

“THE ULTIMATE HIDDEN TRUTH OF THE WORLD IS THAT IT IS SOMETHING THAT WE MAKE, AND COULD JUST AS EASILY MAKE DIFFERENTLY,”wrote David Graeber. A renowned anthropologist and activist, as well as the author of such classics as *Debt* and, with David Wengrow, the breakout New York Times bestseller *The Dawn of Everything*, Graeber was as well-known for his sharp, lively essays as for his iconic role in the Occupy movement and his paradigm-shifting volumes.

The world faces converging political, economic, and ecological crises, and yet our politics is dominated by either business as usual or nostalgia for a mythical past. Thinking against the grain, Graeber dared to imagine a new understanding of the past and a liberatory vision of the future—to imagine a social order based on humans’ fundamental freedom. In essays published over three decades and ranging across the biggest issues of our time—inequality, technology, the identity of “the West,” democracy, art, power, anger, mutual aid, and protest—he challenges the old assumptions about political life. A trenchant critic of the order of things, driven by a bold imagination and a passionate commitment to human freedom, he offers hope that our world can be different.

In this moment of daunting upheaval and pervasive despair, the incisive, entertaining, and urgent essays collected in *The Ultimate Hidden Truth of the World . . .*, edited and with an introduction by Nika Dubrovsky and a foreword by Rebecca Solnit, make for essential and inspiring reading. They are a profound reminder of Graeber’s enduring significance as an iconic, playful, necessary thinker.

DAVID GRAEBER was a professor of anthropology at the London School of Economics. He was the author of *Pirate Enlightenment, or the Real Libertalia*; *Debt: The First 5,000 Years*; and *Bullshit Jobs*, among many other books, and the coauthor, with David Wengrow, of *The Dawn of Everything*, a *New York Times* bestseller. An iconic thinker and a renowned activist, he died in 2020.

READ BY JACQUES SERVIN AND SAVITRI D



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