

Ill fares the land

Published: January 13, 2026, 10:59 pm

I [strongly recommend this for those fed up with where we are:](#)

It doesn't answer all questions: it does ask a lot of the right ones.

As [Ivan Horrocks has noted here this morning](#) the first paragraph says:

Something is profoundly wrong with the way we live today. For thirty years we have made a virtue out of the pursuit of material self-interest: indeed, this very pursuit now constitutes whatever remains of our sense of collective purpose. We know what things cost but have no idea what they are worth. We no longer ask of a judicial ruling or legislative act: is it good? Is it fair? Is it right? Will it help bring about a better society or a better world? Those used to be the political questions, even if they invited no easy answers. We must learn once again to pose them.

It says something that such a powerful book, written just before Judt died and published in 2010, appears to only now be available second hand.