

Is there a new elite, or is it that the old one is tota...

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The [Sun ran an article](#) by Matthew Goodwin of the Legatum Institute yesterday, in which he promoted his new book.

In that book he argues that a new elite exists in the UK. That new elite is neatly summarised, based on [The 'new elite'](#)

1. Elite education at the most prestigious Oxbridge or Russell Group universities.
2. Postcodes in one of the big cities or university towns.
3. Hoover up the economic gains of globalisation.
4. Marry and hang out with other members of the elite graduate class who share the same backgrounds.
5. Professional, middle-class jobs in the knowledge, cultural and public sector institutions, such as the BBC, the [universities](#) and the creative industries.
6. Immense amount of cultural power over the national conversation.
7. Very liberal if not radical "woke" values which impose on the rest of the country through their tight control over the institutions.

I am probably, by this definition, part of Goodwin's elite. I think I score 6 out of 7 (I have the wrong postcode).

I suspect many readers rate somewhere on this list.

According to Goodwin, this:

New Elite [is] a new governing class which not only holds a completely different worldview from everybody else but is now imposing that worldview on the rest of the country.

He adds:

This New Elite — as I reveal in my latest book — is completely different from the old elite which used to run Britain decades ago.

Whereas that old elite had been defined by its extreme wealth, its inherited titles and its country estates, the members of Britain's new ruling class are defined by very different things.

So, wealth no longer matters.

Nor does holding the high offices of state.

Or having actual power in government.

Neither does the embedded power of capital have consequence anymore.

Come to that, patrony is dead.

And so too is the power that attending elite public schools provides.

No, being 'woke' and living in CB1 is what gives power now.

Or is this just paranoia? After all, Question Time audiences cannot now find anyone who supports the government on many policies.

And the Legatum Institute is one of the Tufton Street think tanks, after all, with Matthew Elliott who has been nominated for a peerage by Liz Truss being one of its Fellows.

So is this all mere distraction from reality? After all, when in 2017 the Legatum Institute [did a survey](#) of British people to find what they really thought on policy issues they found this:

The majority of the British public:

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Favour public ownership of the UK's water (83%), electricity (77%), gas (77%) and railway (76%) sectors (Fig. 3.2a, p.15)

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*Believe taxes should rise to provide **more funding for the NHS*** (Fig. 3.3b, p.19)

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*Support higher levels of **regulation*** (Fig. 3.3a, p.18)

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Favour wage caps for CEOs (Fig. 3.4a, p.22)

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Favour worker representation at senior executive and board level (Fig. 3.4a, p.22)

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*Support the **abolition of zero hour contracts*** (Fig. 3.3a, p.18)

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*Hold an **unfavourable view of 'capitalism'*** as a concept, viewing it as 'greedy', 'selfish' and 'corrupt' (Fig 3.1a, p. 9)

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*Hold a **more favourable view of 'socialism'*** than 'capitalism' (Fig 3.1f, p. 12)

They found, in other words, that the opinions that they as in organisation held were deeply unpopular and that those of those they now castigate as the 'new elite' were those actually in tune with the views of the country as a whole.

Has anything changed since then? I very much doubt it. I think that this is yet another news story generated by a far-right think tank backed by Rupert Murdoch to create division within society when the only division that actually exists is between deeply deluded far-right think tankers and the rest of the country, which has a lot more sense than to believe them.

A quick poll:

[poll id="36"]

And a second poll to ask your opinion on whether you think the British public's opinion has changed since 2017, or whether you agree with the findings of the Legatum Institute's polling in that year:

[poll id="37"]