

A New Agenda ... Values, World Society, Modelling

<https://sites.google.com/site/gordonburtmathsocsci/home/a-new-agenda>

A New Agenda seeks to explore all aspects of society using all the academic disciplines paying special attention to values ... with special interest in modelling ... not disinterested in practice ... and aspiring to high academic standards.

Commentary, July 2019

No. 67

“Send her back” ... US presidents, 1945-2019 ... Love

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1 Hate and Love

USA public: reactions to Trump’s rhetoric

Pew Research Centre

<https://www.people-press.org/2019/06/19/public-highly-critical-of-state-of-political-discourse-in-the-u-s/>

Public Highly Critical of State of Political Discourse in the U.S.

Reactions to Trump’s rhetoric: Concern, confusion, embarrassment

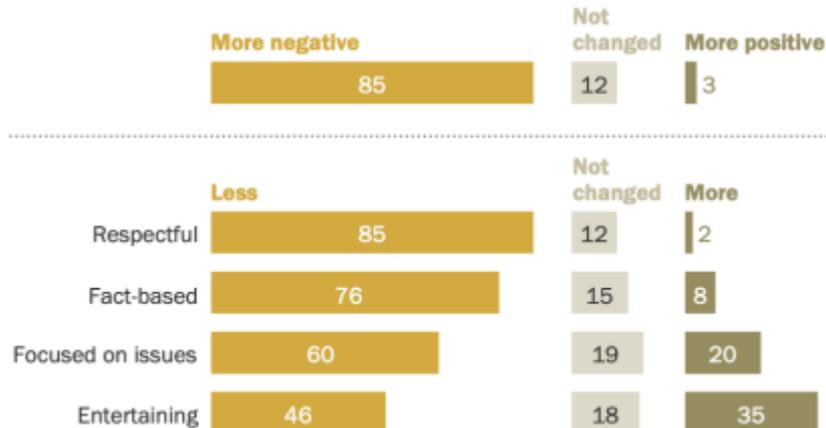
The public renders a harsh judgment on the state of political discourse in this country.

And for many Americans, their own conversations about politics have become stressful experiences that they prefer to avoid.

Display 1

Most Americans say political debate in the U.S. has become less respectful, fact-based, substantive

% who say over the last several years the tone and nature of political debate in this country has become ...



% who say Donald Trump has changed the tone and nature of political debate in the U.S. ...



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 29-May 13, 2019.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Large majorities say the tone and nature of political debate in the United States has become more negative in recent years – as well as less respectful, less fact-based and less substantive.

Meanwhile, people’s everyday conversations about politics and other sensitive topics are often tense and difficult. Half say talking about politics with people they disagree with politically is “stressful and frustrating.”

“You’re fired!” ... the global migration of a cultural product

The original ... Donald Trump’s American TV series

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Apprentice_\(American_TV_series\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Apprentice_(American_TV_series))

The British TV series...

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Apprentice_\(British_TV_series\)#History](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Apprentice_(British_TV_series)#History)

Trump v Sugar, 2012

<https://www.radiotimes.com/news/2012-12-07/donald-trump-to-alan-sugar-you-shouldnt-be-on-the-apprentice/>

The Apprentice throughout the world

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Apprentice_\(franchise\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Apprentice_(franchise))

“*The Apprentice* is an American [reality television](#) program that judges the business skills of a group of contestants. It has run in various formats across fifteen seasons since January 2004 on [NBC](#).

The Apprentice was created by British-born American television producer [Mark Burnett](#).^[1] Billed as "The Ultimate Job Interview," the show features fourteen to eighteen business people who compete over the course of a season, with usually one contestant eliminated per episode. Contestants are split into two "corporations" (teams), with one member from each volunteering as a project manager on each new task. The corporations complete business-related tasks such as selling products, raising money for charity, or creating an advertising campaign, with one corporation selected as the winner based on objective measures and subjective opinions of the host and his advisors who monitor the teams' performance on tasks. The losing corporation attends a boardroom meeting with the show's host and their advisors to break down why they lost and determine who contributed the least to the team. Episodes ended with the host eliminating one contestant from the competition, with the words "You're fired!"

Seven of the show's seasons featured aspiring, but otherwise unknown, businesspersons who would vie for the show's prize, a one-year \$250,000 starting contract to promote one of Donald Trump's properties. There have also been eight seasons of *The Celebrity Apprentice* since 2008. In this format, several celebrities would participate to win money for their chosen charities, with the final prize being a large donation to the celebrity's charity and the title of "Apprentice". A [reboot](#) of this format, *The New Celebrity Apprentice*, aired in January 2017. The U.S. series originated a [franchise of international television shows](#) collectively known as *The Apprentice*, which has had over 20 local versions.

