



# **Distribution Planning and Control: Managing in the Era of Supply Chain Management (Chapman & Hall Materials Management/Logistics Series)**

*David Frederick Ross*

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When work began on the first volume of this text in 1992, the science of distribution management was still very much a backwater of general management and academic thought. While most of the body of knowledge associated with calculating EOQs, fair-shares inventory deployment, productivity curves, and other operations management techniques had long been solidly established, new thinking about distribution management had taken a definite back-seat to the then dominant interest in Lean thinking, quality management, and business process reengineering and their impact on manufacturing and service organizations. For the most part, discussion relating to the distribution function centered on a fairly recent concept called Logistics Management. But, despite talk of how logistics could be used to integrate internal and external business functions and even be considered a source of competitive advantage on its own, most of the focus remained on how companies could utilize operations management techniques to optimize the traditional day-to-day shipping and receiving functions in order to achieve cost containment and customer fulfillment objectives. In the end, distribution management was, for the most part, still considered a dreary science, concerned with transportation rates and cost trade-offs, expediting and the tedious calculus. Today, the science of distribution has become perhaps one of the most important and exciting disciplines in the management of business.

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