

Principle FIVE

P5

July 2021



The Working Class Movement Library
51 The Crescent
Salford
M5 4WX

The Library started life in the 1950s as the personal collection of Edmund and Ruth Frow. The founders were proud that their love of books created a unique and valuable resource for people wanting to know more about working people's lives and political beliefs. The biography of [Edmund Frow](#), by Ruth is in the Principle 5 lending library.

Find out more and see a 6 minute video about the Library
[**HERE**](#)

Book Reviews

Anthony Webster wrote *Co-operation and Globalisation* in 2019. Here is a brief description of the book from the publisher's website:

Globalisation is associated with capitalist multinationals dedicated to the enrichment of wealthy, corporate shareholders. However, less well known is that the English and Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Societies, owned by the growing number of local co-operative societies across the country, were early leaders in global commerce.

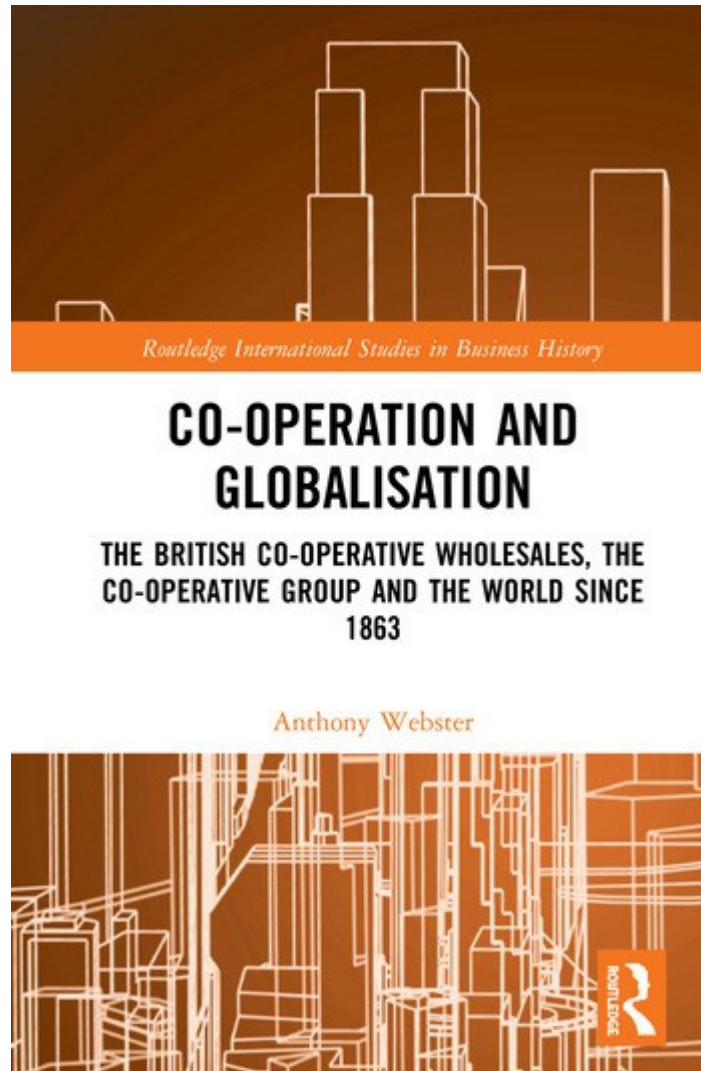
Owned by their working-class members, by 1900 there were over 1,000 societies and millions of individual members. Spreading profits widely through the 'divi' which rewarded members shopping at the co-op store, and selling safe and wholesome food, the co-operative movement was a successful part of the emerging labour movement.

This success depended on the wholesale societies supplying societies with commodities from all over the world. Because local societies were free to source produce from whoever they chose, competitive pressures required the wholesale societies to develop the world's most formidable network of international supply chains, with branches, depots, plantations and factories in the USA, Canada, Denmark, Sweden, Spain, Greece, France, Germany, India, Ceylon, Australia, New Zealand, colonial West Africa and Argentina.

This book explains how the wholesales developed and managed these networks, giving them a competitive advantage in their dealings with the local societies. It explores why and how this 'People's Global Colossus' declined in the later 20th century, and how its focus in international commerce moved onto ethical sourcing, investment and Fair Trade.

Integral to these global networks were the UK movement's relations with foreign co-operative movements, especially through involvement in the International Co-operative Alliance, and promotion of co-operatives in the Empire by successive British governments as a tool for economic development. The 'People's Colossus' was thus a political as well as a commercial player in the increasingly complex world of the late 19th and 20th centuries.

Co-operation and Globalisation has been added to the Principle 5 library.



Also available in the Library is [Building Co-operation](#)
John F. Wilson, Anthony Webster & Rachael Vorberg-Rugh
**A Business History of the Co-operative Group,
1863 – 2013**

Building Co-operation traces the development of the Co-operative Group and its predecessor, The Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS), over the course of 150 years.



The Sheffield Co-operator was published by The Sheffield Co-operative Party, monthly, with a guaranteed circulation of 30,000 copies every month from May 1922 to July 1939. Then wartime restrictions brought an end to this publication.

It was an eight page newspaper printed by the National Co-operative Publishing Society.

During the 1920s and 30s The Sheffield Co-operator was the only paper in Sheffield to constantly advocate co-operative principles and promote co-operatives. It reported on all of the issues which were of interest to people in Sheffield and refuted the negative reporting from the mainstream press towards co-operatives at that time.

It championed The Co-operative Commonwealth.

[The Sheffield Co-operator Information](#)

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[Co-op College announces new CEO and principal](#)

[Meet the Co-operative College Team](#)



coop
news

150
years

How the Co-op Press Influenced Public Opinion

Long Millgate's History of Marvellous Media

David Lazell

Reproduced from Co-operative News 25th July 2000

Long Millgate's History

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In 1936 Co-operative Press published:

Towards the Co-operative Commonwealth

by

T.W. Mercer

This excellent book celebrated the opening of the London
premises of Co-operative Press

Introduction

Concluding Chapter

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It was a pleasure to attend the Revolver Co-op AGM last Saturday. The Co-operative Resource Centre always has Fairtrade refreshments for members and visitors.



The Principle 5 library and archive is open for members and visitors to use (by appointment),

please contact Steve:

steve@sheffield.coop

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