Real estate tycoon (and now U.S. President) [Donald Trump](#) was the show's host for the first fourteen seasons. After he declared his [candidacy for the presidency](#), NBC announced that actor and former [California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger](#) would become the new host of *The Celebrity Apprentice*,^{[2][3]} starting January 2017. Lifestyle mogul [Martha Stewart](#) hosted the one-season spin-off *The Apprentice: Martha Stewart* in 2005.”

“Send her back” ... the global migration of people, animals and plants

As a small boy in the early 1950s I was brought up to regret that the American grey squirrels were driving out our own lovable British red squirrels. And this is the topic of a new book:

Invasive Aliens. The Plants and Animals From Over There That Are Over Here.
Dan Eatherley. William Collins. 2019.

The analogy with current events was not lost on reviewer Ann Treneman:

“It’s a Brexiteer’s botanical nightmare. Even Britain’s rabbits and daffodils are ‘alien invaders’.”

Ann Treneman. *The Times, Saturday Review*. July 13, 2019: 12.

The global migration of trees is a theme in a novel set in 19th century America, its Author's Notes covering: apple trees, Johnny Appleseed, California Gold Rush, Giant Sequoias and William Lobb.

At the Edge of the Orchard.

Tracy Chevalier. London: The Borough Press. 2006.

“Send her back” was the chant at the recent Donald Trump rally in North Carolina.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/18/us/politics/ilhan-omar-donald-trump.html>

It led to a quip in the final programme of Andrew Neil's *This Week* that Trump would have to go back to Scotland where his mother came from – see the end of this section.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006mvhd>;

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/entertainment-arts-49041133/this-week-the-end-of-an-error>;

This imaginary sending back of one particular (descendant of an) immigrant from Europe prompts one to reflect on other imaginary sending back of immigrants from Europe. What did the following places look like compared with now?

Israel in 1919?

Australia in 1819?

The Americas in 1419? ... 1719? ... 1819?

Re Israel, there was an interesting obituary in *The Times*:

“Rabbi David Goldberg. 1939-2019. Cricket lover and stalwart of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue who called on Israel to recognise the rights of Palestinians. ... His sermons were particularly brief when a Test match was starting.” *The Times*, July 17: 2019.

Re Australia, an interesting novel is:

A Long Way from Home.

Peter Carey. London, Faber and Faber: 2018.

Re America, here is how a different American president sees it all:

The Hornet's Nest. A Novel of The Revolutionary War.

Jimmy Carter. Simon and Schuster, 2004.

A conceptual framework for thinking about such matters is Provided in my 2017 Yearbook:

5 Power trajectories: Western dominance and Eastern growth

6 Cultural trajectories: languages, religions and political cultures

Values, World Society and Modelling Yearbook 2017

Gordon Burt. Newcastle, Cambridge Scholars: 2018.

... *Trump's mother*

“Trump's Ancestry and parents

Trump's ancestors on his father's side came from the German village of [Kallstadt](#) in the [Palatinate](#),^[26] and on his mother's side from the [Outer Hebrides](#) of Scotland.^[27] Trump's paternal grandfather, [Frederick Trump](#), immigrated to the United States in 1885 at age 16 and became a citizen in 1892.^[28] He amassed a fortune operating boomtown restaurants and boarding houses in the [Seattle](#) area and the [Klondike](#) region of Canada during [its gold rush](#).^[28] On a visit to Kallstadt, he met [Elisabeth Christ](#) and married her in 1902. The couple settled in New York in 1905.^[26] Frederick died from influenza during the [1918 pandemic](#).^[29] Trump's father Fred was born in 1905 in [the Bronx](#) and started working with his mother in real estate when he was 15, shortly after his father's death. Their company, "E. Trump & Son",^[d] founded in 1923,^[34] was active in the [New York boroughs](#) of [Queens](#) and [Brooklyn](#). Fred eventually built and sold thousands of houses, barracks, and apartments.^{[29][35]} In spite of his [German ancestry](#), Fred claimed to be Swedish amid [anti-German sentiment](#) sparked by World War II.^{[36][37]} Donald Trump repeated this claim in *The Art of the Deal*.^{[37][38][39]} Trump's mother Mary Anne MacLeod was born in [Tong, Lewis](#), Scotland, to a [Gaelic](#)-speaking family. At age 18 in 1930, she emigrated to New York, where she worked as a maid.^[40] Fred and Mary were married in 1936 and raised their family in Queens.^{[40][41]}”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donald_Trump#Ancestry_and_parents

Land raids

“From 1888 to 1921, Coll and the nearby farmlands of [Tong](#) and [Gress](#) were the scene of several [land raids](#). This made them the focus of a wider conflict between the people of Lewis, its owners, and the government.

