

# Foreword

For too long the emphasis on logistics in academia has focused on the economics of time and place and the physical movement of materials and finished goods. How refreshing to see a new book by Michael Quayle, which looks at logistics and the supply chain in the widest sense. This book looks at current thinking and development of the supply chain concept through purchasing and purchasing policies. Management issues surrounding quality, and value chain and controls within the supply chain follow. This is not a theoretical treatise but rather a look at various operating environments that will change emphasis within supply chain. It looks at the balance between service levels and profitability. This logically leads to issues such as inventory control and the alternative to holding stock and all the implications surrounding warehousing. Stores management is covered in considerable detail, giving current thinking on all aspects of storage of goods.

Next, Michael considers transport, including the issues surrounding exports and imports. This is, in itself, a valuable reference to current practice. He next covers physical distribution and concepts of channel formation, and this is a comprehensive treatment of current thinking. Finally, he addresses e-business and the capture of information as a resource to be managed. I found this to be a stunning book that will reach a wide audience, because - every supply chain, logistics, production, purchasing, and service manager must have it as an office reference book.

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