

The OECD: an exercise in idealism over indifference

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One day someone should set these [two paragraphs from the Guardian](#) today as an exam question and ask how they explain the indifference to human suffering at the hands of idealism that typifies the crisis of 2008 - 2013:

The west's leading economic thinktank yesterday backed George Osborne's spending cuts as Brussels conceded that half a dozen debt-ridden EU countries should be given up to two extra years to reduce their budget overspends.

In its half-yearly forecast, the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) said the UK was on the right path to a more balanced budget, despite warning that cuts and low consumer and business confidence would put a brake on growth.

To describe the OECD's approach as economically illiterate is just too kind to them, precisely because concern for human well being would appear to be beyond them.