

# Structural Macroeconomic Change and the Size Pattern of Manufacturing Firms

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This book is the outcome of several years of reflection about the changes in the organization of industrial activities experienced by developed countries in the last decades of the twentieth century. Its main focus is on the economic relationship between the crisis of the “Golden Age” regime and the reversal of the trend towards increasing business concentration it contributed to foster over the first phase of post-war industrial development. From this point of view, it may be considered as an attempt to set the now commonly emphasized revival of “small-scale production” within the wider framework of “institutional” change.

The ideas set forth here have been ripening within different research contexts. The question of the effects of structural change on firm size had been first approached by myself on theoretical grounds in autumn 1997, when I was visiting the Centre for Business Research in the Department of Applied Economics at the University of Cambridge. I wish to thank Alan Hughes (CBR Director) for having made my visit possible once again, and all the CBR staff for having provided – as usual – an ideal environment in which to work. Special thanks I owe to Michael Pollitt and Frank Wilkinson for having read a first draft of a paper on the subject and provided useful comments. Financial support from the British Council has also to be gratefully acknowledged.

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