

## Twitter Thread by GET A GRIP



**GET A GRIP**

[@docrussjackson](#)



**Results of elections over the last five years signal to Progressives that we cannot simply continue thinking in traditional ways, proposing the usual, conventional solutions & hoping the pendulum could shift in their favour.**

### **We need to wake the fuck**

As a result of growing socio-economic inequality; the acceleration of economic, social & technological changes; changes in the voter base of social democratic parties; as well as numerous other global trends, many liberal democracies are led by populist politicians.

What to do?

In the EU, roughly a quarter of likely voters vote for populist politicians, whose actions centre on fighting against some outside enemy, the rejection of political pluralism & the irreconcilable conflict between the “people” & the elites - all very reminiscent of 1930s Germany.



Based on a “radical” understanding & interpretation of democracy, populists seek to implement a form of govt that demands uncontrolled authority on the basis of a popular mandate which is used to systemically weaken the institutional guarantees meant to safeguard minorities.

# Top ministers urged Priti Patel to stop attacks on 'activist lawyers'

**The home secretary's rhetoric targeting the legal profession continued despite warnings that it led to violence**



▲ Priti Patel speaking at this month's virtual Conservative party conference.

Home secretary Priti Patel ignored warnings from at least two senior colleagues to stop targeting immigration lawyers after a knifeman threatened to kill a solicitor last month in [an attack linked to her rhetoric](#), the *Observer* can reveal.

Populists portray human rights as instruments to thwart certain majority positions & as “antidemocratic”: organisations that invoke these rights are labelled “agents of foreign powers”. We are witnessing a widespread & far-reaching retrenchment in the area of progressive values.

The Conservatives have been accused of attempting to water down the Human Rights Act after announcing vague plans to "update" the legislation in their election manifesto.

The 59-page blueprint, launched by **Boris Johnson** on Sunday, contains a promise to "update the **Human Rights Act** and administrative law to ensure that there is a proper balance between the rights of individuals, our vital national security and effective government".

All progressives must better respond to the problems & fears of those social groups that are most susceptible to the allure of populism.

We need to find, articulate, amplify & put into practice political answers to populism in a practical, solution-oriented & positive ways.





Research in countries with rising populism shows voters of populist parties are often guided by similar sentiments, around four major concepts:

Nostalgia for the 1980s & 1990s

Surging sense of national identity

Desire for economic justice

Desire for greater security & stability



# Boris Johnson condemned for ‘appalling’ Tory alliance with neo-Nazi and anti-Muslim parties across Europe

**Exclusive:** Tory peer reveals PM has refused to act – because it is ‘a long way away’ and ‘he can’t be on top of everything’

**Rob Merrick** Deputy Political Editor | @Rob\_Merrick | 5 days ago | 76 comments

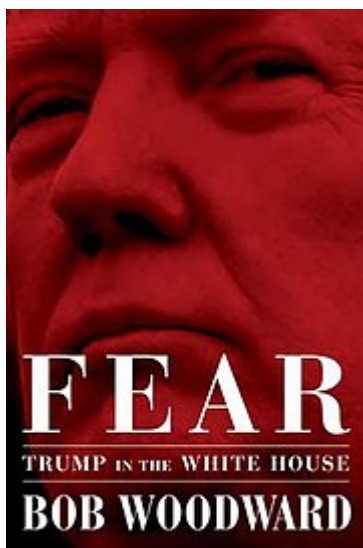


Taking each in turn:

The 80s & 90s are associated with economic growth & job security. An idealised past that voters crave: they consider it the age of stable security, when their countries were still “independent & authentic”. They no longer feel at home in their own countries.

A resurgence of national identity is associated with the idea of the nation as a safety net & as a force of cultural cohesion & unity.

Populist voters feel that their roots, their history, their traditional values & often even their religion are threatened by a changing world.



They perceive globalisation & the EU as the main sources of these threats, but voters of populist parties perceive that immigrants pose a greater danger: they fear the “death” of national culture or the nation more generally, which is “caused by (mainly Muslim) immigrants”

# Historian David Starkey faces losing his University of Cambridge fellowship after outrage over his claims that 'slavery was not genocide' because 'so many damn blacks live in Africa and Britain'

- Starkey said 'slavery was not genocide' in controversial remarks given Tuesday
- Historian called Black Lives Matter 'entirely a product of white colonisation'
- He made his comments in an interview with BeLeave founder Darren Grimes

They dislike the uniformisation of nation-states, attributed to the activities of multi-national corporations, the uniformly designed shops, restaurants & cafés - although they welcome some benefits of globalisation, eg selection of food & goods, & cheap & simple travel.



