Enterprising Places as Historical Synergies: An Institutional Account of Coventry Through the Middle Ages

Edward Kasabov  
Usha Sundaram

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Abstract

Originality/value of chapter

The chapter is a unique take on the analysis of entrepreneurship and institutional governance of a city’s local economy in that it takes a historical perspective of issues that animate current public discourse. A historical approach to studying entrepreneurship provides a longitudinal and macro perspective to studying ideological debates that shade contemporary economic, political and socio-cultural governance. The analysis draws interesting parallels to the policy discourse and dynamics and ideological conflicts that shaped institutional influences across centuries that impacted upon the city’s economy and use that as a backdrop to comment upon contemporary developments in the policy landscape viewed as an articulation of a political-ideological agenda. The analysis provides and calls for a greater application of historical sensibilities in governance and entrepreneurship scholarship in order to glean valuable lessons.

Keywords

Coventry  
Guilds  
Governance  
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Embeddedness  
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Citation


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Old Coventry, Warwickshire - a brief history and photographic account of our city including the cathedrals, the old city walls and maps of the old town from medieval times to the present day. Coventry - Some History. Quick Links to places on this page. Coventry's Beginnings - Origin of the Coventry Name - Coat of Arms and Motto - Leofric and Godiva - The Seat of the Bishop - Coventry Castle - A Town of Two Halves? [Footnote 4] Although, at first, the ’n’ in the middle of the Cofa-n-tree appears out of place, I am grateful to researcher Rob MacDonald for informing me of the Old English usage of an ’n’ in the genitive case, (similar to the modern possessive ’s) therefore implying that the tree belonged to Cofa. The phrase “Middle Ages” tells us more about the Renaissance that followed it than it does about the era itself. Starting around the 14th century, European thinkers, writers and artists began to look back and celebrate the art and culture of ancient Greece and Rome. Many of them, however, were robbed and killed as they crossed through Muslim-controlled territories during their journey. Around 1118, a French knight named Hugues de Payens created a military order along with eight relatives and acquaintances that became the Knights Templar, and they won the eventual support of the pope and a reputation for being fearsome fighters. This article is about the history of Coventry, a city in the West Midlands, England. Coventry grew to become one of the most important cities in England during the Middle Ages due to its...