

# FOR ALL THE PEOPLE

Uncovering the Hidden History of Cooperation,  
Cooperative Movements, and Communalism in America

## John Curl

The survival of indigenous communities and the first European settlers alike depended on a deeply cooperative style of living and working, based around common lands, shared food, and labor. Cooperative movements proved integral to the grassroots organizations and struggles challenging the domination of unbridled capitalism in America's formative years. Holding aloft the vision for an alternative economic system based on cooperative industry, they have played a vital, and dynamic role in the struggle to create a better world.

In this groundbreaking, scholarly, yet eminently readable study, Curl surveys the vast range of cooperatives that have shaped America's past and continue to inform, and transform, our present. With an expansive sweep, and breathtaking detail, *For All the People* examines each of the definitive cooperative movements for social change—farmer, union, consumer, and communalist—that have been all but erased from our collective memory.

John Curl, with over 40 years of experience as both an active member and scholar of cooperatives, masterfully melds theory, practice, knowledge and analysis, to present the definitive history from below of cooperative America.

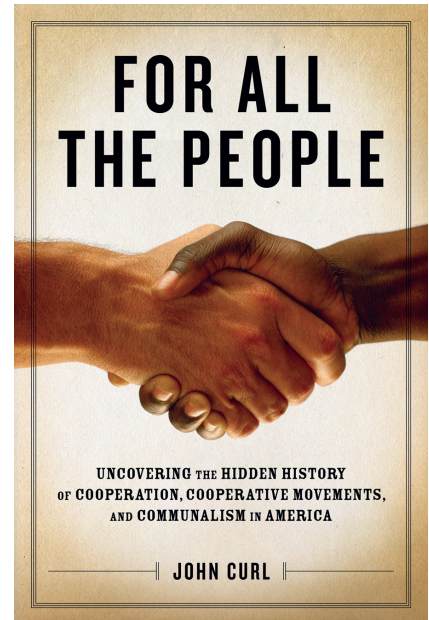
## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John Curl has been a member of Heartwood Cooperative Woodshop in Berkeley for over 30 years, and has belonged to numerous other cooperatives and collectives. His historical writings include the *History of Work Cooperation in America* (1980) and *Memories of Drop City* (2007), a memoir of the 1960s commune movement. He is a translator and biographer of Inca, Maya, and Aztec poets in *Ancient American Poets* (2006). His seven books of poetry include *Scorched Birth*, *Columbus in the Bay of Pigs*, and *Decade: the 1990s*. He is a longtime board member of PEN, chair of West Berkeley Artisans and Industrial Companies, a social activist, and has served as a city planning commissioner.

## ACCOLADES

"It is indeed inspiring, in the face of all the misguided praise of 'the market,' to be reminded by John Curl's new book of the noble history of cooperative work in the United States."—Howard Zinn

"New generations of readers will find this a fascinating account, and aging co-ops like myself will understand better what we did, what we tried to do, where we succeeded and where we failed. Get this book and read it, Curl will do you good."—Paul Buhle, co-editor of the *Encyclopedia of the American Left* and founding editor of *Radical America* (SDS)



**SUBJECT CATEGORY**  
U.S. HISTORY

**PRICE**  
\$28.95

**ISBN**  
978-1-60486-072-6

**PAGE COUNT**  
506

**SIZE**  
6 X 9

**FORMAT**  
PAPERBACK

**PUBLICATION DATE**  
09/01/09

**DISTRIBUTED BY**  
Independent Publishers Group  
(312) 337-0747  
[www.ipgbook.com](http://www.ipgbook.com)

■ **PM PRESS** ■  
P.O. Box 23912  
Oakland, CA 94623  
[www.pmpress.org](http://www.pmpress.org)

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