



# A HUMANE ECONOMY

The Social Framework of the Free Market

WILHELM  
RÖPKE

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# WILHELM RÖPKE



WILHELM RÖPKE  
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"From the beginning of World War II, the unique divining talents that gave Wilhelm Röpke his not-yet fully recognized stature became evident: the depth of penetration and the profundity in searching for objective truth in the intricate dynamics of social change. Endowed with a sharp, well-trained intellect and unsparing work discipline, he embarked on a fearless search for comprehension of the genuine and sensible material progress possible in a decent, humane society. In so doing he crossed the boundaries and narrow confines of specialization within one academic discipline and became a generalist. His innate understanding of history and the Gestalt of Western man in its full meaning,

combined with his deepening knowledge of the institutional, structural, and functional ontology of the world which is our destiny, led Professor Röpke to anchor his all-embracing doctrine of political economics more deeply in the scientific realm of the humanities, jurisprudence, and philosophy. With devastating precision he exposed the faulty approach to economic problems via basic or applied natural sciences or engineering as the antithesis of economics and unworthy of its name. "Röpke's (thoughts and theories) are deeply rooted in the indisputable values of our Judeo-Christian civilization and form the antithesis of positivism, relativism, scientism, and collectivism."

*Excerpted from an article in The Intercollegiate Review, "Wilhelm Röpke: In Memoriam," by Karl Brandt, Professor of Economic Policy Emeritus at Stanford University and Senior Research Fellow of the Hoover Institution*

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