

# Is this election about who we are, and not the economy?

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I admit I don't often quote Telegraph columnists here, but [this from Mary Riddell](#) this morning is good:

*This election, billed as a referendum on the economy, is hinging instead on discovering who we are. Finding a more honest framework for the immigration debate would be a start. So would an acknowledgment that mainstream politicians misread the national character.*

*English or Scottish, migrant or indigent, the British people are optimists at heart. In an age of authentic dread they have come to loathe the ersatz fear peddled by their leaders. Any political party hoping that pessimism will triumph will get its punishment next week.*

That resonated. The SNP vote is not based on the economy.

Nor the UKIP vote.

Or support for the Greens.

Or even the Tories come to that, because that would be misguided for many given their track record if it was.

With Labour it may be harder to tell.

And for the LibDems the noise is all about what is not happening and not about what might be.

So maybe it's not 'the economy, stupid', after all.

Maybe we've learned that there are bigger issues that define the economy anyway.

Like hope, fear and vision.

No wonder the big parties have been in trouble. That message has not reached the Westminster bubble yet.