

antitrust.²⁸ Antitrust has been described as a vital component of American culture, for example, desirable for its own sake like political liberty.²⁹

Freedom from control also includes freedom from government control. While individualist competition policy involves market intervention, the emphasis is still on the market. In this view, competition policy represents a more limited type of government control, a form that is less interventionist than direct regulation.

3.3 The basis of communitarian competition philosophy

In civilised society, man stands at all times in need of the co-operation and assistance of great multitudes, while his whole life is scarce sufficient to gain the friendship of a few persons.³⁰

Communitarians establish extensive networks to search out beneficial market and non-market relationships. However, we need to ask:

- Under what circumstances and at what point can the performance of the relationship-based networks be undermined by dominant groups in a communitarian setup?

Once the efficient relationship-based networks come to serve narrow group interests, the domination of the networks will not only impose economic costs but also undermine the common good in the community.

Dominance can emerge in a communitarian society. The difference, though, is that the motive to create the dominance is group-interest. In a communitarian setup, in joining a network of relationships an individual lowers

²⁸Sullivan, *op.cit.*, 199, p. 1223:

The political consensus that supports antitrust comes from other sources. Americans continue to value institutions the scale and workings of which they can comprehend. Many continue to value the decentralization of decision-making power and responsibility.

²⁹Frazer, *Monopoly, Competition and the Law: The Regulation of Business Activity in Britain, Europe and America*, Sussex: Wheatsheaf, 1988, p. 3; citing Rowe, "Commentary: Antitrust as Ideology" 50 *Antitrust Law Journal* (721), 1981.

³⁰Adam Smith, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, 1759.