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P.E. Petrakis

Culture, Growth and Economic Policy

- ▶ Shows how culture shapes the economy
- ▶ Analyses the mutual interdependency between culture and economic development
- ▶ Describes the development of cultural dimensions and stereotypes

It is a wide-spread belief that the cultural background inherited in a society affects the requirements of economic development. This relationship requires theoretical and empirical justification. The present book provides this together with an analysis of the development of cultural background itself. Cultural background is embodied in political institutions, in transactions, knowledge, incentives, in social capital, even in the tangibles of the economy. Thus, economic development is shaped and the rate of growth is affected. Conversely, economic development affects cultural background. When this interaction takes place at a non-developmental cultural background level, which is associated with low growth rates, then a growth trap is formed. Within such a growth trap, economic policy (public and monetary) is relatively deactivated, and the conditions influencing the change in cultural background and its timing are of primary importance.



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