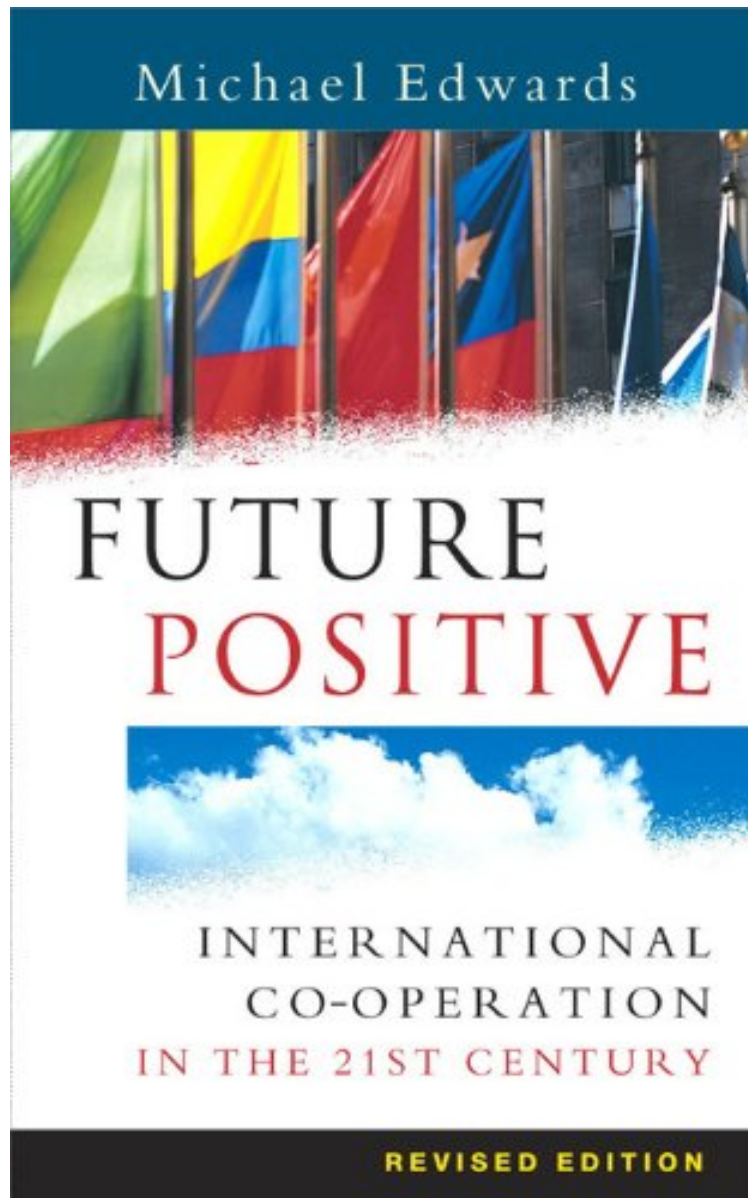


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Future Positive: International Co-operation in the 21st Century

Michael Edwards

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Michael Edwards : Future Positive: International Co-operation in the 21st Century before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Future Positive: International Co-operation in the 21st Century:

12 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Future Positive: A reason for to add a sixth star!By Steven C RosenthalFuture Positive: A reason for to add a sixth star!Future Positive does an outstanding job of summarizing the

