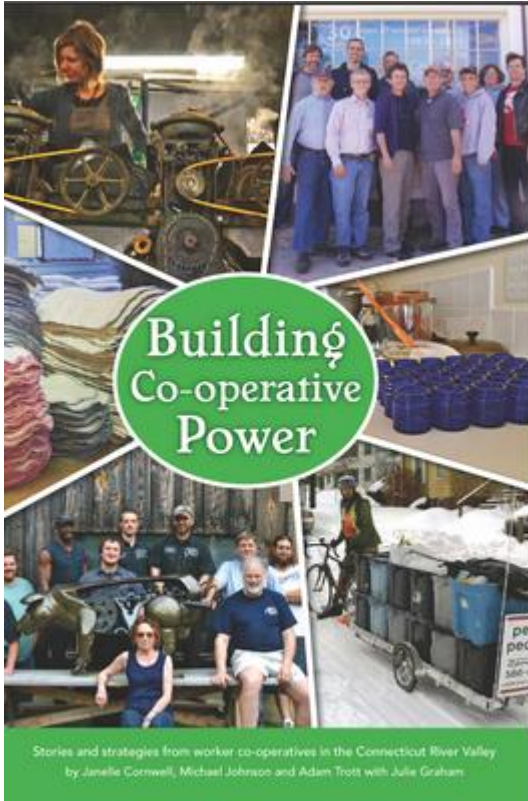


Book on Worker Co-operatives and Regional Economic Development

[Building Co-operative Power](#) (*BCP*) introduces the history and concept of worker co-operation and relates past and present stories of worker co-operatives in the Connecticut River Valley. It is grounded in 50 field interviews with former and current worker co-operators and the regional development model of the [Valley Alliance of Worker Co-operatives](#) (VAWC). This book is a guide and inspiration for building worker co-operatives as well as co-operative economic development through inter-cooperation in any region in this country.

See the Table of Contents and read the Introduction on the book's [web page](#).



Building Co-operative Power does two specific things. First, it gives a sense, a feel, even a taste of what it is like to be part of worker co-operative.

Second, after describing and exploring the consequences of the cultural invisibility for cooperatives and alternative political economic projects generally, it lays out the coherent strategy the Valley Alliance of Worker Co-operatives (VAWC) is using to address this major obstacle. In short, VAWC's strategy involves worker co-op led development and regional co-operative economic development through inter-cooperation of all cooperatives in the area.

The Columbia Conserve Company, Indianapolis For many decades, our southeast side had a substantially-sized business which was managed and owned by its workers, operating through a workers' council. The experiment in "industrial democracy" is inspirational, illustrating the possibilities of a future where businesses are owned, organized, and managed by Southeast side workers. Operating from 1917 to 1953, the Columbia Conserve Company, located at Churchman Avenue and the Indianapolis Belt Railroad, provided Americans with a variety of soups, pork and beans, and tomato ketchup. Their business model was unprecedented in Indianapolis.

<http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/The-Columbia-Conserve-Co.-A-southeast-Indianapolis-business-owned-and-managed-by-workers.pdf>