Funding the Future

Post-truth politics

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I do not always agree with Jonathan Freedland on the Guardian. Today he does, however, suggest a description of the political era we appear to be entering that is well worth considering for wider use. The term is post-truth politics, of which he says:

In this era of post-truth politics, an unhesitating liar can be king. The more brazen his dishonesty, the less he minds being caught with his pants on fire, the more he can prosper. And those pedants still hung up on facts and evidence and all that boring stuff are left for dust, their boots barely laced while the lie has spread halfway around the world.

It is not chance that we have reached this place.

We have been persuaded that tax havens are places where things really happen by serious people who know this is not true.

And that the accounts of the companies that underpin globalisation are true and fair when that is blatantly untrue: 60% of the world's trade that is undertaken by them is not reflected at all in those accounts (which is why we need country-by-country reporting).

What is more, we know that evidence based policy has long been replaced by policy based evidence: that is the story of Jeremy Hunt's NHS.

And the result is post-truth politics where it is the lie and its teller that is rewarded.

George Orwell predicted it.

Now we have it.

The fight for truth has never been so important.