

Building Free Life

Dialogues with Öcalan

Editor: International Initiative

From Socrates to Antonio Gramsci, imprisoned philosophers have marked the history of thought and changed how we view power and politics. From his solitary jail cell, Abdullah Öcalan has penned daringly innovative works that give profuse evidence of his position as one of the most significant thinkers of our day. His prison writings have mobilized tens of thousands of people and inspired a revolution in the making in Rojava, northern Syria, while also penetrating the insular walls of academia and triggering debate and reflection among countless scholars.

So how do you engage in a meaningful dialogue with Abdullah Öcalan when he has been held in total isolation since April 2015? You compile a book of essays written by a globally diverse cast of the most imaginative luminaries of our time, send it to Öcalan's jailers and hope that they deliver it to him.

Featured in this extraordinary volume are over a dozen writers, activists, dreamers, and scholars whose ideas have been investigated in Öcalan's own writings. Now these same people have the unique opportunity to enter into a dialogue with his ideas. *Building Free Life* is a rich and wholly original exploration of the most critical issues facing humanity today. In the broad sweep of this one-of-a-kind dialogue, the contributors explore topics ranging from democratic confederalism to women's revolution, from the philosophy of history to the crisis of the capitalist system, from religion to Marxism and anarchism, all in an effort to better understand the liberatory social forms that are boldly confronting capitalism and the state.

There can be no boundaries or restrictions for the development of thought. Thus, in the midst of different realities—from closed prisons to open-air prisons—the human mind will find a way to seek the truth. *Building Free Life* stands as a monument of radical thought, a testament of resilience, and a searchlight illuminating the impulse for freedom.

Contributors include Radha D'Souza, David Graeber, John Holloway, Raúl Zibechi, Antonio Negri, Immanuel Wallerstein, Andrej Grubačić, Nazan Üstündağ, Peter Lamborn Wilson, Norman Paech, Donald H. Matthews, Thomas Jeffrey Miley, Damian Gerber, Shannon Brincat, Patrick Huff, Ekkehard Saueremann, Mechthild Exo, Muriel González Athenas, Barry K. Gills, and Fabian Scheidler.

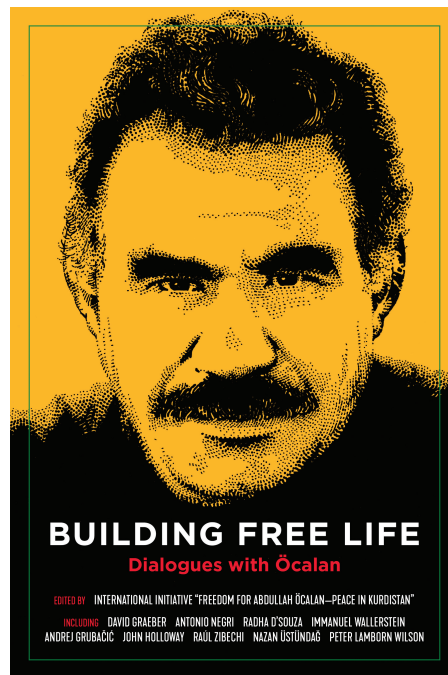
ABOUT THE EDITOR

International Initiative "Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan—Peace in Kurdistan" is a multinational peace initiative for the release of Abdullah Öcalan and a peaceful solution to the Kurdish question. It was established immediately after his abduction from Nairobi and handing over to the Republic of Turkey on February 15, 1999, following a clandestine operation by an alliance of secret services. Part of its activity is the publication of Abdullah Öcalan's works.

ACCOLADES

"Öcalan's works make many intellectuals uncomfortable because they represent a form of thought which is not only inextricable from action, but which directly grapples with the knowledge that it is."

—David Graeber author of *Debt: The First 5,000 Years*



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◆ **PM PRESS** ◆
P.O. Box 23912 • Oakland, CA 94623
www.pmpress.org
info@pmpress.org
(510) 658-3906

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