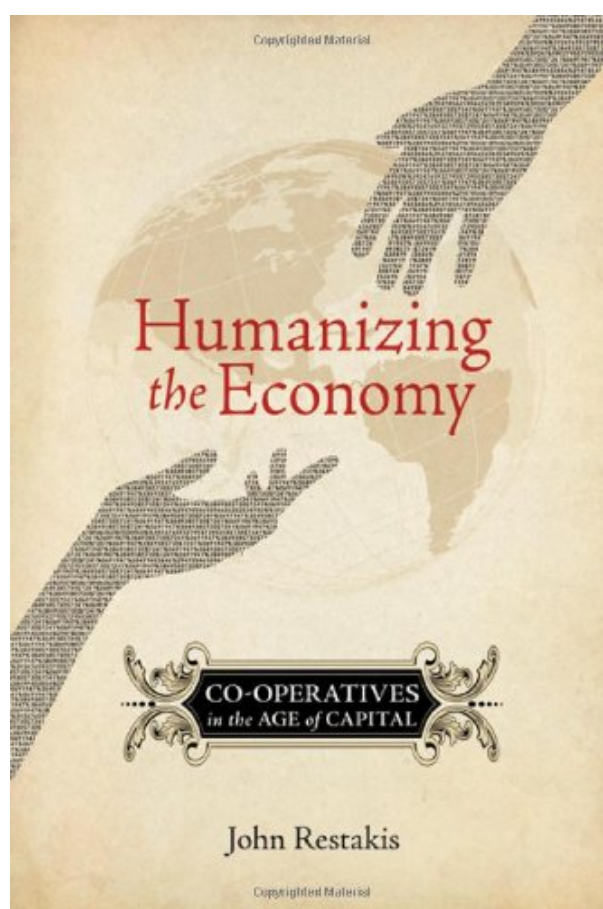
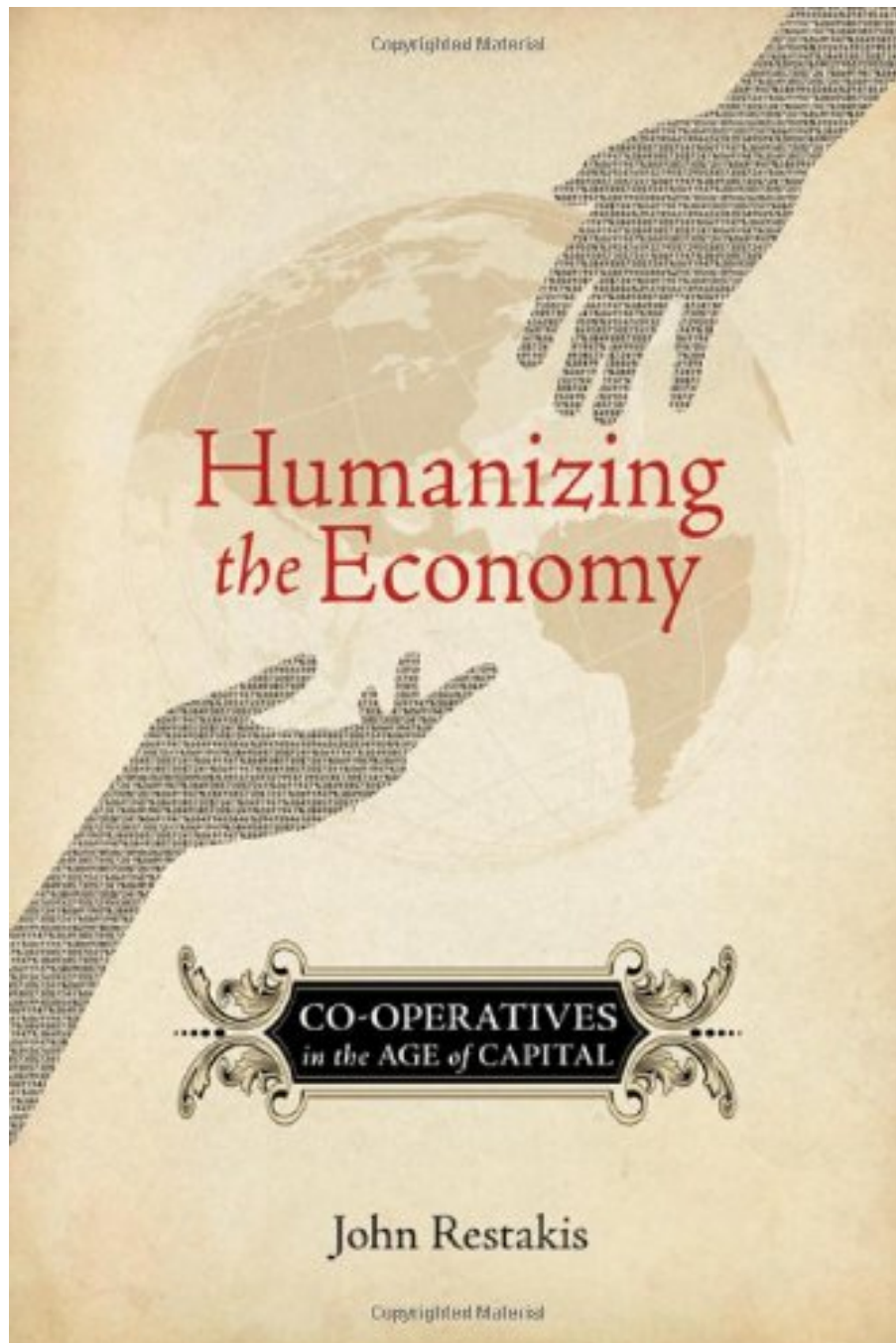


