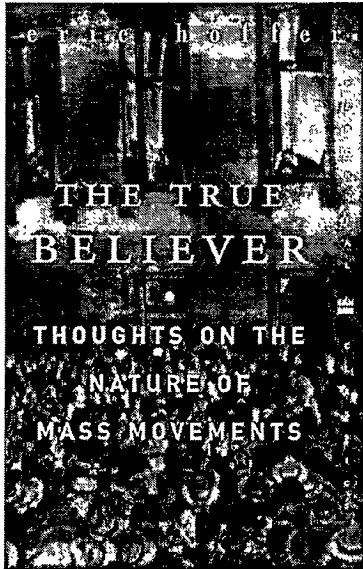


### **The True Believer: Thoughts on the Nature of Mass Movements**

By Eric Hoffer

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A stevedore on the San Francisco docks in the 1940s, Eric Hoffer wrote philosophical treatises in his spare time while living in the railroad yards. *The True Believer* – the first and most famous of his books – was made into a bestseller when President Eisenhower cited it during one of the earliest television press conferences.

Completely relevant and essential for understanding the world today, *The True Believer* is a visionary, highly provocative look into the mind of the fanatic and a penetrating study of how an individual becomes one.

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"If you want a concise insight into what drives the mind of the fanatic and the dynamics of a mass movement at their most primal level, may I suggest

an evening with Eric Hoffer...It's an odd coincidence that the fiftieth anniversary of its publication should coincide with the renewed and remarkable relevance of its ideas."

–John McDonough, *Wall Street Journal*

"*The True Believer* glitters with icy wit...bristles with deadly parallels...It is a harsh and potent mental tonic."

–*New York Times*

"This brilliant and original inquiry into the nature of mass movements in a genuine contribution to our social thought."

–Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.

"Its theme is political fanaticism, with which it deals severely and brilliantly."

–*The New Yorker*



**Eric Hoffer** (1902-1983) was self-educated. He worked in restaurants, as a migrant field-worker and gold prospector. After Pearl Harbor, he worked as a longshoreman in San Francisco for twenty-five years. The author of more than ten books, including *The Passionate State of Mind*, *The Ordeal of Change*, and *The Temper of Our Time*, Eric Hoffer was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1983.