During the 19th century Lewis, like many rural areas of Scotland, became impoverished and depopulated. This was the result of deliberate evictions of tenant farmers by the landowners (the [Highland Clearances](#)), harsh living conditions, outright famine in some years, and voluntary emigration in hopes of a better life elsewhere. Towards the start of the 20th century the British government attempted to reverse this trend, by providing land for small farm settlements, allotments or [crofts](#), and by improving the conditions of land tenure. There was also a political promise that servicemen returning from [World War I](#) should have “a land fit for heroes to live in” and enjoy priority for such settlements.

This policy was not contentious in [England](#), but Scottish landowners were generally hostile, and able to frustrate it. The island of Lewis was exceptional in being owned in its entirety by wealthy industrialists prepared to invest heavily to develop the area – from 1844 by the Matheson family (founders of [Jardine Matheson](#)) then from 1917 by [William Hesketh Lever](#), Lord Leverhulme the soap magnate. But as industrialists, their vision of the island's future was industrial – fisheries, tweed manufacture, and the like. They were utterly opposed to land re-settlement, seeing this as perpetuating an outmoded way of life. Meanwhile the landless people of Lewis found themselves existing in overcrowded, squalid conditions, alongside empty arable acres given over to sheep, deer-stalking or grouse-shooting.”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coll,_Lewis

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land_raid

“... they hate our own Country ...”

“You’re hate-filled anti-American zealots, Trump tells Democrats.”
David Charter. *The Times*, July 16, 2019: 30-31.

“‘Anglocentric’ citizenship test accused of rewriting Scottish history.”
Bridge, Mark and Mike Wade. *The Times*, July 20, 2019: 9.

In this section I want to reflect on the nature of placing a value on ‘our own country’. In my 2014 Yearbook I reflected on placing a value on my own Scotland. I also reflected on Prime Minister David Cameron’s claim that the UK was a Christian country. I also briefly referred to Hilary Clinton’s reference to American exceptionalism.

Hilary Clinton ... American exceptionalism and 9/11 ... the Islamic State
British values ... is the UK Christian?
6 ‘Our values: unanimous? universal? exceptional? good? safe?’
10 Scotland: ‘Our values’? Independence? More varied and less distinctive
Values, World Society and Modelling Yearbook 2014
Gordon Burt. Newcastle, Cambridge Scholars: 2016.

My writings there are (I hope) carefully thought out and rational – seventy-four years down the line! It is with some discomfort that I find automatic crude emotional attachments that were formed seven decades ago. For example, as a Scot, what do I feel when I watch my grandchildren supporting England? What about that anti-Scottish verse in the national anthem? Why do I have an automatic emotional engagement with Land of Hope and Glory and its British imperialism? ... with Onward Christian Soldiers and its Christian militarism (so often sung at my mother’s side in church)?

And it was precisely to *Onward Christian Soldiers* and *Land of Hope and Glory* that my flow of consciousness led when I started thinking about our August family holiday. We shall be in Crickieth, Lloyd George’s birthplace. My mind then jumps to the song “Lloyd George knows my father ...”. This is sung the tune of *Onward Christian Soldiers* or sometimes *Land of Hope and Glory*. This is sung every summer at the last night of the Proms – will 2019 be a repeat of 2018 when rival music-lovers waved Union Jacks or EU flags?

1 “Lloyd George ...” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D07J5-lnHvU>

2 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lloyd_George_Knew_My_Father_\(song\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lloyd_George_Knew_My_Father_(song))

3 Onward 1, tune <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K2kbZQtYUzw>

4 Onward 2, song https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dU_Kqtsiri8

See also texts and tweets including Solzhenytsin quote.

5 Onward, Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Onward,_Christian_Soldiers

6 “Lloyd George ...” also sung to:

Land of <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IyptWLnChYg>

(2018: can you spot the EU flags ... what will happen this year?)

7 Haydn Symphony 53 in D major (earlier tune to “Onward ...”)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mdSn-08yfis>

The BBC Proms

2019

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/events/r3j38g/series>;

<https://www.royalalberthall.com/tickets/proms/bbc-proms-2019/>.

Note: *Land of Hope and Glory* in

<https://www.royalalberthall.com/tickets/proms/bbc-proms-2019/prom-75-last-night-of-the-proms/>

2018

Last Night of the Proms SABOTAGED by REMOANERS who politicise music event with EU flags

THE LAST Night of the Proms was sabotaged by a horde of Remoaners who flooded the Royal Albert Hall with EU flags and berets as part of an anti-Brexit protest.

