, although vital, can sometimes seem disconnected from a concrete

political reality. Scruton reminds us that true protection of human rights must be accompanied by a supportive political context.

In the *Essays* section, we publish “University and Freedom: Reflections on the Thought of Roger Scruton and José Manuel Estrada”, in which Guillermo Jensen analyzes the role of educational institutions in promoting freedom. In the face of growing censorship and conformism in various parts of the world, this article highlights the need for academic spaces that foster open debate and freedom of thought. Education is presented not only as a public good, but as an indispensable bastion for the survival of a free society.

In the same section, we also present “Limited Corporeality. An Anthropological Essay on Artificial Intelligence”, in which María Marta Preziosa proposes recognizing the difficulties of artificial intelligence in its attempt to surpass human intelligence. Focusing on metaphor as a manifestation of an embodied mind, the essay begins by observing a certain anthropological dualism latent in the mindset of the pioneers of artificial intelligence in the 1970s. It then closely follows the theorization of metaphor in cognitive linguistics and the techno-optimism and techno-pessimism of some contemporary philosophers.

Finally, we publish the essay “Notes on the nationalization of the railways in Argentina (1946-1948)” in which Blas Sebian analyzes the process of nationalization of British railways in Argentina between 1946 and 1948. Based on a critical review of primary and secondary sources, the economic, political and international factors that influenced the Argentine State's decision to acquire the railways are studied.

In conclusion, this edition invites us to reflect on how the interweaving of state, economy, and human rights can be a platform from which to seek balance and harmonious coexistence in our societies. In uncertain times, it is essential to question and rediscover the principles that guide us toward full and meaningful freedom.

Carlos Hoevel
Director of the journal *Cultura Económica*
carlos_hoevel@uca.edu.ar