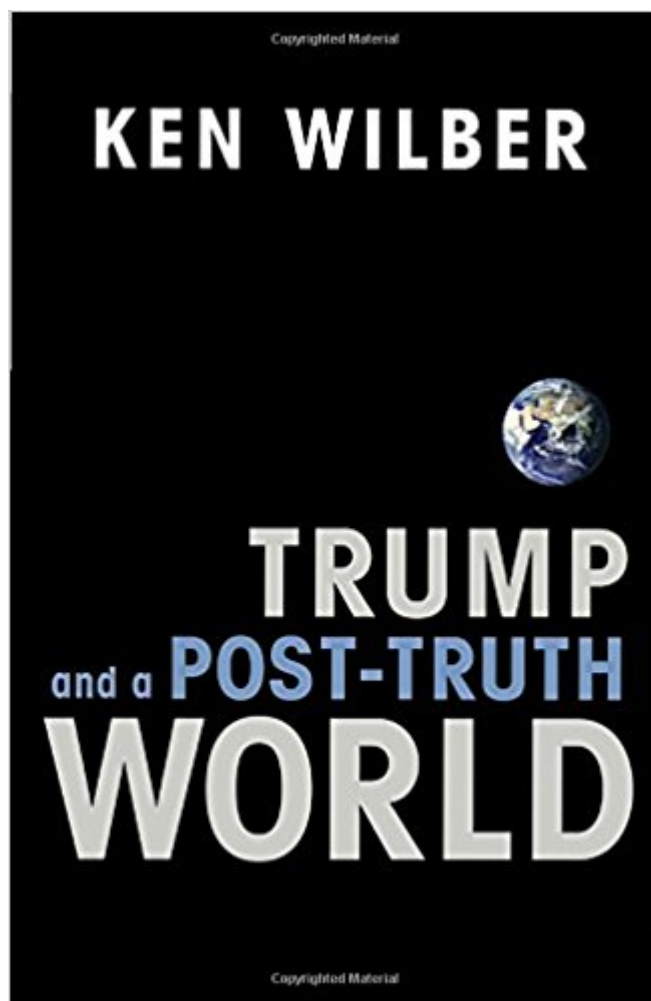


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# Trump And A Post-Truth World



## Synopsis

A provocative and balanced examination of our current social and political situation -- by a cutting-edge philosopher of our times. The world is in turmoil. As populist waves roil the Brexit-bound U.K., along with Europe, Turkey, Russia, Asia -- and most visibly, the U.S. with the election of Donald Trump -- nationalist and extremist political forces threaten the progress made over many decades. Democracies are reeling in the face of nihilism and narcissism. How did we get here? And how, with so much antagonism, cynicism, and discord, can we mend the ruptures in our societies? In this provocative work, philosopher Ken Wilber applies his Integral approach to explain how we arrived where we are and why there is cause for hope. He lays much of the blame on a failure at the progressive, leading edge of society. This leading edge is characterized by the desire to be as just and inclusive as possible, and to it we owe the thrust toward women's rights, the civil rights movement, the environmental movement, and the concern for oppression in all its forms. This is all evolutionarily healthy; what is unhealthy is a creeping postmodernism that is elitist, "politically correct," insistent on an egalitarianism that is itself paradoxically hierarchical, and that looks down on "deplorables." Combine this with the techno-economic demise of many traditional ways of making a living, and you get an explosive mixture. As Wilber says, for some Trump voters: "Everywhere you are told that you are fully equal and deserve immediate and complete empowerment, yet everywhere are denied the means to actually achieve it. You suffocate, you suffer, and you get very, very mad." It is only when members of society's leading edge can heal themselves that a new, Integral evolutionary force can emerge to move us beyond the social and political turmoil of our current time to offer genuine leadership toward greater wholeness.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Ken Wilber examines Donald Trump’s election and provides a brilliant Big Picture explanation that is unique in its breadth, depth, and analysis of deeper cultural dynamics that others have overlooked but that we all need to now recognize.”  
—Roger Walsh MD, PhD,  
University of California

Ken Wilber is the founder of Integral Institute and the cofounder of Integral Life. He is an internationally acknowledged leader and the preeminent scholar of the Integral stage of human development. He is the author of more than twenty books, including *Integral Meditation*, *A Theory of Everything*, *Integral Spirituality*, *No Boundary*, *Grace and Grit*, and *Sex, Ecology, Spirituality*.

