Sweden’s Road to Modernity: An Economic History

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The book was awarded the Pro Lingua Prize in 2007 – inaugurated by the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation and The Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education – to enable the translation into English.

Sweden’s Road to Modernity: An Economic History
Lennart Schön
First edition
First printing

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The original title: En modern svensk ekonomisk historia.
Tillväxt och omvandling under två sekel (2000, 2007)
Translation: Ken Schubert
Front cover: Lena Eklund
Graphic design: Sture Balgård
Print: TMG Sthlm, Stockholm 2010

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Preface to the First Edition

This study of growth and transformation in the 19th and 20th centuries traces Sweden’s road to modernity while offering a new, in-depth analysis of economic trends. The rapid economic and social change of recent years makes the perspective of economic history more relevant than ever.

The book stems from many years of instruction and research on growth and structural change at the Lund University Department of Economic History. Grants from research foundations have been vital to such a long-term effort. Riksbankens Jubileumsfond has been a major source of financial support for *International Integration of Sweden in the 19th and 20th Centuries, European Perspectives on Economic Growth Since 1870* and other projects.

Inspiration and ideas for following Sweden’s road to modernity have arrived from many quarters – instruction and conversation with students, seminars with colleagues at the department, and visits to other departments of economic history around the country.

Several people read late drafts of the manuscript and offered valuable feedback. I want to extend a special word of gratitude to Jan Glete at the Stockholm University Department of History, whose contributions were particularly numerous and generous. I would also like to thank Göran Ahlström, Jonas Ljungberg and Lars Svensson at the department in Lund. All responsibility for the final manuscript and any errors it may contain rests with me alone.

Lund, April 2000

*Lennart Schön*
Preface to the Second Edition

The final chapter of this edition covers events up to the first decade of the 21st century. While only a modest addition from the horizon of 200 years, it nevertheless illuminates the turn of the century from a long-term perspective.

Lund, January 2007
Lennart Schön

Preface to the English Edition

The translation follows earlier editions closely. The only extensions are references to recent development up to 2010, which was in line with the major long term perspectives of the book.

Lund, December 2010
Lennart Schön