

Instructions for contributors writing regional/single country chapters (draft)

Note: the different categories listed below under the sub-headings are meant as examples, and may not be applicable in all cases. Contributors will however be asked to follow the basic structure outlined here. The intention is that all the chapters should follow the same format so that cross-national comparisons are possible.

Introduction

Context

Historical context: (brief) introduction to the historical context in which consumer co-operatives emerged. In many cases, though not all, this will be the nineteenth century; discussions of relevant developments before then are of course welcome.

This could include, for example:

- economic development (industrialisation; periods of growth/crisis; development of trade and markets)
- social development (urbanisation; class formation; immigration; ethnic/religious/linguistic differences; gender relations)
- political development (state formation, whether colony or independent; legislation: national/federal/regional/local level; national mobilisation)
- international influences (e.g. immigration; government efforts; translation and dissemination of particular texts; role of international agencies e.g. ICA, League of Nations/UN and its agencies; international development aid and agencies).

This section should also include a brief discussion of the terms used in the relevant language(s) to describe co-operation, and where appropriate a discussion of their relation to traditional or indigenous concepts. It should discuss what is meant by *consumer* co-operation in the country or region about which you are writing (e.g. does this just include retail or also e.g. service co-operatives?), and any questions of overlap between consumer co-operatives and other co-operative organisations (for example those agricultural co-operatives which have also become involved in food distribution).

Chronology

Description and analysis of chronological development of consumer co-operative movement:

- main milestones of development (significant legislation affecting co-operatives; formation of federations, wholesales etc., their successes and failures.)
- important turning points. These might include: world wars (food shortages and rationing); 1930s depression; transitions to/from national independence; transitions to/from democracy and dictatorship; economic paradigms (collectivism, economic planning, neo-liberalism) and trade policy (protection/free trade).
- Periodisation: please try to suggest a chronology for co-operative development in your country or region, and relate this to other currents, e.g. periods of economic growth/stagnation; development of consumerism; globalisation etc.

Anatomy

Organisational structure of the consumer co-operative movement, its resources, strategies and ideologies.

- 1) Description and analysis of development of consumer co-operative movement organisational structure; local, regional, national, federal and international organisations. Was the co-operative movement split by ideology, aims, or its links to other movements (e.g. political parties?)
- 2) Legal framework: how are consumer co-operatives legally recognised by the state, and how did this change over time?
- 3) Relationship between co-operation and government/the state at different levels (local, regional, national, federal?)
- 4) Members: socio-economic background (class), gender, age, ethnicity, religion of members; strategies for recruitment, mobilisation and development of membership as a resource; relation to non-members (closed or open membership); co-operative governance and member participation.
- 5) Co-operative aims: co-operation as business plan/social movement; “co-operative commonwealth” and other visions; how these changed over time.
- 6) Strategies: response to changing economic circumstances (crisis, growth, rise of consumerism); use of (forced or voluntary) transnational/international connections; marketing, branding, advertising and attempts to create co-operative culture; recreational and social activities; relations between consumer co-operation and other movements (e.g. the labour movement).
- 7) Financial structure and strategies; management and industrial relations.

Impact

Economic, social, political and cultural impact of the co-operative movement in the relevant society (to the extent that it is possible to make a comment about this); relative success or failure of consumer co-operation in different contexts and explanations for this. Examples could include:

- Co-operative market share; share of import trade
- co-operation as part of government policy; participation in government rationing schemes, food distribution, commissions of enquiry etc; influence on government policy.
- ability to influence consumer culture; consumer education; campaigns for health, environmentalism etc..
- Local, regional and national developments; co-operative influences in particular communities.
- Poverty reduction
- Position of consumer co-operation within the wider co-operative movement – dominant or subordinate to other organisations e.g. agricultural co-operatives? Were relations good or hostile?

Any further comments

Any further points specific to your country or region that are not covered in the above.

Conclusion

Brief summary of findings

General comments

- 1) Word limit: 10,000 words including references.
- 2) All chapters should provide names of the co-operative organisations in the original language(s), with appropriate abbreviations, and translations if appropriate; a brief discussion of the different terms used for co-operation would also be helpful.
- 3) Some indication of important personalities would be useful. It is intended that the volume will include a co-operative who's who, so suggestions for individuals that should be included in this would be very welcome.
- 4) Appropriate pictures would be very welcome (contributors will be responsible for negotiating copyright). The use of diagrams, tables etc. is encouraged. Maps will be helpful in many cases; please submit a rough sketch map with your chapter if required.
- 5) References and bibliography: should be as comprehensive as possible, including references to works in original language(s). In addition to their chapters, contributors will be asked to provide an annotated bibliography introducing the most important texts in addition to their references (this to be included in a general bibliographic essay for the whole volume).
- 6) Style: as far as references are concerned, for the time being please follow the stylistic instructions for contributors to the *International Review of Social History* (see <http://www.iisg.nl/irsh/irshstyl.php>). Use footnotes rather than the Harvard system. British or American English is acceptable at this stage. Please write co-operative etc., not cooperative.
- 7) Statistics: the volume will also include a detailed statistical appendix. It would be helpful if contributors could include details of growth of membership, turnover etc., but more importantly also indicate reliable sources of co-operative statistics for their country or region.
- 8) Key words: please provide a list of key words from your chapter to assist us with compiling an index.