state of international development today, what brought us to this point, and a concrete roadmap for positive change in the future. The author, Michael Edwards, hits the nail on the head again and again with insightful analysis of past events and creative, yet firmly rooted, strategies for the future. I urge anyone that is interesting in the future of our world to read this book. It is what I call "International Development 101" for those seeking to understand the field. For those working in the field of International Development this is a must read. I have made it required reading at our organization for all staff members and for every volunteer that goes to the field with our program. Steven Rosenthal, Executive Director, Cross-Cultural Solutions steve@crossculturalsolutions.org 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. exactly what we need after September 11th By Alan Jones... Make no mistake, this is a rigorous treatment of the international cooperation debate, packed with detailed evidence that is all footnoted at the end. At times this makes for some heavy reading, but it is worth it, since the evidence and the argument all hang together to illumine what has gone wrong in the world since 1945 and what we can do about it. Yes, this does mean "re-balancing the competitive and co-operative rationalities that motivate each one of us" (from the Preface), but in the aftermath of September 11th you would have to be crazy not to understand the importance of global cooperation in addressing threats like terrorism, pollution and poverty. What Edwards shows, better to my mind than any other recent book I've read, is how the original ideals of "international community" after World War II were corrupted into a system of threats and bribes that can never be effective in eliciting real cooperation between countries. Some of his prescriptions for correcting this situation may sound idealistic, but better this than the emptiness and cynicism of much current political debate. Especially since September 11th, I do believe that the world is heading in the direction of a "Future Positive", and this book is a pretty good roadmap to help us along the way. 3 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Paving the road to (economic) Hell By Robert Robison If good intentions were all that is required for an author, Michael Edwards would be a giant among policy writers. Unfortunately, having one's heart in the right place is not enough. Consider this passage on page 144: "Does basketball player Michael Jordan have to earn 31,000 times more for advertising Nike sports shoes than the workers who produce them, despite the fact that should wages be doubled the cost of production would still fall below \$1 a pair?... Inequalities [such as this] result from political decisions about the distribution of gains arising from economic activity." This statement betrays a profound ignorance of how markets work. Michael Jordan earns 31,000 times more than the factory workers, not as a result of any "political decision," but because there are apparently many people for whom \$1.75 a day is preferable to unemployment or life in a poor rural village. On the other hand, there is only one Michael Jordan and Nike believes only an athlete of his caliber should represent its product. If Nike had to settle for a lesser player as spokesperson and sold fewer shoes as a result, at least some of the workers in the shoe factory would lose their jobs. So while it may seem frivolous or even outrageous that someone who throws a ball through a hoop earns thousands of times more than people who provide a basic necessity like shoes, the shoemakers themselves and those who care about their wellbeing should be happy Nike can afford to hire Michael Jordan. This preachy litany of cliches, half-truths, and unsubstantiated assertions about evils of competition and laissez-faire is nothing more than warmed-over Fabian socialism. It didn't work in the 19th century. It won't work in the 21st either.

An optimistic assessment of the prospects for a new international order - acting as a counter-blast to global pessimism. The text explains how the international system operates, the pressures it faces and the changes it must undergo, and offers concrete ideas to re-frame international relations, foreign aid and humanitarian intervention, without using jargon or simplistic judgements.

Edwards' Future Positive is a remarkably coherent account of complex and diverse issues.' London of Books 'This courageous book pursues the biggest issue of all: how international co-operation can be raised to a higher level. The pursuit is full of intellectual excitement, arriving at conclusions that are inspiring and challenging.' John Toye, UNCTAD 'Edwards approaches problems facing the world with steady determination and a cool eye... He is remarkably persuasive, wise and extraordinarily well-informed.' Global Ideas Bank 'It is particularly refreshing to read a book which sets out how such changes might be achieved, and which is fundamentally optimistic that they can be.' David Bryer, Director, Oxfam. From the Publisher Customer Comments Average Customer Rating: ***** Number of s: 2 steve@crossculturalsolutions.org from New York , 29 May, 2000 Future Positive: A reason for to add a sixth star! Future Positive does an outstanding job of summarizing the state of international development today, what brought us to this point, and a concrete roadmap for positive change in the future. The author, Michael Edwards, hits the nail on the head again and again with insightful analysis of past events and creative, yet firmly rooted, strategies for the future. I urge anyone that is interesting in the future of our world to read this book. It is what I call "International Development 101" for those seeking to understand the field. For those working in the field of International Development this is a must read. I have made it required reading at our organization for all staff members and for every volunteer that goes to the field with our program. Steven Rosenthal, Executive Director, Cross-Cultural Solutions --This text refers to the paperback edition of this title A reader from London , 15 April, 2000 ***** An inspiring but practical guide to managing globalisation Most books on globalisation and international relations are too

dense to wade through, or too biased either for or against markets, trade and corporations. This one is different, since it is written like a conversation with the reader, and manages to be fair to all sides in the debate while still being tough in terms of its prescriptions and recommendations. The first part of the book is a very strong critique of the international system over the last 50 years - the failures of foreign aid, humanitarian intervention, international institutions and NGOs. The second part of the book is more uplifting, offering concrete suggestions on reforming the aid donors, 'humanising capitalism', generating new institutions for global governance, and building constituencies for internationalism and co-operative living in the West. It also has a moving Conclusion which summarises an incredible amount of information and personalises the whole story in a way that made me want to run out and join my nearest Oxfam shop! Edwards is a good writer, and knows his field from back to front. Highly recommended.

About the Author
Michael Edwards is the Director of the Ford Foundation's Governance and Civil Society Unit in New York.