

The Common Fund student guide

Use a fictional cooperative to investigate how rules turn resources, national membership, and recognized contribution into access and authority. Historical evidence is supplied inside the simulation. Your task is to explain an institutional mechanism and its limits.

Choose the route assigned for your class

Core has 9 decisions and takes about 60 minutes. Full has 11 decisions and takes about 90 minutes. Seminar adds a comparison and takes about 105 minutes. These are planning estimates, not time limits. Enter your name and check Class settings before beginning.

There is no historical victory score

Do not try to maximize a solidarity or voice index. Judge what a rule does, whom it includes, and what remains beyond the cooperative. Your choices and programmed outcomes do not change or prove what happened historically.

Work through a decision

1. Read the situation and the three people affected. They are fictional composite characters, not historical testimony.
2. Choose a rule you can finance. Read the focused source cards. The reserve represents finite political and financial capacity; its numerical costs are invented teaching values, not historical accounts.
3. Record your first explanation-check response and read its feedback. A wrong answer can proceed after review. Use one correction or distinction in your explanation when checks are required.
4. Write the required explanation, choose evidence where required, and record the decision. Read the outcome and connect it to the rule you adopted.

Writing saving and submission

Make the explanation do some work

State your chosen rule, describe its material consequence, and use the source to explain who was left out. Name the author or document and add the source-card ID in parentheses. Explain the source's relevance rather than writing only "E21 says that..." Use the named person in the prompt to trace access, job security, standing, or authority.

The default class minimum is 20 words per decision. Reflection pauses and feedback follow-ups use 10 words. Final analysis uses 40 words and the new-case explanation uses 30. Seminar includes a further comparison. Your instructor can change requirements; the screen shows the current minimum.

Keep a portable copy

Browser saves stay with the current browser and address. After the fifth decision, new written-assignment attempts request a JSON checkpoint during the existing pause. Check that your browser kept the file. Save and submit also offers a resumable JSON download at any time. JSON can restore unfinished writing on another device or when browser data is cleared.

Use Resume file to import a JSON checkpoint and review it before replacing the active attempt. Moving between the website and the downloaded game also requires export and import. Keep your most recent file until the assignment is accepted.

Submit the readable record

At the end, use Save and submit to download the PDF record or open Print / Save as PDF. Readable HTML and text records are also available. Review the exported work, then submit it through your course assignment. The simulation does not send work to your instructor automatically. The JSON file is for resuming, rather than the readable submission.

Use the support that helps

Reading options provide larger text, stronger contrast, reduced motion, a focused view, and browser-supported read aloud. Definitions open by hover, keyboard focus, or tap; on a phone they expand within the text. All character quotes remain visible. On small screens, the writing reference panel opens with the rule and evidence beside the task.

Created by Yoav Duman. A Whose Terms? investigation based on Gershon Shafir and Yoav Peled, Being Israeli (2002). <https://yoavduman.com/lab/whose-terms/the-common-fund>