

*Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth
Political Entrepreneurship for a Prosperous Europe*

edited by

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reviewed by Theodore P. Lianos*

In 2010, the European Commission officially launched the *Europe 2020* Project, which is described as a strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, intended to promote growth, employment and social integration in Europe. The aim of this volume is to analyze this strategy and the role of the so called European political entrepreneurship in implementing it.

The book has four parts: Europe 2020 and Study Framework, Core Actors of Europe 2020, Policies for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth, and Concluding Remarks. It contains twelve essays authored by ten experts most of whom are from or work in Sweden. All essays are well-written, concise and informative.

With respect to the EU policies described in these essays, this reader feels uneasy about two issues, namely, migration and economic growth. Regarding economic growth and the emphasis EU policy makers place on it, the authors appear to be either uninformed or to prefer to ignore the well-established fact that the limits for further growth have been exhausted. The current challenge is not GDP growth or of per capita income, but, rather, income inequality and citizens' welfare. Furthermore, the authors seem to believe that growth can be achieved without negative environmental impact. They ignore research findings showing that such 'decoupling', in a relative or absolute sense, is not a real possibility. The role of technology in increasing productivity of resources is not unlimited.

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Regarding migration policies, it appears that EU policy makers believe that Europe is underpopulated and, therefore, migration is necessary to meet labor needs. Thus, they see migrants as a cheap labor source, necessary for growth, as the case used to be in many wealthy countries in the past. At the same time, the authors ignore that migration has caused a disruption of the social web in many countries and in many areas within each country. The truth, of course, is that Europe (and the world) is overpopulated, if examined from the point of view of ecological balance. The inflows of migrants to Europe will simply exacerbate the situation. It is also clear that social discontent in many European countries is rising.

Of course, the review of a good book, such as this one, is not the proper opportunity for criticizing EU policies. However, it is hard to 'shake off' the feeling that the social, environmental and economic priorities of the European Union need to be reconsidered.