

You do not have to hate this country to be a Tory now, ...

Published: January 18, 2026, 11:44 pm

As [the Guardian reports](#) this morning:

Prominent Conservatives from across the party are now increasingly concerned that a tilt to the right and anger over the handling of Brexit could lead to the party's support collapsing in liberal, home counties seats in the same way that Labour imploded in Scotland in 2015.

I will have to live in anticipation of that pleasure.

It was Micheal Heseltine who got the reason for expecting it right. He reportedly said:

You actually have to like the country in which you live, and want to make it better, in order for the public to want to back you. Harking back to a golden age, with a wish-list of policies that are completely absurd in a modern, developed nation, is for the birds.

In summary, his suggestion is that you do not have to hate this country to be a Tory now, but it most certainly helps.

Of course, the contrast of this observed fact with the language of these Tories, which is all about nationalistic fervour, is just a part of the paradox of the modern Tory.

They love England whilst loathing the other countries of the Union, despite proclaiming their absolute right to govern them in perpetuity.

They hate anyone who has any empathy, but demand that those in possession of that faculty vote for them when they would very obviously be mad to do so.

And they offer economic nirvana when their track record suggests that they can only deliver ruin.

On top of that, every single comment they have to offer makes clear how much they despise most people.

Is there a chance of a 2015 Scottish Labour-style meltdown? The straightforward answer has to be yes. The longer those on the right of the Tories make clear what they really think, the more people are going to appreciate just how much these Tories dislike them. And people don't vote for people who dislike them.