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## Modernizing the Public Sector: Scandinavian Perspectives (Routledge Critical Studies in Public Management)

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**From Routledge : Modernizing the Public Sector: Scandinavian Perspectives (Routledge Critical Studies in Public Management)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Modernizing the Public Sector: Scandinavian Perspectives (Routledge Critical Studies in Public Management):

As policymakers and scholars evaluate possible ways forward in the reform and renewal of public services by governments caught up in a recessionary environment, this book aims to offer something different – a comprehensive analysis of the development of the ‘Scandinavian’ way of modernizing public-sector management. No book has yet provided an inside view of the development and character of New Public Management (NPM) in Scandinavia. Although there is a general perception that there is a clear-cut ‘Scandinavian’ model of public policy and management, this book offers a more nuanced interpretation, illuminating subtle distinctions in political, social and economic context which are significant in identifying receptive contexts for the adoption of modernization policies. Organized into three main themes in the modernization of the welfare state – management, governance and marketization – the contents revolve around unique empirical accounts, revealing distinctive Scandinavian characteristics of reform initiatives. The received wisdom may be a hesitant follower of the UK and the USA. But this book offers an alternative interpretation, revealing an edginess in certain Scandinavian settings, particularly in Sweden, which is a largely unrecognized. Without compromising the welfare state, it may be a bold frontrunner in the development of New Public Management.

It is a common mistake to equate ‘New Public Management’ with the ideas and practices of the Anglo-American world. This book provides a valuable corrective to that view by analysing the development of New Public Management from a Scandinavian perspective. It brings out the Scandinavian historical roots of some important ideas about modern public service management, traces their dynamics and brings out the special social context that shapes their outcomes. Anyone interested in how to make public services work effectively should read this book. Professor Christopher Hood, Emeritus Fellow, All Souls College, University of Oxford, UK About the Author Irvine Lapsley is director of the Institute of Public Sector Accounting Research at the University of Edinburgh Business School, UK. Hans Knutsson is a senior lecturer at the School of Economics and Management at Lund University, Sweden.