

# 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 solidararian 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

- 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

- 7 Worker Occupations and Worker Cooperatives—  
Examining Lessons from the 1970s and 1980s 127  
*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 149  
*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 167  
*Gar Alperovitz*
- 10 The Social Economy in Venezuela: Between the  
Will and the Possibility 183  
*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

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