This chapter aims to supplement the understanding of entrepreneurship and competition by demonstrating that they cannot occur without governments and stable social structures to support them. It considers two major developments in the American economy that have been typically hailed as emblematic of the working out of free markets: the emergence of the ‘shareholder value’ conception of the firm and the rise and growth of Silicon Valley. It is shown that these phenomena were not just caused by entrepreneurial activity, but were embedded in pre-existing social relations. In both cases, the government played a pivotal role in pushing forward the conditions for ‘entrepreneurial activity’. The chapter discusses why governments sometimes do not figure in either economic or some economic sociological arguments about markets and economic growth, and suggests how an economic sociology with a view of embeddedness that includes governments, law, and supporting institutions offers a more complete picture of market evolution.

This chapter examines the relationship between entrepreneurship and a particular kind of education process termed credentialism. An entrepreneurial spirit is essential to the dynamism of a commercial
society like Hong Kong. It has facilitated the circulation of people, goods, and ideas and is a quality most Hong Kongers have taken pride in. However, this force seems to have declined since the 1980s. The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) reports that the territory's total entrepreneurial activity index scores low. In light of new opportunities on the mainland, one has to ask if this generation of Hong Kongers has been prepared well enough to explore them. Professionals in the creative industries have crossed the border to seek strategic alliances with mainland counterparts.

Social Stratification and Income Inequality at the End of Apartheid

Jeremy Seekings and Nicoli Nattrass

in Class, Race, and Inequality in South Africa

This chapter utilizes the 1993 Project for Statistics on Living Standards and Development (PSLSD) survey to analyze social stratification and income inequality in South Africa at the end of the apartheid. It discusses the method of using household survey data to map the class position of South African households. First, the occupations of individual people are classified. Next, households are classified in terms of occupations of working members. Finally, this schema is modified to take into account income from wealth and entrepreneurial activity. The outcome is a nine-class schema. Analysis shows that class is closely correlated with household income, living conditions, attitudes, health, and education.

The MSME Insolvency Status Quo

Mokal et

in Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise Insolvency: A Modular Approach

This chapter examines specific challenges faced by MSMEs. These challenges arise from factors such as size, lack of available collateral, undiversified nature, and lack of suitable external governance mechanisms, all of which contribute to a high MSME failure rate. As such, it is crucial for insolvency regimes to be responsive to MSMEs’
particular requirements. The chapter then discusses the need for cost-effective insolvency regimes tailored to these requirements, and the problems inherent in the development of such regimes. Cost-effective insolvency proceedings can encourage non-viable distressed firms to exit the market and efficiently recycle their assets to new uses, provide viable distressed firms with the chance to reorganize their operations and liability in order to continue in business, provide higher returns to MSME creditors and thereby incentivize lending in this sector, and encourage greater entrepreneurial activity and new firm creation. Ultimately, an effective MSME insolvency regime can alleviate the downside risk of a venture, in turn increasing the number and variety of people pursuing entrepreneurial activities.