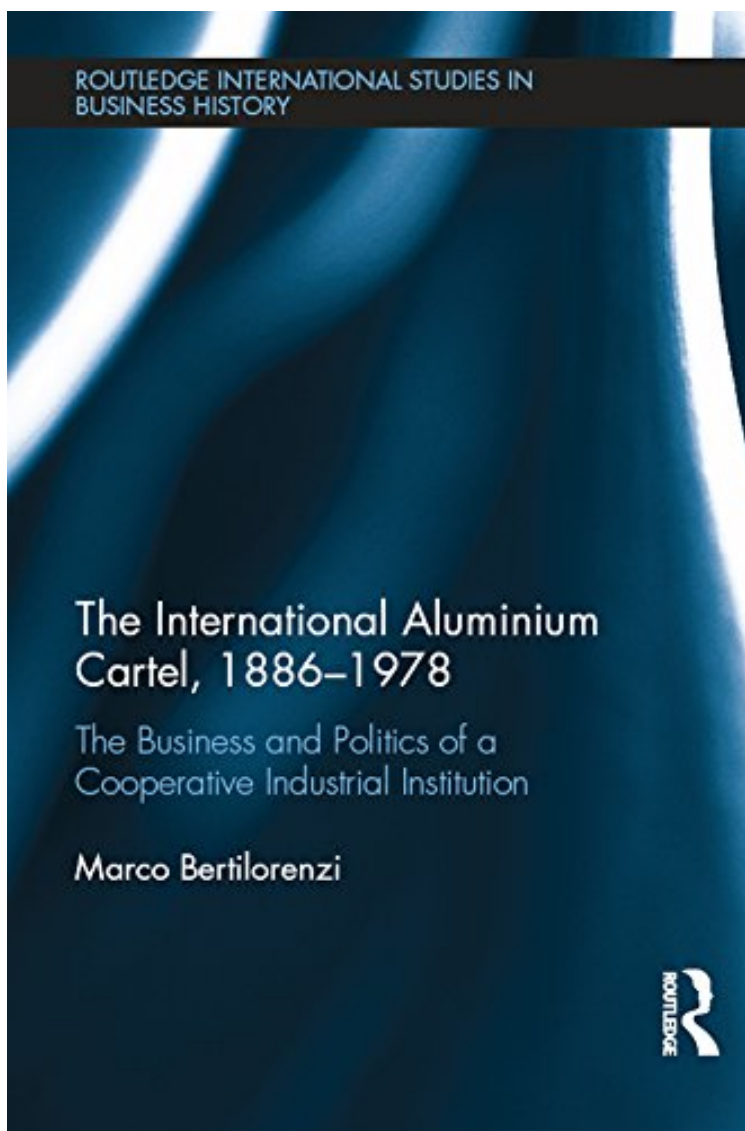


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## **The International Aluminium Cartel: The Business and Politics of a Cooperative Industrial Institution (1886-1978) (Routledge International Studies in Business History)**

*Marco Bertilorenzi*

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History):

Aluminium was one of most cartelised industries in the international economic panorama of the 20th century. Born following the discovery of electrolytic smelting process in 1886, this industry, even in its infancy, established a cartel which characterised its history until nearly 1980. Managers of the aluminium industry from various historical eras and countries shared the same vision about the development of their industry: to keep prices as stable as possible in order to encourage expansions and to provide return on investments. Price instability, which characterised the trade of other commodities, was unknown to the aluminium industry. This book neither argues that cartels are fundamentally evil, nor attempts to demonstrate that cartels are optimal business organisations. It instead provides an in-depth and frank analysis of the internal working of industrial organisations and of the interplay between cartels and political powers and institutions. The International Aluminium Cartel offers explanations for the construction and collapse of cartels, descriptions of their operations, and an historical interpretation of their experiences. Incorporating information gleaned from a unique collection of private and public archives from several countries, this unique study will appeal to a wide variety of readers, including academics interested in industrial and business history.

'In this compelling study of international aluminium cartels, Dr Bertilorenzi deploys his fine grained analysis of a wide coverage of the key sources to explore the political economy of cartelization. The International Aluminium Cartel makes a significant contribution to discussions of varieties of capitalism. It will be read with equal profit by academics and students in humanities and social science faculties, as well as business and management schools alike.

Policymakers and regulators will also profit from it.' - Andrew Perchard, Associate Professor, University of Strathclyde, UK 'Scholars have for long regarded the aluminium industry as the prime evidence of cartelization in the 20th century. Bertilorenzi offers a new insight and new information about the inducement, the modus operandi and the disintegration of the various cartels with a well-structured and accessible style. I strongly recommend it.' - Hans Otto Frosland, Professor, The Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway  
About the Author  
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