HUMANIZING THE ECONOMY: CO-OPERATIVES IN THE AGE OF CAPITAL BY JOHN RESTAKIS



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Review

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 wellbeing.

Humanizing the Economy shows how co-operative models for economic and social development can create a more equitable, just, and humane future. With over 800 million members in 85 countries and a long history linking economics to social values, the co-operative 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 in Northern Italy
- Argentina's recovered factory movement
- Japan's consumer and health co-operatives

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.

About the Author

John Restakis has been active in the co-op movement for 15 years. He is the Executive Director of the BC Co-operative Association and has been a consultant for co-op development projects in Africa and Asia. A pioneering researcher into international co-operative economies, he writes and lectures on economic democracy and the role of co-operatives in humanizing economies.

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How the largest social movement in history is making the world a better place.

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democracy and the role of co-operatives in humanizing economies.

Most helpful customer reviews

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful.

There is an alternative!

By Chui Kiam Ming

"Humanizing the Economy" is the second book I read that focuses on cooperatives. The first one is "The Cooperative Movement: Globalization from Below" by Richard C. Williams, and both books are great! Cooperatives are really a hidden gem in modern economy. Almost all mainstream news take capitalist corporations as the norm, and it would be hard to find a comprehensive write-up on cooperatives through mainstream media. "Humanizing" provides a very readable overview of the background and current developments of the cooperative movement, and the case studies chosen were so mind-boggling to a person who has been indoctrinated to think of capitalism as the only possibility that my worldview is totally changed.

12 of 13 people found the following review helpful.

I didn't realize the cooperative economy was this large

By Amazon Customer

Abstract systems are a dime a dozen; getting them to work is another matter. Restakis talks about functioning alternatives to the capitalist economy. And functioning on large scales over long periods of time, long enough and large enough to compare the results with capitalism. This is a must read.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Highly Readable Review Of Co-operatives As An Economic Alternative

By Henry Dean

An excellent and non-dogmatic approach to an alternative to the fraught and risky current fiscal situation of the western, multi-national, capitalist-based economy. Interested in the ideas having come across the concept of co-operatives as a means of growth in permaculture with previous awareness of the huge Mondragon Corporation in the Basque area of Spain, I found this a refreshing and generally stimulating read.

I had not been aware of co-operatives' background in Ducati and Ferrari as well as throughout the Tuscan region. That these structures have performed so well in the last few years while many regular corporations have stagnated, contracted, or vanished, makes them interesting anyway. That they are so stable, produce full employment and stability while being active not only locally but also in a multinational reach means they are certainly worthy of further study.

The variety of businesses involved including the Bombay prostitutes collective to give those workers strength and the ability to address the rising HIV numbers makes for a readily digestible and interesting read.

With many more aspects of traditional western corporation approaches to business showing signs of strain beyond the purely financial, this book offers some positive, timely and useful alternatives.

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