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# Regional Trajectories of Entrepreneurship, Knowledge, and Growth

The Role of History and Culture

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# Preface

This book summarizes and extends research conducted by the authors during the past decade. Although much of the material included in this book has already been published in the form of academic articles, we offer much more than a simple compilation of our earlier publications. First, we updated nearly all of the empirical analyses based on new data or longer time series of data that are only now available. Second, publishing the material in the form of a book allows us to present the arguments and the empirical material in a more extended way than it is possible in most academic journals, which often have restrictions placed on the length of articles. Third, we believe that having the complete arguments and empirical analyses collected in one place provides a much more comprehensive presentation and allows for considerably deeper insights.

Although bringing this research together in a book has considerable advantages, readers who are primarily interested in a certain topic or chapter may feel it a disadvantage if they have to switch between different parts of the book for data descriptions or historical backgrounds. In order to make the different chapters more readable on their own, we briefly reiterate the most relevant historical facts in each chapter. Therefore, a reader who studies the entire book may find some repetitions and redundancies.

We are indebted to innumerable individuals, groups, and institutions who supported our work in many ways. Discussions at conferences and workshops where we had the opportunity to present our work, as well as many of the referee reports that we received from scholarly journals, proved to be very helpful and were quite frequently sources of new ideas. Particular thanks go to those colleagues who participated in our discovery process as co-authors or collaborators in related work. Most direct support came from our colleagues Udo Brixy, Elisabeth Bublitz, Sandra Kublina, Martin Obschonka, Alina Sorgner, and Michael Stuetzer. The Institute for Employment Research (IAB) at the German Federal Employment Agency (BA) as well as the Center for European Economic Research (ZEW) graciously provided us with important data. Rosemarie Mendler prepared all the maps with great accuracy, and Anja Ladig, Thomas Robert Holy, and Marco Mai provided valuable technical

assistance in updating references and supporting the editing of the final text. Special thanks go to Mark Pegors for polishing the final manuscript. Last but not least, we are deeply indebted to the German Research Foundation (DFG). It was with their backing that the first part of this research journey began under the auspices of the Collaborative Research Center “Social Developments in Post-Socialist Societies—Discontinuity, Tradition, Structural Formation” at the universities of Halle and Jena, Germany.

We very much hope that this book will find an interested audience. Our aim is to present an inspiring illumination of the multifaceted role played by history and culture in regional trajectories of entrepreneurship, knowledge, and growth.

Jena, Germany  
May 2018

Michael Fritsch  
Michael Wyrwich

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