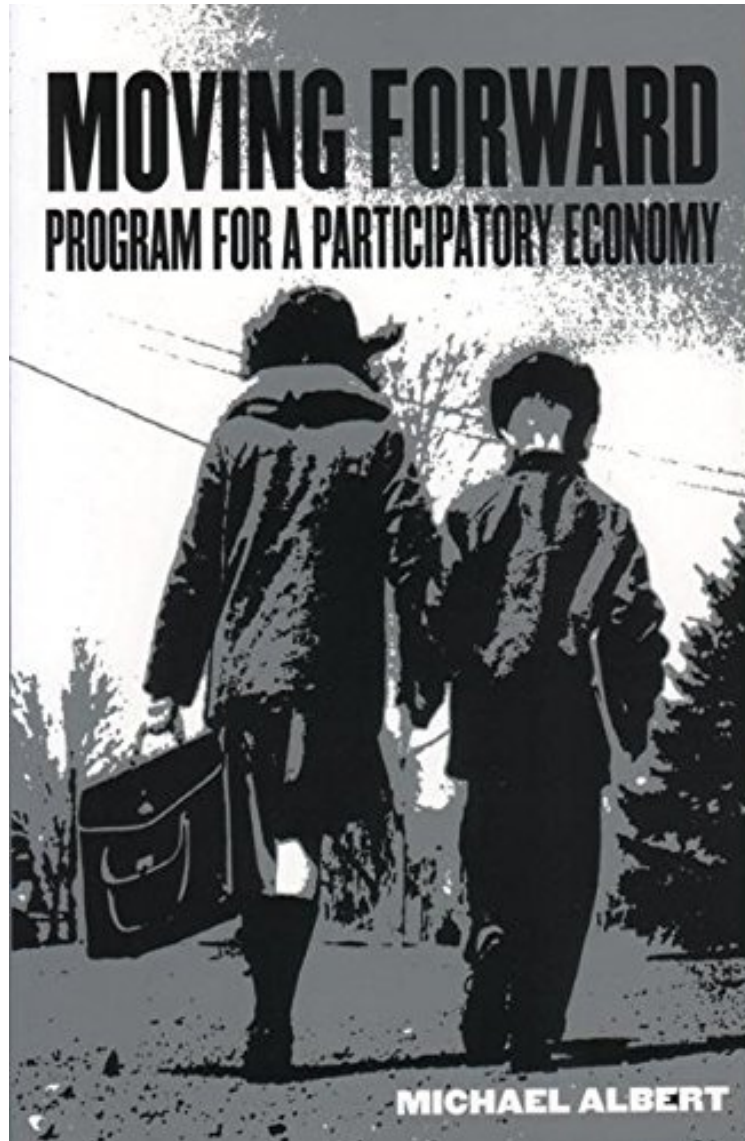


(Read now) Moving Forward: Program for a Participatory Economy

## Moving Forward: Program for a Participatory Economy

*Michael Albert*

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**Michael Albert : Moving Forward: Program for a Participatory Economy** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Moving Forward: Program for a Participatory Economy:

0 of 6 people found the following review helpful. 2\*By Rosaliabad5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A Better World is Possible!: Alternative to both Capitalism and to Centrally-Planned CommunismBy a readerIn my early years as an anti-capitalist, I experienced despair because of the negative outcomes in centrally planned "communist" countries. I knew capitalism was causing tons of suffering all over the world, but it seemed that nations which utilized

central-planning style "communism" also caused tons of suffering. Was a better world impossible? Then a friend told me about Parecon (abbreviation of participatory economics) and my life changed. Finally, here is a viable alternative economic system! And it is described in explicit detail. It's not just a bunch of empty rhetoric about how we should have an economy based on equity, classlessness, non-hierarchy, participatory democracy, self-management, etc. It is a specific and detailed map of how such an economy can operate. Unlike capitalism, Parecon is equitable and non-exploitative. Unlike centrally-planned communism, Parecon is democratically planned and non-hierarchical. Parecon has many supporters amongst anarchists and libertarian-communists, because it is a vision for an economic system which embodies many of the ideals of anarchism and libertarian-communism - values such as those mentioned earlier: equity, classlessness, non-hierarchy, participatory democracy, and self-management. However, the Parecon is not officially affiliated with any particular political orientation. Even if you don't know what anarchism or libertarian-communism means you can still understand and appreciate Parecon on its own terms. Parecon also has a political vision to accompany it, parpolity (abbreviation of participatory polity), conceived of by political science professor Stephen R. Shalom. And then there is also parsoc (abbreviation of participatory society) which is a vision for a fully participatory society, addressing issues of economics, politics, "race" and culture, gender and kinship, etc. (See: Real Utopia: Participatory Society for the 21st Century) This particular book, "Moving Forward: Program for a Participatory Economy", explains Parecon thoroughly and in a way that the average person can understand. There is also a book on Parecon written for those who have studied economics and have a good understanding of economic jargon and mathematics: The Political Economy of Participatory Economics. This is a good book for economists who want a more scientific explanation of how Parecon works.

If not capitalism, then what? Something's not working, but there's a dearth of material on what could be right - and more important how to change things. Laying out strategy vision for his "participatory economics," Albert argues that we must change the way we view work wages and restructure our workplaces so that everyone can become involved in controlling their working lives. The third in his "Forward" books is written in clear language and will be of interest to those just beginning to question capitalist logic to experienced activists. Using real-world examples, Albert offers today's political discontents a valuable tool. Michael Albert is a co-founder of both South End Press and Z magazine and lives in Woods Hole.

About the Author Michael Albert is a co-founder of South End Press and Z magazine, where he works as website coordinator for Z-Net. "Michael Albert is an important thinker, who takes us beyond radical denunciations and pretentious 'analysis' to a thoughtful, profound meditation on what a good society can be like, and how we might get there." -Howard Zinn