

Entrepreneurship Beyond Technology: Power, Institutions and Democracy

Webinar at Esbri
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David B. Audretsch

VINNOVA & The Swedish Paradox



Democracy Under Threat



Is democracy in danger?



Threats to democracy around the world have become increasingly obvious

The
Economist

As a lethal pandemic, economic and physical insecurity, and violent conflict ravaged the world, democracy's defenders sustained heavy new losses in their struggle against authoritarian foes, shifting the international balance in favor of tyranny."

--Freedom House

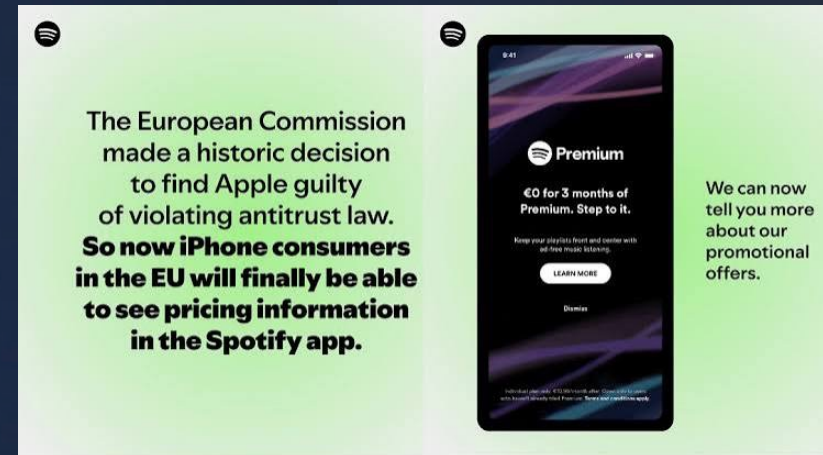


- “Patrick Spence in mid-January sat before the United States House Committee on the Judiciary and described how Big Tech was hurting his company, smart-speaker maker Sonos Inc.”
- “For one thing, he said, the giants use their dominant position to subsidize conquests into other markets, squeezing smaller players, some of which were formerly partners. He had some insight into the matter, given that one-time collaborators Google LLC and Amazon.com Inc. are now both selling aggressively discounted smart speakers years after Sonos pioneered the devices.”



- “Long term, this could mean price increases and prevent new entrants. It also dries up the venture capital new companies need to develop the next great inventions and bring them to market,” he told lawmakers. “Venture-capital firms are well aware of the kill zone that surrounds startups that pass within striking distance of the dominant platforms — they stay away from those investments.”

Power Suppresses Entrepreneurship

A promotional graphic for Spotify with a light green background. It features the Spotify logo in the top left corner. The main text is in black, announcing a historic decision by the European Commission regarding Apple's antitrust law violation. To the right, there is a smartphone displaying the Spotify Premium app interface, showing a 'Premium' offer for €0 for 3 months. Further right, text states that users can now see more promotional offers.

The European Commission made a historic decision to find Apple guilty of violating antitrust law. **So now iPhone consumers in the EU will finally be able to see pricing information in the Spotify app.**

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Conclusions

- Entrepreneurship Matters Beyond Technology
- Entrepreneurship a Cornerstone of Democracy
- Paucity of Entrepreneurship Conducive to Erosion of Democracy
- Vinnova Needs to Rethink the Justification & Urgency for Entrepreneurship Policy
- Investing in Entrepreneurship is an Investment in Democracy