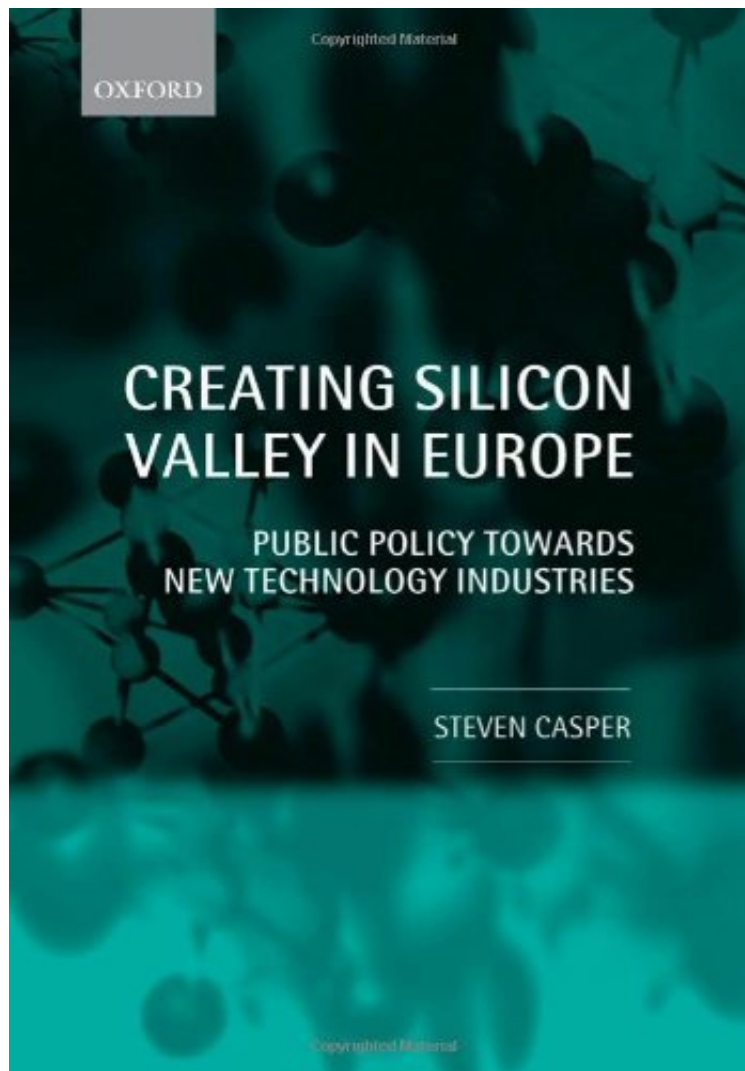


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# Creating Silicon Valley in Europe: Public Policy Towards New Technology Industries in Comparative Perspective

*Steven Casper*

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**Steven Casper : Creating Silicon Valley in Europe: Public Policy Towards New Technology Industries in Comparative Perspective** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Creating Silicon Valley in Europe: Public Policy Towards New Technology Industries in Comparative Perspective:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. not quite new Silicon ValleysBy W BoudvilleThe sheer success of Silicon Valley has spawned many imitators. Casper explains the European efforts. Mostly centred on Germany and Britain. With an emphasis on biotechnology. In both countries, there was strong government support for these startups.

Perhaps they chose biotech because existing computer hardware and software industries already were huge, and dominated by Silicon Valley. In contrast, the still new biotech offered a [perhaps] more level playing field. The most salient feature of the German approach was the willingness of its federal government to finance startups, via silent equity partnerships. Also termed "public venture capital". This was to circumvent the very limited amounts of traditional venture capital available in Europe. The German program appeared successful. Producing hundreds of small firms, and outputs comparable to the San Diego biotech scene. One nice feature of the book is how it also carefully looks at the latter. Effectively using it as a benchmark for the European efforts.

Through the 1990s and early 2000s the strength of the United States economy has been linked to its ability to foster large numbers of small innovative technology companies, a few of which have grown to dominate new industries, such as Microsoft, Genentech, or Google. US technology clusters such as Silicon Valley have become tremendous engines of innovation and wealth creation, and the envy of governments around the world. *Creating Silicon Valley in Europe* examines trajectories by which new technology industries emerge and become sustainable across different types of economies. Governments around the world have poured vast sums of money into policies designed to foster clusters of similar start-up firms in their economies. This book employs careful empirical studies of the biotechnology and software industries in the United States and several European economies, to examine the relative success of policies aimed at cultivating the "Silicon Valley model" of organizing and financing companies in Europe. Influential research associated with the "varieties of capitalism" literature has argued that countries with liberal market orientations, such as the United States and the United Kingdom, can more easily design policies to cultivate success in new technology industries compared to countries associated with organized economies, such as Germany and Sweden. The book's empirical findings support the view that national institutional factors strongly condition the success of new technology policies. However, the study also identifies important cases in which radically innovative new technology firms have thrived within organized economies. Through examining cases of both success and failure *Creating Silicon Valley in Europe* helps identify constellations of market and governmental activities that can lead to the emergence of sustainable clusters of new technology firms across both organized and liberal market economies.

**About the Author** Steven Casper is an Assistant Professor on the management faculty of the Keck Graduate Institute of Applied Life Sciences, a newly founded professional school aimed at training leading scientists and managers for the biotechnology industry. He was previously a University Lecturer in Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the Judge Institute of Management Studies at the University of Cambridge, and a Senior Research Fellow at the Social Science Center Berlin (WZB). Professor Casper has published widely in the fields of economic sociology and the management of technology. His research interests include comparative studies of the development of new technology industries, with a special interest in processes by which biomedical science has been commercialized across European countries.