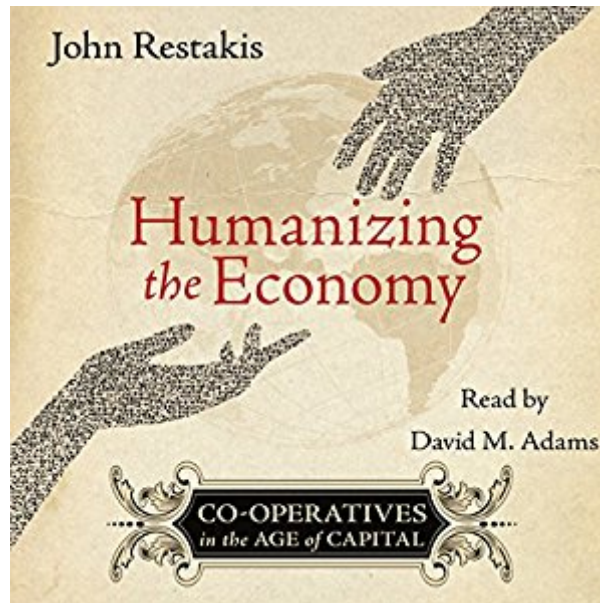




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Humanizing The Economy: Co-operatives In The Age Of Capital



Synopsis

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.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 12 hours 52 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Post Hypnotic Press Inc.

Audible.com Release Date: August 9, 2012

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B008V4JYS6

Best Sellers Rank: #230 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Business & Investing > Economics
#1291 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Public Affairs & Policy > Economic Policy
#1306 in Books > Business & Money > Economics > Economic Policy & Development

Customer Reviews

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.

One of the most inspiring books I have read this year. With a lot of insights, the author explains the reasons of current economic problems of the World, merging together history and philosophy that I have learned back at school - this time, it all makes sense! But the best thing is the amount of detailed stories of co-operatives throughout the world - it's truly inspiring and educative, especially for those who truly seek an alternative to the current economic system. Just as the publisher promises, it's one of those books that may help change the world for better.

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.

This book makes a compelling case for the cooperative as an economic institution that can make a society more democratic. It includes a history of a number of cooperatives going back to before the industrial revolution. Well written and convincing, it makes me want to go out and start organizing everything into the cooperative model. So, we're starting with a green grocery.

This book tells us we need to democratize the workplace and shows how it's already happening -- to some extent. Good examples described in enough detail we can apply it to our situations. Gave it only 4 stars because it is a bit more information than I needed.

This contained more information about the various forms of cooperative undertaking on the planet than I would have ever guessed. It made a strong point that the educational benefits to those involved is a key to establishing a real democracy, by the training to work with others, share benefits and responsibilities, and allowing collective decisions. This approach may be exactly what is needed to help right all the global social and environmental disasters we see unfolding before our very eyes.

To remain relevant the cooperative movement has to walk a razor's edge between Dionysian idealism and Apollonian technocracy. Restakis walks the line and maintains his balance. Thanks.

The most comprehensive book I have read on the subject of cooperatives. Historical perspectives on what will be moving workers into a more democratic future economically. Highly recommended.

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