

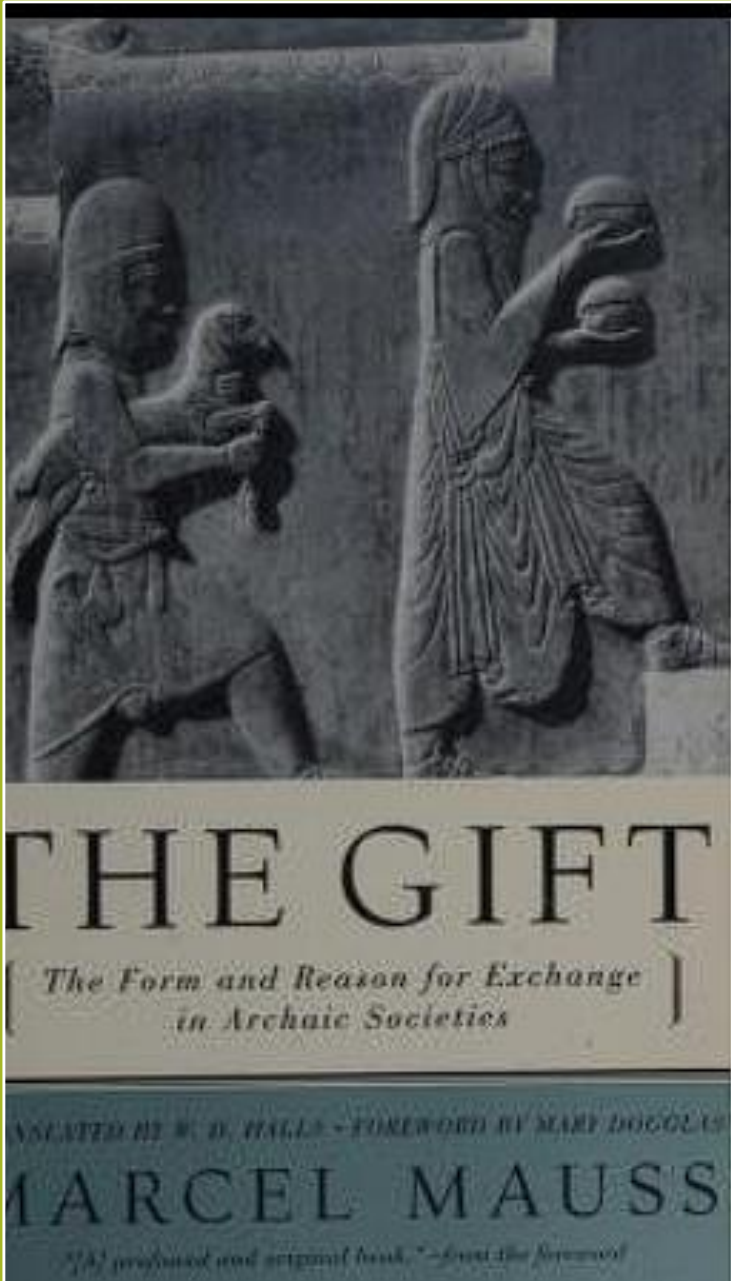
MAUSS AND GRAEBER

Marcell Mauss (1872-1950)

- Marcel Mauss was a French anthropologist who was known for his merging of the boundaries between Anthropology and sociology. He was the nephew of functionalist sociologist Emile Durkheim. He worked with his uncle on many occasions and used the functionalist ideology of social hierarchies in some of his theories.
- Mauss was born on the 10th May 1872 in Vosges France where he later joined both the socialist and cooperative movements. Later he moved to Bordeaux where he studied philosophy. He served in the army during the first world war as an interpreter.
- In the 1890s Mauss began his study of linguistics and the history of religion then in 1896 he released his first publication.
- In 1901 Mauss began to take ideas from ethnography which later gained him the nickname the father of French ethnology. He focused on the comparative study of the relation between forms of social structure and the value of exchange



(Wikipedia
Contributors, 2019)



Theory of The Gift (1929)

Mauss originally published *The Gift: Forms and Functions of Exchange in Archaic Societies* as an essay in 1925 under the name *An essay on the gift: the form and reason of exchange in archaic societies*.

This study focuses on the economic activity and processes of what he called archaic and indigenous societies. Mauss argued that within these societies rather than a monetary economic system many used an exchange system where someone would receive something needed as a gift but then feel indebted to the person who gifted them the item and would therefore procure something for them in response creating an exchange.

