

Common Preservation

In a Time of Mutual Destruction

Jeremy Brecher

Foreword: Todd Vachon

As world leaders eschew cooperation to address climate change, nuclear proliferation, economic meltdown, and other threats to our survival, more and more people experience a pervasive sense of dread and despair. Is there anything we can do? What can put us on the course from mutual destruction to common preservation? In the past, social movements have sometimes made rapid and unexpected changes that countered apparently incurable social problems. Jeremy Brecher presents scores of historical examples of people who changed history by adopting strategies of common preservation showing what we can learn from past social movements to better confront today's global threats of climate change, war, and economic chaos.

In *Common Preservation*, Brecher shares his experiences and what he has learned that can help ward off mutual destruction and provides a unique heuristic—a toolkit for thinkers and activists—to understand and create new forms of common preservation.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Jeremy Brecher has participated in movements for nuclear disarmament, civil rights, peace, international labor rights, global economic justice, accountability for war crimes, climate protection, and many others. He is the author of fifteen books on labor and social movements, including the national best seller *Strike!*. He has received five regional Emmy awards for his documentary film work. He is currently policy and research director for the Labor Network for Sustainability.

Todd Vachon is a union carpenter, labor educator, and faculty member in the School of Management and Labor Relations at Rutgers University. He earned his PhD in sociology from the University of Connecticut where he helped to organize the graduate employee union-UAW Local 6950 and served as the first local president from 2015–2018. His research, which has been published in a variety of academic journals and edited books, focuses on inequality, labor, and climate change—all topics he cares about deeply. His current project is a book about the American labor-climate movement, titled: *Clean Air and Good Jobs: U.S. Labor and the Struggle for Climate Justice*.

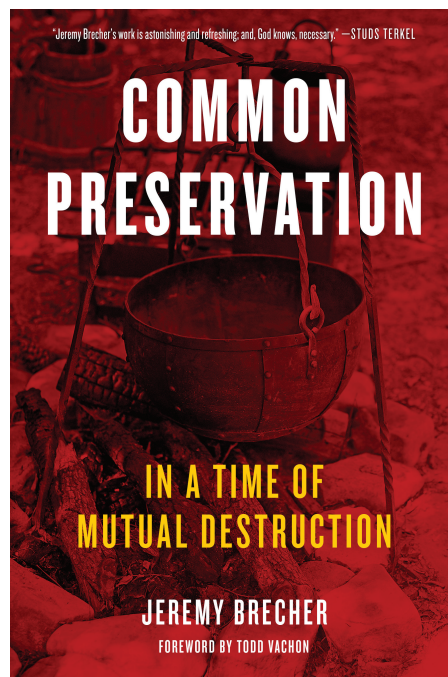
ACCOLADES

"Chapter by chapter, I learn from it; and I admire its ambition. When I sampled it, it engaged me so much that I set aside other work until I finished it. Overall, a fine manuscript. Rich in content. Also engaging. Is it not all or part of a philosophy or world view?"

—Charles Lindblom, Sterling Professor Emeritus of Political Science and Economics at Yale University; author of *The Market System*

"It is an autobiography of intellectual exploration and of practical experimentation with the problems of social injustice. It is a project of the urgent transmission of the lessons learned undertaken under the duress of historical time which threatens catastrophe. It is a valedictory and an exhortation."

—Joshua Dubler, Society of Fellows, Columbia University; author of *Down in the Chapel: Religious Life in an American Prison*



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