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Chapter 1 : Making Mondragon, The Growth and Dynamics of the Worker Cooperative Complex

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Beginnings[edit] The cooperative movement began in Europe in the 19th century, primarily in Britain and France. The concurrent labour and social movements and the issues they attempted to address describe the climate at the time. In the decades that followed, several cooperatives or cooperative societies formed including Lennoxton Friendly Victualling Society, founded in 1791. While Schulze-Delitzsch is chronologically earlier, Raiffeisen has proven more influential over time – see history of credit unions. In Britain, the friendly society, building society, and mutual savings bank were earlier forms of similar institutions. Robert Owen Robert Owen – is considered as the father of the cooperative movement. A Welshman who made his fortune in the cotton trade, Owen believed in putting his workers in a good environment with access to education for themselves and their children. These ideas were put into effect successfully in the cotton mills of New Lanark, Scotland. It was here that the first co-operative store was opened. Spurred on by the success of this, he had the idea of forming "villages of co-operation" where workers would drag themselves out of poverty by growing their own food, making their own clothes and ultimately becoming self-governing. William King physician Although Owen inspired the co-operative movement, others – such as Dr. William King – took his ideas and made them more workable and practical. King believed in starting small, and realized that the working classes would need to set up co-operatives for themselves, so he saw his role as one of instruction. He founded a monthly periodical called The Co-operator, [9] the first edition of which appeared on 1 May 1825. This gave a mixture of co-operative philosophy and practical advice about running a shop using cooperative principles. King advised people not to cut themselves off from society, but rather to form a society within a society, and to start with a shop because, "We must go to a shop every day to buy food and necessaries – why then should we not go to our own shop? The Rochdale Pioneers[edit] Main article: With lessons from prior failed attempts at co-operation in mind, they designed the now famous Rochdale Principles, and over a period of four months they struggled to pool one pound sterling per person for a total of 28 pounds of capital. On December 21, 1829, they opened their store with a very meagre selection of butter, sugar, flour, oatmeal and a few candles. Within three months, they expanded their selection to include tea and tobacco, and they were soon known for providing high quality, unadulterated goods. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. December 2007 Main article: The Co-operative Group The Co-operative Group formed gradually over years from the merger of many independent retail societies, and their wholesale societies and federations. In 1926, twenty years after the Rochdale Pioneers opened their co-operative, the North of England Co-operative Society was launched by individual co-ops across Yorkshire and Lancashire. CWS sold its factories to Andrew Regan in 1984. There were allegations of "carpet-bagging" – new members who joined simply to make money from the sale – and more seriously fraud and commercial leaks. Regan was cleared of charges. The episode recharged CWS and its membership base. Its headquarters complex is situated on the north side of Manchester city centre adjacent to the Manchester Victoria railway station. The complex is made up of many different buildings with two notable tower blocks of New Century House and the solar panel-clad CIS tower. Other independent societies are part owners of the Group. This League formally met for the first time during the Co-operative Congress in Edinburgh in 1926, in a group of 50 women and established Acland as its organizing secretary. Raiffeisen and Schultz-Delitsch developed an independently formulated co-operative model in Germany, the credit union. This organization began to develop international programs, and by the 1920s, a World Council formed. By the 1940s, Brigham Young had started applying co-operative ideas in Utah, [17] and by the 1950s, the Knights of Labor and the Grange both promoted member-owned organizations. National Co-operative Business Association. He wrote extensively on co-operative history and philosophy. Mondragon Co-op was founded under the oppressive conditions of Fascist Franco Spain after community-based democracy-building activities of a

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priest, Jose Maria Arizmendiarieta. They have become an extremely diverse network of co-operative enterprises, a huge enterprise in Spain, and a multinational concern. There are also concrete proposals for the cooperative management of the common goods, such as the one by Initiative in Greece. An annual general meeting of a retail co-operative in England, In the UK, co-operatives formed the Co-operative Party in the early 20th century to represent members of co-ops in Parliament. UK co-operatives retain a significant market share in food retail , insurance, banking, funeral services, and the travel industry in many parts of the country. Deregulation of the electricity markets allowed energy co-operative social entrepreneurs to begin to create alternatives to the monopolies in various countries. In France, where an enormous percentage of the power is generated by nuclear sources, this occurred after In New York City, several food co-operatives were founded around , adding to others, some existing since the s. Electrical co-operatives became an important economic strategy for U. Employee-owned trusts have also been developed more or less independently, for example at an established iron pipe company [79] The Fair Trade certification movement established first in the Netherlands in with an international headquarters in Bonn nine years later requires member farmers to have established a co-operative.

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