I bought this book hoping that it would provide me with some concrete steps to help me deal effectively with what is happening in our world today. In this book I find that Wilber places ALL the blame for our current situation squarely on the shoulders of those who have become more accepting of minorities. It’s all our fault that we don’t include others who haven’t progressed as far as we have. No blame on them at all. I can accept that some of the problem has been created by progressives but I don’t believe for one minute that one group of people is solely to blame for any situation. So that’s my first beef. I find the book to show no balance in this way. Next problem for me: The book is so repetitive. It states the same things over and over again. I don’t want to read things over and over like that. Final and biggest problem: He offers no concrete solution to the problem. He says we need to be more accepting and inclusive of those people who are part of "Trump world" but gives no concrete steps on how to do that. I was looking for a solution that said do A, B, C and D and this should help you to be more inclusive and accepting. I rarely write reviews of books but this one was so disappointing that I just had to say something. Not a book I would recommend unless you want to be beat up over and over again and not given any means of moving beyond where you currently are.

This is an excellent book by Ken Wilber and well worth the read. As usual Ken gives a in depth analysis of the current political and psychological situation, not only in the USA, but valid for the rest

of the world. The world is in a mess and it is very urgent that the situation be addressed, and soon. Ken's diagnosis is on the mark, accusing the deconstructive Liberal mindset for the mess we are in, and the remedy he prescribes seems to be the only workable solution to the problem at hand. To understand his standpoint (and solution) it is necessary to read his books on Integral Spirituality as well as his latest book 'The religion of Tomorrow'.

This book is doing more than anything else to help me recognize why there is so much political and social upheaval in today's world. It is taking the edge off my toxic reactions and is helping in the recognition of the need to develop a more loving perspective and understanding of where we are NOW. This is some of the heaviest reading I have ever done and is requiring the utmost attention, comprehension, and intellectual digestion. More than anything, the book is an invitation to recognize the need for a deeper love for everyone (left or right) as we wade into the future.

...I am deeply grateful for it. I found Ken's touch here to be light where it needed to be as well as firm and clear where it needed to be, with surgical precision. Rising above the fray just enough to give a view of what's happening has already borne fruit for me. Despite being written before unforgettable moments like "...there were some very fine people..." on the side of neo-Nazis, white supremacists and KKK-members and "blame on many sides," Wilber managed to set the lenses in place to see a likely motivation behind the comment that doesn't involve agreeing with the statement or condemning those who want to support Mr. Trump. The book also provides a glimpse into what may be motivating the non-organized groups of antifa protesters in a way that stimulated some understanding, even some empathy, but in a way that challenged my own thinking and actions that may well have helped put Mr. Trump into the position he is now in, for better or for worse. And so I may be most grateful to this book for suggesting what felt like a workable path beyond "not Trump" for the future. I would highly recommend anyone interested in life in what is coming after the "post-truth world" take the time to absorb this book. And I'm not just speaking to those with political aspirations (if there are any of those still out there!), but I would implore progressive and integrally-minded clergy to get this book to the top of their reading list, as we have work to do too! And breathe...the truth is out there!

As the Trump phenomenon became more persistent to the point of him becoming president, I thought, I would really like to hear what Ken Wilber has to say about this. This book did not disappoint me. This book looks at the Trump phenomenon and the "culture

wars and what are the best ways to deal with them. Mr. Wilber explains why we have these radically different ways of looking at the world and why we are usually not able to understand where the other side is coming from. I highly recommend this book if you want to understand the dynamics of our current cultural crisis in America and want know what you can do about it. Another book of his that I also highly recommend that helps in understanding these cultural differences is "The Theory of Everything".

Wilber is concise and compelling in describing what is going on and what the appropriate response is. More sane and powerful than the talking heads on CNN.

In 1995 I was an at home Mom, floundering in my own life. Then I read a review for Sex Ecology and Spirituality. From the first page, I felt the relief and excitement that I had found someone who knew how the Universe works. I plowed through that, then Atman and Up From Eden, and pretty much all of it. Once again, in the midst of confusing and maddening times which feels like being on the precipice of both great promise and peril, he gives me a map of the terrain that helps me make my way through it all. I appreciate the familiar voice and tone and clarity of thought about the mess we've got ourselves into. Those of you not familiar with the terminology of Integral theory, hang in. It might encourage you to read further. Thanks, Ken, and I also bought your latest tome The Religion of Tomorrow to read when I finish this one.

Thoughtful and helpful book very important in these troubled times. However when I see murder and mayhem, like in Charlottesville this weekend, I still find it difficult to apply Wilber's ideas.

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