CONTENTS

Acknowledgments xi
About the Contributors xii
Foreword xv

1 The Challenge of a Democratic Economy 1
José Brendan Macdonald
The two-centuries-old liberalism in force 1
There arises the ideal of equality and solidarity 3
The struggle of the ideologies 6
The point of departure, the passage, and the point of arrival of
our people’s solidarian utopia 15

2 The Parecon Proposal 25
Michael Albert
Parecon’s values 27
Parecon’s institutions 34
Parecon’s virtues 43

3 Economic Democracy through Prout, Progressive
Utilization Theory 45
Dada Maheshvarananda
Economic democracy 46
Providing goods and services to the people 48
The rational distribution of resources 49
Prout’s ecological and spiritual perspective 50
The five fundamental principles of Prout 52
Conclusion 56
CONTENTS

4 Anarchy in Action: Especifismo and Working-Class Organizing  57
   Jeff Shantz
   Especifismo and the platform  58
   Specifics: Especifist perspectives  60
   Social insertion  63
   Especifismo in Brazil: The FAG  64
   Especifismo in Argentina: AUCA and the OSL  66
   Conclusion  69

5 An Economy for the Common Good with Social Currencies  71
   Heloisa Primavera
   Solidarian Economy: Some recent history  72
   Complementary currencies and social money: How they emerged and where they are today  76
   A particular case study: The Argentinean model of “barter club” transmuted in Brazil  79
   Is an enduring bond of common good between Solidarian Economies and social currencies possible?  87

6 Innovation, the Cooperative Movement, and Self-Management: From the Technical School to the Centers of Research and Development and the University in the Trajectory of the Mondragón Experience  95
   Alessandra B. Azevedo and Leda Gitahy
   The concept of self-management at MCC  98
   The Mondragón experience  100
   Facing the crisis in an atmosphere of transformations  104
   The Ikerlan and Ideko technological centers  111
   By way of conclusion: Innovation, the cooperative phenomenon, and self-management at MCC  119
CONTENTS

7 Worker Occupations and Worker Cooperatives—Examining Lessons from the 1970s and 1980s
   Gregor Gall
   Introduction 127
   Occupation versus strike: Relative superiority 130
   Occupations in Britain in historical context 132
   The specter of workers’ control? 134
   Cooperatives as worker self-management: Theory and practice 135
   Conclusion: Impact and lessons of historical experience 140

8 From Direct Action to Workers Assemblies: Unions and the G20 Protests in Toronto
   Jeff Shantz
   Which side are you on again? 150
   Days of action or dead on arrival 154
   Limiting structures 156
   Promising developments 159
   Conclusion 164

9 The Emerging Paradoxical Possibility of a Democratic Economy
   Gar Alperovitz

10 The Social Economy in Venezuela: Between the Will and the Possibility
    Juan Carlos Monedero
    The social economy as an economy of participation: The Bolivarian process as an alternative to the neoliberal model 183
    The constitutional bases for a social and people’s economy 187
    The reinvention of the role of the state in the social economy:
      The missions as public policies with people’s participation 189
    Map of the principal Venezuelan missions 191
CONTENTS

Lights and shadows in the Venezuelan social economy  194
Aspects of inefficiency regarding the development of an
alternative economy  197
Overt conclusions  198

11 Argentine Worker Cooperatives in Civil Society:
A Challenge to Capital-Labor Relations  209
Peter Ranis
The postrebellion Argentine context  211
Argentine worker recuperated enterprises confront the
neoliberal system  213
Worker cooperatives challenge political and economic
institutions  218
Argentine worker cooperatives: A growing phenomenon  227
Internationalizing the cooperative initiative  230
Cooperatives, civil society, and the state  232
Problems and prospects  235

12 Challenging the Globalized Agro-Food Complex:
Farming Cooperatives and the Emerging Solidarity
Economy Alternative in South Africa  241
Vishwas Satgar
From apartheid to Afro-neoliberalism in South African
agriculture  242
Consequences of South Africa’s globalized agro-food complex  247
Mapping solidarity economy food cooperatives  248
Kadishi Agricultural Cooperative  250
Mathomo Mayo Organic Agricultural Cooperative  252
Challenges facing solidarity economy food alternatives  253

Index  259