Surprisingly, populist voters often align themselves with leftwing economic values, especially when they relate critically to globalisation, which tends to increase differences in wealth, to divide societies, & to destroy small local enterprises & local or regional manufacturing.

Under fundamentalist neoliberal free market capitalism, corporations are encouraged to maximise profits because the economy is considered the most important aspect of society. It doesn't really matter that profit comes at a very significant cost to humans, animals and the planet, because rich people say so!



mematic.net

These voters also perceive that (international) laws do not apply equally to everyone, that they are more likely to afflict the weak than those with power and influence.

They feel that the fruits of globalisation are distributed unequally in the world.

Populist voters believe social disparities are rising & social cohesion is diminishing because immigrants/refugees are provided with massive state assistance (housing, support for finding a job, benefits), while the majority of the population receive "no support from the state".



**DAILY EXPRESS**  
The World's Greatest Newspaper  
WEDNESDAY JULY 27, 2011 40p

**How Patsy Kensit has fought back to be the new Queen of Emmerdale**  
SEE PAGE 9  
16/19

**Now schools minister wants to bring back classes of 60**  
SEE PAGE 9

# BOMBERS ARE ALL SPONGEING ASYLUM SEEKERS

**Britain gave them refuge and now all they want to do is repay us with death**



THEY are the bombers who tried to murder scores of Britons, were asylum seekers, who refused to serve their 10-year sentence, and who now want to repay us with death.

It is a shocking claim that the Home Office has made, saying that the bombers who tried to murder scores of Britons, were asylum seekers, who refused to serve their 10-year sentence, and who now want to repay us with death.

The claim comes as the Home Office has announced that it will grant asylum to a further 10,000 people, including many of the bombers who tried to murder scores of Britons, were asylum seekers, who refused to serve their 10-year sentence, and who now want to repay us with death.

The claim comes as the Home Office has announced that it will grant asylum to a further 10,000 people, including many of the bombers who tried to murder scores of Britons, were asylum seekers, who refused to serve their 10-year sentence, and who now want to repay us with death.

The claim comes as the Home Office has announced that it will grant asylum to a further 10,000 people, including many of the bombers who tried to murder scores of Britons, were asylum seekers, who refused to serve their 10-year sentence, and who now want to repay us with death.

The desire for security & stability has unequivocally increased over the past decade. 9/11, acts of (mostly) Islamic terror, concentrations of crime in some large urban centres, along with the spread of real & fake news about all this, have shaken voters' sense of security.



The labour market is another source of insecurity & instability, & voters highly value their personal freedom (eg being allowed to live their lives freely & without interference in their privacy) while expecting the state to use all its powers to ensure their safety & security.



Populist parties talk about issues that reflect on grievances & problems felt by the voters, which the Left has struggled to adequately address over the past few decades: how far should the left stick by its core position & how far should it adapt to the changing environment?

Progressive parties must pursue different strategies in those situations where populists have already taken the reins of government - like the UK - than in countries where they are not in government yet.

So what strategies could we adopt?

Taking all the above into consideration, the answers to the problem of (nationalistic) populism from European progressives take the form of proposing strategies concerning six broad issues:

- European integration
- Community
- Patriotism
- Socio-economic protection
- Migration
- Cooperation

Given the chaos of Brexit, it is likely that the EU will take further action to protect its citizens, not only in terms of safety but also with respect to their jobs, their welfare & against the harmful effects of globalisation by introducing a minimum level of social benefits.

The harmonisation of minimum wages, welfare assistance & labour regulations is now likely within the EU: as the world's largest economic player, it could use its power to combat the exploitation of workers by multinational corporations, climate change & rising social inequality.

So one concrete step Progressives in the UK could do is to watch & report on positive developments within the EU, & amplify concrete solutions along the lines described above (protection of workers, food standards, reducing economic inequality, action against climate change etc.)

Since 'identity politics' has become a predominant political cleavage that typically exacerbates conflicts between various social groups, an important strategic step for progressives would be to generate an identity that extends to the entire community without being exclusionary.





The weakening of local communities, the disintegration of trade unions, and the growing levels of social isolation have prompted a need for belonging to a community of some sort. Traditionally, in the 20th century, the organisation of such communities was performed by the left.

The far-right builds communities by scapegoating perceived common enemies. The Left envision community as the coexistence of different identities. The Left should stress it's not building a community based on ideals that divide individuals & groups but on ideals that unite them.

