

# 1530



**TUTTO CIO' CHE LA LETTERATURA  
SCIENTIFICA SCRIVE SULLA FLAT TAX**

**PUNTATA n. 2**  
*(HALL – RABUSHKA)*

*6 Febbraio 2017*

**a cura del Gruppo Parlamentare della Camera dei Deputati  
Il Popolo della Libertà – Berlusconi Presidente – Forza Italia**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- La *flat tax* proposta da Forza Italia, inserita nel programma economico nazionale per le elezioni nazionali del prossimo 4 marzo del presidente **Silvio Berlusconi**, è uno dei temi attualmente più discussi sulla stampa, nazionale e internazionale.
- Studi, ricerche e articoli di giornale hanno analizzato da vicino la proposta, che ha spaccato l'opinione pubblica in due:
  - da una parte noti economisti internazionali quali **Bill Emmott** (ex direttore dell'*Economist*) e **Dan Mitchell**, del prestigioso *Cato Institute*, hanno espresso la loro piena approvazione per l'idea;
  - dall'altra, la stampa nazionale sta ancora cercando di capire i vantaggi e gli svantaggi della proposta.

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# HALL – RABUSHKA

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STUDIES IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ORDER, Vol. X

Robert E. Hall  
Alvin Rabushka

## Flat Tax

La rivoluzione fiscale

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- Nel libro best-seller «*The flat tax*», i professori della Stanford University **Robert Hall** e **Alvin Rabushka** (già consigliere economico dell'ex presidente degli Stati Uniti **Ronald Reagan**), oltre a spiegare nei dettagli il funzionamento della *flat tax*, descrivono la loro proposta per l'adozione di un sistema *flat tax* negli Stati Uniti.
- Il 10 dicembre del i 2 professori espongono per la prima volta sul *Wall Street Journal* la proposta di sostituire l'imposta americana sul reddito con una tassa bassa, semplice, appunto “piatta”. L'articolo, intitolato «*A Proposal to Simplify our Tax System*», era abbinato ad un modello di dichiarazione dei redditi formato cartolina postale, poi destinato a diventare l'emblema della *flat tax*.

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- Quello prospettato dagli autori era un sistema atto a semplificare il fisco al punto tale che non solo i singoli contribuenti, ma anche intere imprese sarebbero stati in grado di compilare la dichiarazione dei redditi su un modellino formato cartolina.

# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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WESTERN EDITION

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1981

(SF)

## A Proposal to Simplify Our Tax System

By **ROBERT E. HALL** and **ALVIN RABUSHKA**

Despite recent progress in lowering rates, the tax system remains a disgrace. It is in dire need of simplification and reform. The tax system is inordinately big, filling volumes of codes, complicated by hundreds of credits, exemptions and special provisions. Many taxpayers need expensive professional help to fill out their returns. Each act of the Congress complicates the system further. Widespread evasion is apparent on interest, dividend and other forms of household or professional income. Tax shelters are commonplace. Estimates of the size of the underground economy range from tens of billions of dollars to several hundred billion. In short, we have a system that fosters contempt for the law, and simultaneously discourages productive economic activity.

ily on a single page. It would look like this:

- 1 Gross revenue from sales
- Costs
- 2 Purchases of goods and materials
- 3 Compensation paid to employees
- 4 Other direct costs
- 5 Total costs (lines 2,3 and 4)
- 6 Net Revenue (line 1 less line 5)
- 7 Purchases of capital equipment and structures
- 8 Taxable income (line 6 less line 7)
- 9 Tax (19% of line 8)
- 10 Tax carry-forward from losses in previous years
- 11 Net tax (line 9 less line 10)
- 12 Tax payment (amount on line 11 if positive)
- 13 Carry-forward to next year (amount on line 11 if negative)

porate income tax in 1980 of \$64 billion. Despite a much lower tax rate, the extra revenue comes from the much wider tax base, including unincorporated business, and from taxing business income at the source.

Under the simple tax system, all business income would be taxed only once, at its source. Household receipts of interest, dividends and capital gains would be after-tax income. Though wealthy households might receive large amounts of these types of income, it is important to understand that the taxes on such income have already been paid. Taxing business income at its source has the important practical benefit of taxing the large amounts of interest and dividend income that escape taxation under the current system.

With comprehensive taxation of busi-

market value of fringe benefits and contributions to public and private pension plans.

### A Set of Personal Allowances

To limit the tax burden of poor families, we propose a set of personal allowances. Taxes would be 19% of compensation in excess of the following allowances:

Married Couple	\$5,000
Single	3,000
Single head of household	4,500
Each dependent	600

Except for the personal allowances, no deductions of any kind would be permitted, including interest deductions.

The individual tax return for the compensation tax would look very much like the illustration accompanying this article. It would fit on a postcard.

In 1980, total compensation in the U.S. — including fringes and pension contributions

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- Nel libro, i due professori propongono anche una metodologia macroeconomica per calcolare l'aliquota *flat* di equilibrio in un paese, partendo da alcuni dati contabili.
- ▣ con questo metodo, l'aliquota d'equilibrio per gli Stati Uniti è stata quantificata nel **19%**.



# HALL – RABUSHKA

- Nel 2014, la metodologia Hall – Rabushka venne utilizzata per calcolare l'aliquota per il caso italiano.
- Nel paper «*A proposal for a flat rate tax*», pubblicato sulla *International Tax Law Review*, Kurt Leube e Emanuele Canegrati calcolarono che l'aliquota d'equilibrio fosse pari a **21,9%**, nel caso di detrazione personale pari 3mila euro e al **24,1%** nel caso di detrazione personale pari a 5mila euro.

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Table 1 – Calculation of the equilibrium tax rate (per-capita allowance: 3,000 euro)

		<i>Mls. Euro</i>
1	GDP	1,559,224
2	Indirect taxation	220,454
3	Wages	654,836
4	Investments	301,286
5	Tax allowance	124,569
7	Business tax base (line 1 - lines from 2 to 4)	382,649
8	IRES – Revenue	33,517
9	Income tax base (line 3 - line 5)	530,267
10	IRPEF – Revenue	166,441
11	Total tax base (line 7 + line 9)	888,263
12	Total revenue (line 8 + line 10)	199,958
13	Equilibrium tax rate	21.9
14	New IRES revenue (line 7*0.219)	83,800
15	New IRPEF revenue (line 9*0.219)	116,128

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Table 2 - Calculation of the equilibrium tax rate (per-capita allowance: 5,000 euro)

		<i>Mls. Euro</i>
1	GDP	1,559,224
2	Indirect taxation	220,454
3	Wages	654,836
4	Investments	301,286
5	Tax allowance	207,615
7	Business tax base (line 1 - lines from 2 to 4)	382,649
8	IRES – Revenue	33,517
9	Income tax base (line 3 - line 5)	447,221
10	IRPEF – Revenue	166,441
11	Total tax base (line 7 + line 9)	912,915
12	Total revenue (line 8 + line 10)	199,958
13	Equilibrium tax rate	24.1
14	New IRES revenue (line 7*0.241)	92,218
15	New IRPEF revenue (line 9*0.241)	107,780

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