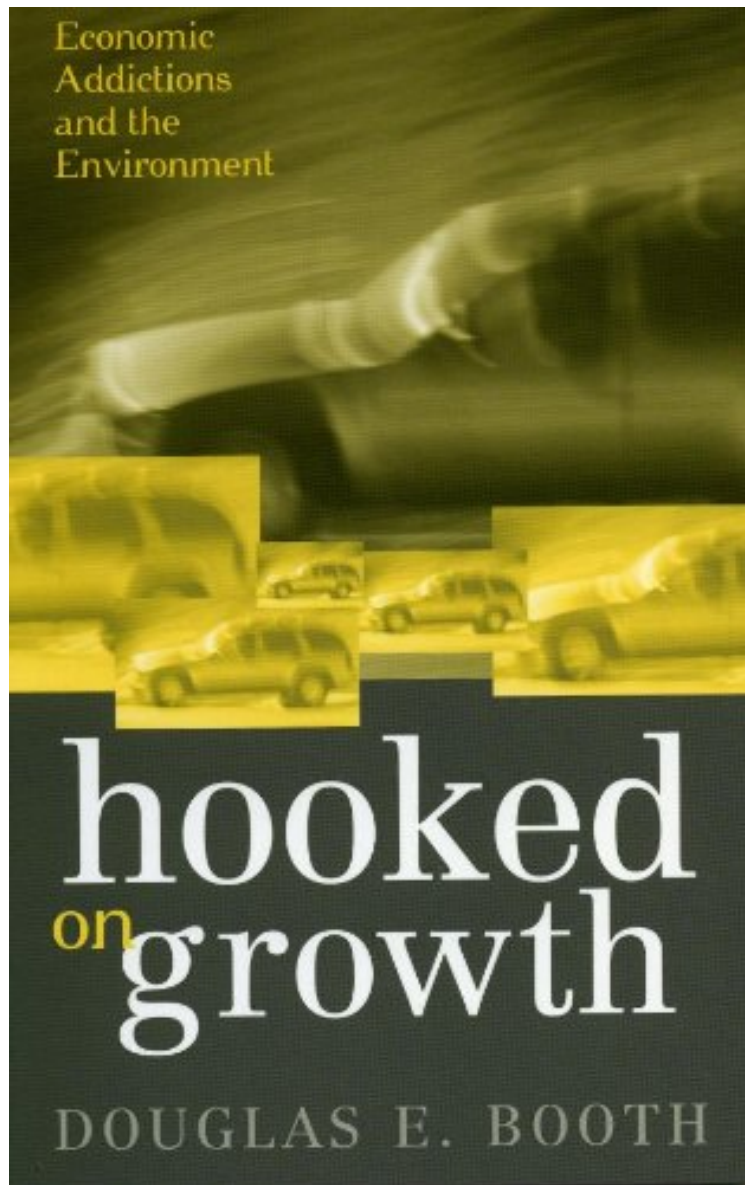


(Free pdf) Hooked on Growth: Economic Addictions and the Environment

Hooked on Growth: Economic Addictions and the Environment

Douglas E. Booth

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Douglas E. Booth : Hooked on Growth: Economic Addictions and the Environment before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hooked on Growth: Economic Addictions and the Environment:

Challenging conventional wisdom on the virtues of a consumer economy, this provocative book explores the nexus

between growth and environment sustainability. The miracle of the modern affluent economy is an ever-swelling cornucopia of consumer goods, leading to expanding consumption as the essential underpinning of economic growth in more and more parts of the globe. Douglas Booth contends that expansion in this form amounts to an addiction. Are we as a society hooked on economic growth of a kind that carries with it significant threats to the natural environment? A critical dilemma for the modern economy is that growth is required to prevent the pain of unemployment. As growth continues, the environment declines, but if growth slows, unemployment rises. We seem trapped in a spiraling predicament like that of the addict. This accessible work explores whether getting "unhooked" from growth to meet the needs of the environment is possible. Giving the environment priority over growth may seem to some like a radical idea, yet the author argues that it can be accomplished using marketable emissions allowances, transferable development rights, and other tools popular with conventional economists. It can also be achieved by creating more interesting and environmentally friendly urban landscapes less beholden to the automobile. The key problem a less growth-oriented society will face is ensuring that everyone who wants employment can find it. This will require something that many people wish for anyway, a shorter workweek. More leisure, a higher-quality environment, and more attractive cities and towns are the potential rewards of a less consumption-oriented society. Yet powerful economic interests that benefit from a high-growth economy are arrayed against changes in the status quo. Under what circumstances can the power of special interests be overcome in the name of environmental conservation? This is the author's critical final question as he offers a clear path to a sustainable economic and environmental

Using concepts from economics, ecology, and environmental ethics, Booth examines questions of whether it is possible or desirable to get 'unhooked' from growth. . . . Recommended. (Choice) Hooked on Growth is a welcome addition to the sustainability literature. It not only presents a clear analysis of the growth addiction problem, it lays out a clear path to a better future. (John Gowdy) Hooked on Growth is a scholarly and insightful, yet very readable, diagnosis of our most serious addiction. Highly recommended. (Daly, Herman E.) Hooked on Growth is a must-read. Booth carefully explains how we can get unhooked from excessive economic growth and still live the good life in an environmentally friendly world. (Louis G. Fortis) Hooked on Growth should be on everyone's must-read list. Growth has become the magic formula for curing all political and economic problems. Yet the thoughtful reader will be driven to the conclusion that it is not possible to have infinite growth on a finite planet. Indeed we have already exceeded the carrying capacity of our resource base—resulting in polluted air, water, rivers, lakes, oceans, eroded soil, and denuded forests—thus raising the question: where do we go from here? (Gaylord Nelson) In Hooked on Growth, Booth uses the metaphor of addiction to link three apparently distinct areas of society's affluent life: consumption, employment, and the natural environment. . . . Using concepts from economics, ecology, and environmental ethics, Booth examines questions of whether it is possible or desirable to get "unhooked" from growth. Recommended. (M. Morgan-Davie Choice) Doug Booth dares to explore the tradeoff between the environment and economic growth. He concludes that American consumers would have to pay a price for environmental sustainability, but the price is well worth paying. (John Norquist) In Hooked on Growth, Douglas Booth takes us on a very readable and accessible examination of the economic dependency on growth and the implications of that growth on the environment. After making compelling arguments to support the claim that the U.S. economic system is not environmentally sustainable, Booth provides direction for realigning the growth rate with the environment. . . . This is a thought-provoking book that makes readers consider the future of America's current path and where they surely want to go instead. (Kirk Waters Environment, Vol. 48, No. 2) About the Author Douglas E. Booth is retired associate professor of economics at Marquette University and a founding board member of the Driftless Area Land Conservancy.