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**TABLE OF CONTENTS:**

1. Introduction
2. A Brief History of the Mechanics’ Institute Movement
3. Scientific Education offered up to 1850
4. Scientific and Technical Education 1851 – 1900
5. Social Class and Membership
6. Mechanics’ Institutes and Female Membership
7. From Rented Accommodation to Civic Pride
8. Mechanics’ Institute Libraries and the Contribution to a Public Readership
9. Analysis of Three Clusters of Mechanics’ Institutes and Their Impact on Their Local Communities
10. Expansion of the Mechanics’ Institute Movement beyond Britain
11. Conclusion and Legacy of the Mechanics’ Institute Movement

**The Development of the Mechanics’ Institute Movement in Britain and Beyond**

Supporting further education for the adult working classes

**Martyn Walker**, University of Huddersfield, UK

**Series: Routledge Research in Education**

This book questions the generally accepted view that mechanics’ institutes made little contribution to adult working-class education from their foundation in the 1820s to 1890. The book traces the historical development of several mechanics’ institutes across Britain, establishing that many supported both male and female working-class membership before state intervention at the end of the nineteenth century resulted in the development of further education for all. Chapters of the book draw on historical accounts in supporting the claim that the movement, until now seen as of little national significance, was a success, and particularly for the working classes for whom they were established.

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