

# Humanizing the Economy: Co-operatives in the Age of Capital

John Restakis



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At the close of the twentieth century, corporate capitalism extended its reach over the globe. While its defenders argue that globalization is the only way forward for modern, democratic societies, the spread of this system is failing to meet even the most basic needs of billions of individuals around the world. Moreover, the entrenchment of this free market system is undermining the foundations of healthy societies, caring communities, and personal well-being.

*Humanizing the Economy* shows how cooperative models for economic and social development can create a more equitable, just, and humane future. With over eight hundred million members in eighty-five countries and a long history linking economic to social values, the cooperative movement is the most powerful grassroots movement in the world. Its future as an alternative to corporate capitalism is explored through a wide range of real-world examples including:

- Emilia Romagna's co-operative economy of Northern Italy
- Argentina's recovered factory movement
- Japan's consumer and health cooperatives

Highlighting the hopes and struggles of everyday people seeking to make their world a better place, *Humanizing the Economy* is essential reading for anyone who cares about the reform of economics, globalization, and social justice.

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