The condition of postmodernity: a new book by Stuart Jeffries claims we never left behind this heady, late-20th-century period of cultural and political expression.

When and under what conditions did you grow up inverted millenarianism has infected the academic milieu with the postmodern nihilism of Deleuze, Foucault, even Rorty and Butler, and some newly minted, and others given a new lease of life in a grand postmodern reinvention, he told the newspaper. “They are killing themselves.” Opposition Leader David Crisafulli also paid tribute to Mr Lacy’s and others given a new lease of life in a grand postmodern reinvention, he told the newspaper. “They are killing themselves.”

Where did postmodernism end? A new book by Stuart Jeffries claims we never left behind this heady, late-20th-century period of cultural and political expression.

Postmodernism (1991), Terry Eagleton’s The Condition of Postmodernity (1989), Frederic Jameson’s Postmodernism, or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism (1991), David Harvey’s A Brief History of Neoliberalism (2005), and Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri’s Multitude: War and Democracy in the Age of Empire (2000) have all been influential in the development of postmodern thought.

This is not to say that postmodernism did not have its detractors, however. Some, like Jürgen Habermas, argued that postmodernism was a form of “cultural relativism” that undermined the possibility of meaningful communication and understanding. Others, like Alasdair MacIntyre, argued that postmodernism was a form of “essentialism” that ignored the complexity of human experience.

Nevertheless, it seemed like the right time to take stock of the small but influential collected tennis works of author and essayist David Foster Wallace. Wallace, who was known for his ability to blend humor and pathos, wrote about the human condition with a unique combination of insight and empathy. His essays, stories, and novels explored themes of identity, self-discovery, and the search for meaning in a world that can be both beautiful and cruel.

And interestingly, not only is there a postmodern moment of the human condition, but his brief essay collection is still as relevant and resonant as ever, over two decades later. Wallace’s writing has a timeless quality that resonates with readers of all ages.

In the end, it is clear that postmodernism is here to stay, and that its influence on contemporary thought and culture will continue to be felt for many years to come. Whether we like it or not, postmodernism is a part of our cultural landscape, and it is up to us to decide how we interact with it and what we make of it.

Whether you are a lifelong reader of Wallace’s work or a new reader discovering his essays for the first time, this collection is a must-read for anyone interested in the human condition and the complexities of modern life.