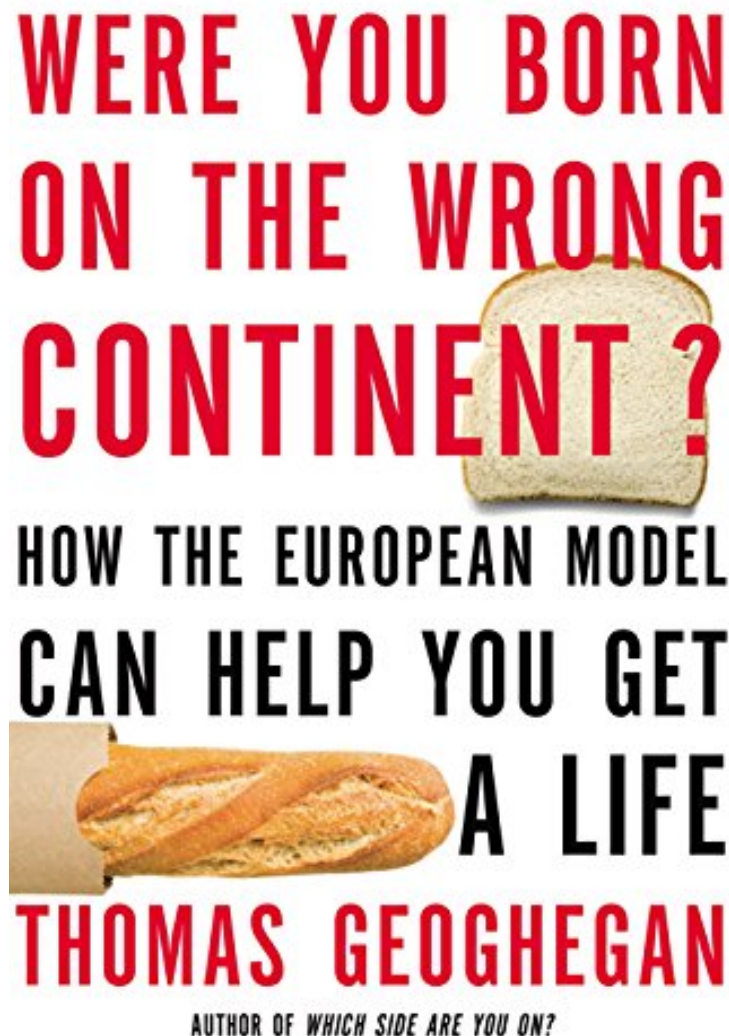


Were You Born on the Wrong Continent?: How the European Model Can Help You Get a Life

Thomas Geoghegan

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Thomas Geoghegan : Were You Born on the Wrong Continent?: How the European Model Can Help You Get a Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Were You Born on the Wrong Continent?: How the European Model Can Help You Get a Life:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I bought this book to better understand German and other European labor lawsBy customerThis guy seriously needs a new editor. This book is a very, very difficult read and it's not difficult because of the subject matter. It's difficult because the author writes in a manic, chaotic style.I bought this

book to better understand German and other European labor laws, the way they set wages, business culture, works councils, co-determination laws and unions. Instead, I found myself skipping through sentences and paragraphs full of manically written words that had nothing to do with the subject matter. After 3 chapters of skipping through like this, I just gave up. Could have been so much better. From the amount I did read, there are wonderful insights into European, specifically German, business and labor practices. Unfortunately, these insights are buried in unnecessary anecdotes and attempts to be witty. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I loved reading this! I wish every American would read it and think about our national condition. By Philip Burger Mr. Geoghegan sums up much of what I've been feeling for years. I liked learning about how the labor / business cooperation has helped preserve the social support net and the German middle class. The idea of the government paying wholesale for essential social services such as health, elder care, education, welfare is very compelling. I'm married to a 1st generation German immigrant have traveled many times visiting German relatives. I've seen the benefits of the European approach in the lives of real families. 12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Yes, I was By R. Hanks As a Francophile, I have long been enamoured of the European lifestyle. It always seemed to me that they were just having a more enjoyable journey through life. Whether it be a cafeacute; scene with people reading, conversing or just observing the world through a deeply-rich espresso, the wonderful hand-writing that I observed in their written work or the delight they took in everyday meals, that was what I longed for. This book helped me see how they achieve that. If the author hadn't seemed to get bogged down in the latter part of the book, I would have rated it 5 stars.

Try to imagine your life in a full-blown European social democracy, especially the German version. Free public goods, a bit of worker control, and whopping trade surpluses? Social democracy doesn't sound too bad. *Were You Born on the Wrong Continent?* reveals where you might have been happierdash; or at least had time off to be unhappy properly. It explains why Americans should pay attention to Germany, where ordinary people can work three hundred to four hundred hours a year less than we do and still have one of the most competitive economies in the world.