

pitalism differ profoundly. Assessing from today's perspective, the private sector in Graeber's writings is no more a guardian preventing the iron cage, but the catalyst of a more and more bureaucratized world. Departing from German and U.S. Liberalism, he historically approaches this argument. Graeber outlines how the initiation of the Bretton Woods Institutions after World War II by the Americans created the starting point of a global administrative system, that according to him was less about free trade than it was about administering the world (Graeber 2015: 12-13). With the rise of the financial sector in the second half of the 20th century, private and public sectors, he argues, became more and more entangled, especially considering the outsourcing of one-time government functions to private corporations (ibid. 14-15).

„The vast majority of the paperwork we do exists in just this sort of in-between zone -ostensibly private, but in fact entirely shaped by a government that provides the legal framework, underpins the rules with its courts and all of the elaborate mechanisms of enforcement that come with them, but - crucially works closely with the private concerns to ensure that the results will guarantee a certain rate of profit“ (Graeber 2015: 15-16).

Graeber identifies this new corporate bureaucratic culture as a result of this development, which is characterized by bureaucratic technologies established within the financial and corporate domains (e.g. focus groups, performance reviews, time-allocation surveys, etc.), invading all other aspects of society (ibid. 21). This can be perceived very vividly when examining language. Words like vision, streamlining, or best practices are textbook examples for a new administrative vocabulary, that expose the blurred lines between private and public. Graeber comes to a scathing judgement, that leads back to the aspect of administration as a means of control: „For all its celebration of markets and individual initiative, this alliance of government and finance often produces results that bear a striking resemblance to the worst excesses of bureaucratization in the former Soviet Union or former colonial backwaters of the Global South“ (Graeber 2015: 22).