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J. Tom Webb is the co-editor of
Co-operatives in a Post Growth Era:
Creating Co-operative Economics.



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From Corporate Globalization to Global Co-operation

We Owe It to Our Grandchildren

J. Tom Webb

This book is about the need for an alternative to capitalism. Co-operatives employ more than 250 million people. They impact the lives of three billion people and reduce almost every negative impact of capitalism - it is a model that works. Webb outlines the principles co-operatives need to hold to if they are to be a successful alternative to capitalism, and examines the public policy changes needed to nurture the transition.

This is a book that not only experts, but concerned citizens should read. With outstanding clarity the author shows the enormous degree to which conventional economics is alien to the real world. If economics were a science, economists would behave like scientists. That is; if a theory proves to be wrong, the scientist immediately starts searching for an alternative. This is exactly what conventional economists never do. No matter how disastrous an economic situation may be, the answer is always "more of the same". Thatcher's TINA (There is no alternative) is the most dramatic case that has done so much damage to the world. But an additional value of the book is the true alternatives for a New Economy that the author brilliantly offers. After reading the book, one feels that, after all, a better world is possible.

— Manfred Max-Neef, Professor of Ecological Economics,
 Universidad Austral de Chile

"We all know something is fundamentally wrong in our world, wrong in a way that requires a deep transformation in our thinking and behaviour. Tom Webb offers a path to another future, one based on co-operation and respect for the whole of creation. A lovely book."

— Maude Barlow, National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians
 and winner of the 2005 Right Livelihood Award

"A book not to miss. Provocative, radical, incisive Tom Webb never fails to nail the issues."

— Dame Pauline Green, Past President of the International Co-operative Alliance,
 former CEO Co-operatives UK, and former Member of the European Parliament

"Tom Webb is a passionate visionary and he is surely right in the core claim of this important book, that the world needs co-operation now more than ever."

— Edward Mayo, Secretary General of Co-operatives UK
 and former Chief Executive of the British National Consumer Council (NCC)
 and CEO of the NCC's successor, Consumer Focus

“The journey this book offers asks the reader to pack two items: A belief that we can build a healthier and more equitable world, and a willingness to be of open mind and heart to drive the innovation and creativity that diverse thinking creates.”

— Kathy Bardswick, President and CEO of the Co-operators, Top 25 Canadian Women of Influence 2014, Member of the Board of the International Co-operative Alliance and past Chair of the International Co-operative and Mutual Insurance Federation

“The market system that triumphs over most of the Earth today is a clear danger to the health of many life forms, including human societies. In describing his lifelong commitment to cooperatives as an alternative approach to production, Tom Webb offers hope for movement toward a realistic alternative economic/social system. This books offers practical, experience-based information on how to understand the cooperative movement, and how to help it expand its influence.”

— Neva R. Goodwin, Co-Director, Global Development and Environment Institute, Tufts University, USA

“This will be a very useful book for those who want to know about cooperation but also for those inside cooperation who wonder how to fix up the problems that cooperatives sometimes face. We particularly agree on the book’s premise, that cooperation is based on an anthropological assumption that is opposite to that of the mainstream, namely the “innate goodness of people” who practice the “golden rule” of reciprocity. Those people must have appropriate institutions to express that golden rule and not be constrained into egoistic structures.”

— Stefano Zamagni and Dr. Vera Negri, University of Bologna, Professor Zamagni was a member of the Executive Committee of International Economy Association (1989-1999) and Steering Committee of Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences.

In 2010 he was awarded the Giorgio La Pira Prize for Peace. Professor Negri has a Ph.D in economic history, University of Oxford, and is former vice president of the Emilia-Romagna regional government and co-founder (and co-editor, 1997-2001) of the European Review of Economic History

“Many voices are calling for wide-ranging changes to our economic, social and political systems. They are driven by concerns about rising inequality, the destruction of nature, and the undermining of democracy resulting from increasing global corporate power. Tom Webb’s important contribution ‘From Corporate Globalization to Global Co-operation’ stands out from the crowd because of his impassioned, informed and inspiring advocacy of the co-operative business model as an essential feature of any successful alternative to the current system of ailing capitalism and its dependence on endless economic growth.” –

— Peter A. Victor PhD, FRSC, Author of *Managing Without Growth: Slower by Design, Not Disaster*

“At his best as a story teller, Tom Webb delivers a collection of reflections about humanity in disconnect with its economic life. His unwavering trust in people and co-operation come through in every chapter, as does the sorrow in witnessing our civilization melt away at our collective fingertips. A mix between observation and hope, the book is a legacy of a true visionary co-operator who, by stating the obvious, always points out to everything we, humans, take for granted.”

— Sonja Novkovic, Department of Economics, Saint Mary’s University, Halifax, NS.



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