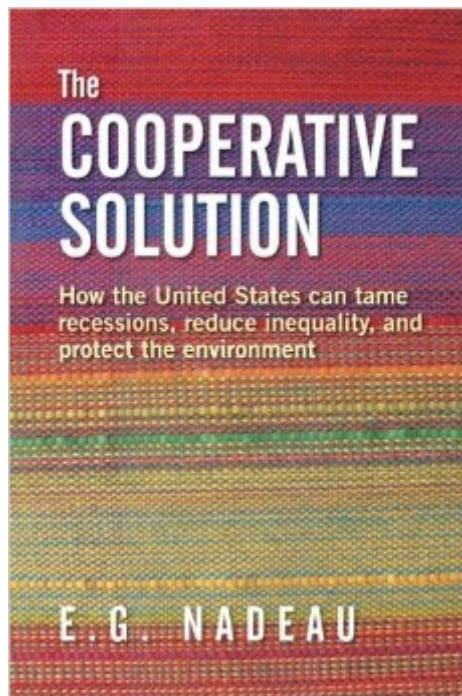


The book was found

The Cooperative Solution: How The United States Can Tame Recessions, Reduce Inequality, And Protect The Environment



Synopsis

This book illustrates the potential for cooperatives -- organizations that are owned and democratically controlled by the people they serve -- to infuse the US economy with the basic value of democracy and to provide citizens with a means to effectively address the shortcomings of the market-driven economy. The book makes the case that cooperatives are the solution to many of the major economic, social, and environmental problems in the United States today. The basic tenet of the essay is that co-ops are democratically controlled and are motivated primarily by the goal of providing services to their members, not by generating profits for their owners and investors. As a result of this democratic, services-first design, co-ops are much more likely to avoid the negative consequences of economic institutions primarily driven by the quest for ever-increasing profits. This latter model of economic development has led to over 200 years of economic instability, inequality, and environmental degradation in the United States. In the coming decades, co-ops can lead the way to undoing these fundamental flaws in our economic system.

Book Information

Paperback: 134 pages

Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform (July 26, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 147829826X

ISBN-13: 978-1478298267

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.3 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #292,362 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #211 inÂ Books > Business & Money > Economics > Sustainable Development #581 inÂ Books > Business & Money > Economics > Environmental Economics

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This is a very short simple and basic book, a primer. It is very good for what it is but if you know much about this subject, you will find it too basic. For other books on the subject of cooperatives see: Adams, Frank and Gary Hansen, Putting Democracy to Work: Practical Guide, Berrett Koehler, 1993; Albert, Michael & Robin Hahnel, Looking Forward: A Participatory Economy for the 21st Century, South End Press, 1991; The Political Economy of Participatory Economics, Princeton Univ. Press, 1991; Benello, George et.al., Building Sustainable Communities: Tools and Concepts for

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