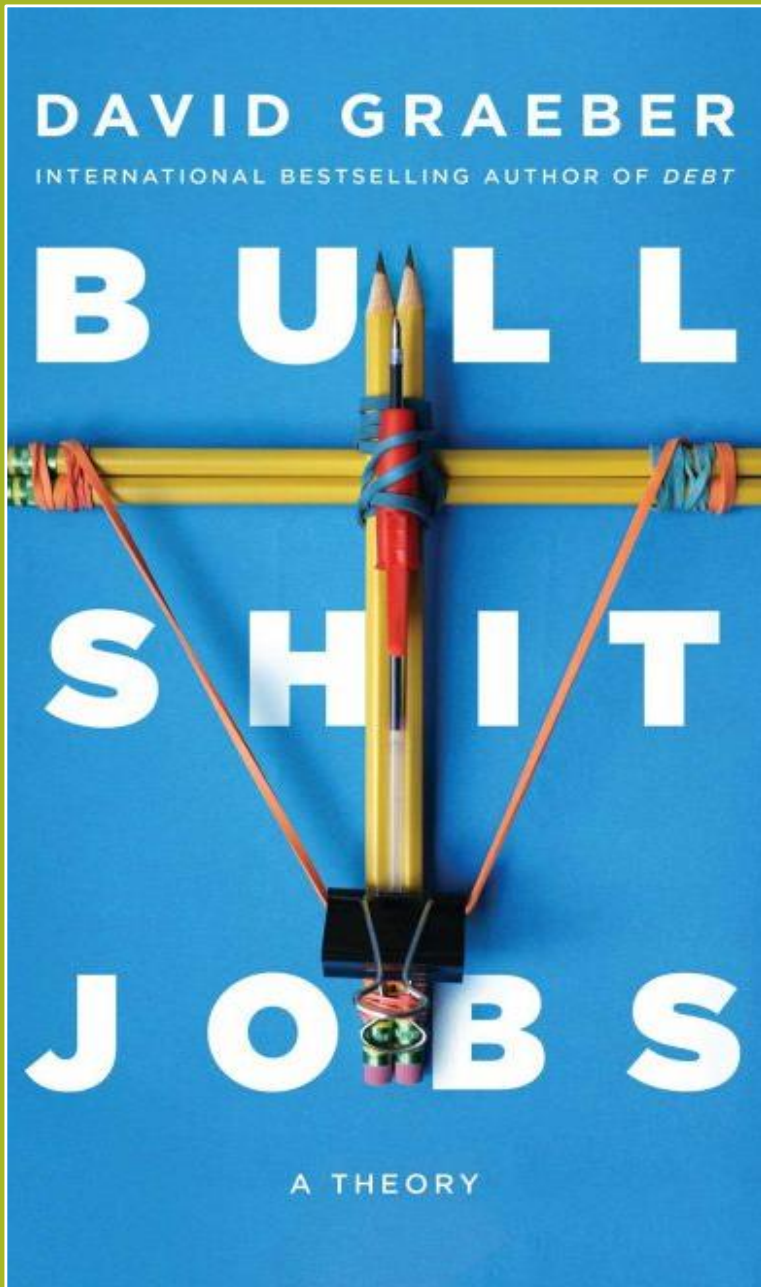
He argued that this not only helped to gain resources but also alliances between nations

David Graeber (1961 – 2020)

- David Graeber was an American anthropologist and activist who while he didn't regard himself as an anarchist is known for his anarchist approach to anthropology
- Born February 12th, 1961, in New York U.S.A Graeber was involved in political activism from a young age and began following anarchist ideology at 16. He studied at State University of New York at Purchase for his Bachelors degree in anthropology in 1984 he then studied at the University of Chicago where he received a Fulbright fellowship exchange program to allow him 20 months in Madagascar to conduct Anthropological field work.
- He contributed many influential works to economic anthropology with an interest in globalisation and its effect on society.



(Graeber, n.d.)



Theory of Bullshit jobs (2018)

The Theory of bullshit jobs is a continuation of Graeber's 2013 essay 'On the Phenomenon of Bullshit Jobs'. Graeber argues that many jobs within modern society are not needed and only exist due to capitalism. The theory looks into the existence of so-called meaningless jobs and analyses their societal harm as well as the effect on people's self-worth.

He defines a bullshit job as a job that is so completely pointless and useless that even the employee doesn't see the point in the job existing. When in the modern era it could be performed by a machine, he introduces five categories of bullshit job:

The flunkies - people whose job is to make their superiors feel important (store greeters)

The goons - people whose role is to harm or intimidate others for their employers (telemarketers)

The duck tapers - those who temporarily fix a permanent (updating software rather than fixing problems)

The box tickers - make things appear important by being done when it's not (in-house journalists)

The Taskmasters - people who generate more pointless work for others (middle managers)

bibliography

- Graeber, D. (n.d.). *David's autobiography – David Graeber Institute*. [online] davidgraeber.org. Available at: <https://davidgraeber.org/about-david-graeber/>.
- Graeber, D. (2021). *The Bullshit-Job Boom - David Graeber*. [online] David Graeber. Available at: <https://davidgraeber.org/articles/the-bullshit-job-boom>
- Internet Archive. (2021). *The gift : the form and reason for exchange in archaic societies : Mauss, Marcel, 1872-1950 : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive*. [online] Available at: <https://archive.org/details/giftformreasonfo0000maus>
- Wikipedia Contributors (2019). *Marcel Mauss*. [online] Wikipedia. Available at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcel_Mauss.