Foreground communities that are welcoming to different kinds of people, & therefore pro-equality: that do not create hierarchies between the members of the community, that accepts different identities without ranking them, neither discriminating nor promoting any of them.

The desire for stability & a sense of nostalgia means the nation is perceived as the entity best capable of protecting the community. After two WWs, progressives are wary of resurgent nationalism, but we should NOT reject national identity or the nation as a positive community.

There are numerous ideological frameworks based on a concept of the nation that point beyond an exclusive sense of nationalism. Some call it inclusive nationalism, others refer to it as liberal or positive nationalism, but many prefer to re-accent/redefine the word 'patriotism'.

Positive/inclusive nationalism reconciles social openness with the expectation that the state provides security for everyone & acts in everyone's interest. Patriotism can include the obligation to protect & support ALL members of the community –



especially the weakest & poorest.

dailystar.co.uk

# DAILY STAR

**POLITICAL THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**  
Marcus? PM? Yeah that would probably work

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2020 **PROUD TO SUPPORT OUR NHS** 50P

**£5 Corona pill is a life saver**

PAGE 5



# Royal Ascot

**8-PAGE PULLOUT INSIDE**

**PLUS FREE £5 BET**

ONLINE WITH **the pools.com**  
ONLINE OFFER NEW USERS ONLY P19



**PRAY FOR SNOOKER ACE WILLIE**

Page 7

**'Time Boris grew a pair'**



Dawn NEESOM Page 17

# RASHFORD FOR PM!

England star shames Bojo into U-turn on school meals. If the lad could now sort out Covid, Brexit and the seagulls that'd be smashing!

by JACK ANDREWS  
THREE Lions ace Marcus Rashford has forced PM Boris Johnson into a U-turn over free school meals for disadvantaged kids – maybe the number 10 should be on his front door rather than the back of his club shirt.  
Full story: Page 5

**PRICE PROMISE**  
WE WILL BE BEST PRICE ON EVERY HORSE RUNNING LIVE ON ITV RACING  
We will match or better the prices of the following Bookmakers: Ladbrokes, William Hill, Paddy Power, Coral, Sky Bet and BoyleSports.  
Offer applies from 10am up to 15 minutes before the scheduled 'off' time for each ITV race.

**UP TO £100 IN BET CREDITS FOR NEW CUSTOMERS**  
Returns exclude Bet Credits stake. T&Cs, time limits & exclusions apply.\*

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

Enjoy gambling responsibly. BeGambleAware.org 18+

Need Help? Call the National Helpline free on 0800 8000 133. View conditions of all our offers at [www.bet365.com](http://www.bet365.com). Offer applies to bets placed on Win and Each-Way Fixed Odds markets only, excluding Each-Way Extra where place terms are selected which vary from our standard or enhanced place terms for that race. All other markets, including Enhanced Price Win Only or Enhanced place terms markets that are priced separately to the Fixed Odds market and Tote/Parimutuel/Colosseum (bars and children) are excluded from this offer. Races covered by Price Promise are also available for Best Odds Guaranteed, for new and eligible customers. \*New customers only. Deposit £5 or more and claim within 30 days of registering to receive a 100% matched amount in Bet Credits up to £100. Payment method restrictions apply. Bet Credits are released after 1x settled bet requirement met (must settle within 30 days of claiming) and are non-withdrawable. Returns exclude Bet Credits stake. Selections settled at odds of less than 1/5. Cash Out bets don't count towards release of Bet Credits. Offer conditions, time limits & exclusions apply.

One could subsume decidedly progressive values & accomplishments under the heading of national pride: social equality, tolerance & the willingness of the community's members to mutually support one another: forging a national



community in which everyone feels at home.


mirror.co.uk

**DAILY Mirror** 55P WEDNESDAY APRIL 16, 2014

**DLT SHOCK**  
He's charged with 'sex attack on The Mrs Merton Show'  
SEE PAGE 3

**SHAME OF CONDEM CUTS**

Britain, 2014. We're the sixth largest economy in the world. We have more millionaires than ever before...



**So why have we handed out ONE MILLION food parcels?**

AND NEW FIGURES REVEAL 330,000 WENT TO HUNGRY CHILDREN... SHOCK REPORT PAGES 4&5

In countries where rightwing populists rise to power their economic policies are typically neoliberal; they tend to make the position of employees more vulnerable & favour domestic or international big capital over workers. This provides an opening for progressives.



1. At the level of *policy*, neoliberalism is often associated with the rejection of postwar Keynesian economics and welfare state compromises in favor of reliance on neoclassical economic theories, market mechanisms, and entrepreneurial individualism. This includes the defunding of the public sector and privatization of public services, attacks on organized labor (such as through the passage of right to work laws), corporate 'green washing' of environmental protections, deregulation of capital mobility and finance, 'colorblind' interpretations of racial equality and civil rights law, and the general management of societies through policies and logics of marketization, responsabilization, militarization, and criminalization (Brenner & Theodore, 2002; Davies, 2014).
2. At the level of *governance*, neoliberalism is associated with a hegemonic constellation, a cultural project, and distinct socio-technical rationalities aimed at remaking the state and subjectivities through the extension of market logics into every aspect of social life (Brown, 2015). This includes the realm of educational management, where new market governmentalities have emerged emphasizing privatization and commodification of educational services, an emphasis on standardization and accountability, and the role of education as an economic driver of growth and innovation through the production of competitive human capital and resilient market-ready skills and dispositions (Hursh, 2016; Rizvi & Lingard, 2009).
3. At the level of *power*, neoliberalism is associated with the fracturing of the postwar social compact between capital and labor, the reassertion of ruling class authority, and the uniting of traditional center-left and center-right parties under the rubric of elite corporate and financial control (Harvey, 2005; Streeck, 2016). This has been propelled by a richly funded infrastructure of neoliberal think tanks such as the Mont Pelerin Society and right-wing billionaire donor networks like the Koch network (MacLean, 2017; Mirowski, 2013).

There are two areas where voters perceive huge problems with #neoliberalism: the labour market (insecure jobs/vulnerability, work-life balance, low pay) & increasing social inequality. Left-wing economic policies have protection of employees & social justice as core concerns,

Value	Category	Description
29	Oil Wealth	World's oil wealth
26.8	Health/Coronavirus	Likely cost of Coronavirus to the world
26.5	Offshore Wealth	Wealth hidden offshore by the rich
25.2	Central Banks	World's 10 largest central banks
22.6	Corporate Revenue	Combined revenues of all Fortune 500 companies
20.6	Government Debt	US government debt
20.5	GDP	US GDP
17.5	Healthcare	"Medicare For All" - universal healthcare for everyone in the USA
14.1	Debt	US Household debt
13.6	GDP	China GDP
11	Reparations	Estimated cost of reparations to black Americans for slavery
10.1	Revenue	Potential revenue from nature-positive business
9.3	Corporate Debt	Total corporate debt
8.9	Wealth	All billionaires
7.8	Debt	Total external debt of low and middle income countries
7.8	Energy	To eliminate the use of all fossil fuels for energy in the U.S.
7.8	Health/Coronavirus	Global health spend
7.7	Renewable Energy	Savings from wind turbines over 30 years
7.8	Debt	US post 9/11 wars
6.4	Debt	US post 9/11 wars
5.8	Debt	China's suspected hidden debt
5.8	Internet	Top 20 internet companies
4.9	GDP	Japan GDP
4.7	Education	Global education spending
4.7	SDGs	To meet the SDGs
4.5	Infrastructure	China's Belt & Road initiative
4.4	Budget	US government budget
4.4	Climate	Joe Biden's Clean Energy Revolution
3.9	GDP	Germany GDP
3.6	Debt	USA
3.4	Wealth	America's billionaires
3.3	Estimate	optimistic estimate
3.2	Climate	Green Deal for carbon-neutral EU
2.7	GDP	India GDP
2.7	Military	Global military spending
2.8	GDP	UK GDP
2.8	Crime	Global crime revenue
2.8	Market Value	Apple
1.9	Climate	China's billionaires
1.8	Debt	Iraq & Afghanistan
1.8	Install Costs	Install costs
1.8	Student Debt	Student debt
1.8	Per Year	per year







Election 2017: How the night unfolded

# Jeremy Corbyn was just 2,227 votes away from chance to be Prime Minister

Winning seven Tory knife-edge seats could have put Labour leader in Downing Street

Harriet Agerholm | @HarrietAgerholm | Friday 09 June 2017 19:50 | 63 comments



In Britain, our antiquated anti-democratic electoral system is not fit for purpose. Far too many people live in constituencies where their vote is meaningless. The progressive response to the rise of populists must include a strategy of identifying potential coalition partners.

In terms of both progressive values & pragmatic considerations, representatives from progressive parties should consider entering into cooperation, or face becoming largely irrelevant. [@theSNP](#) [@TheGreenParty](#) [@LibDems](#) [@UKLabour](#) & other smaller parties should talk much more.