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1014968/Last-night-of-the-proms-EU-flags-anti-Brexit-campaign-sabotage-British-brexit-news>

I wonder what Lloyd George would have said about Brexit? His great grandson Robert Lloyd George suggests that he would be in favour of the EU as a provider of peace and security as indeed would have been Winston Churchill, as a result of their experience in the First World War:

Letter to the Times

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/times-letters-churchill-on-brexit-and-a-special-privy-council-k5kw05z2z>;

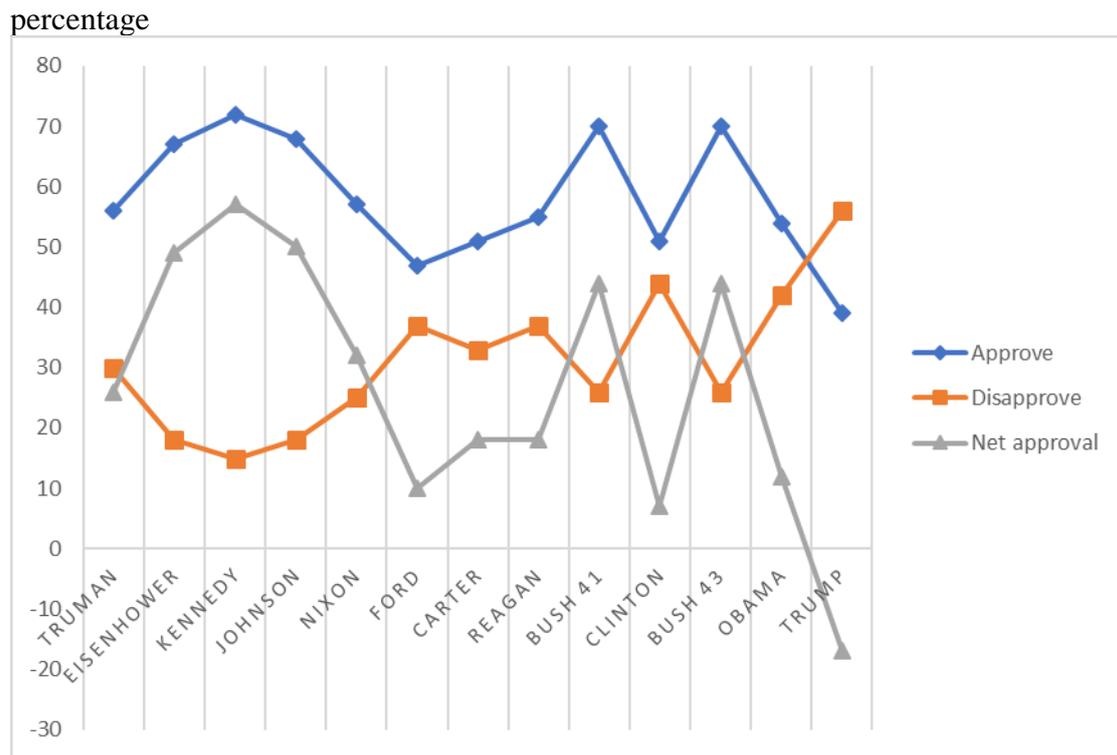
Felix Klos. *Churchill's Last Stand. The Struggle to Unite Europe.*

<https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/churchills-last-stand-9781786722928/>

Public approval of US presidents, 1945-2019

From President Ford, 1974-1977, onwards *net approval* (Approval-Disapproval) has been less than 20% – the two exceptions being Bush the father and Bush the son. Peak approval was for Kennedy, 1961-1963, who was assassinated in office. Presidential approval declined steeply after that, culminating in a low for Ford. Note that Ford took over in 1974 after Nixon's impeachment. Note too that the Vietnam War lasted from 1955/1959/1960/1961/1964-1975. Was it then the Vietnam War that created disillusion with presidents and polarisation in society?

Figure 1 Average presidential job approval at or near 2 years, 5 months



Washington Post ABC News poll

<https://www.langerresearch.com/category/abc-news-polls/>;

<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/trump-reaches-career-high-approval-faces-range-election/story?id=64117018>;

<https://www.langerresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/1206a2Trumpandthe2020Election.pdf>;

https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/uspr/hd_uspr.htm;

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War;

Trump: dissatisfaction and polarisation

Trump job approval: 45% average (e.g. 44, 50, 46 ...)

Democratic Presidential Nomination, RCP averages: Biden 28.4, Sanders 15.0

www.realclearpolitics.com

“Biden bids to stop Trump demonising Democrats.”

Charter, David and Boer Deng. *The Times*, July 17, 2019: 26.

Figure 1 above shows that President Trump establishes a new low point for presidents of the USA and also the first negative net approval ...

“ABC NEWS/WASHINGTON POST POLL: Trump and the 2020 Election

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE AFTER 12:01 a.m. Sunday, July 7, 2019

Trump Reaches Career-High Approval, Yet Faces a Range of Re-Election Risks

Bolstered by a strong economy, Donald Trump reached the highest job approval rating of his career in the latest ABC News/Washington Post poll and runs competitively for re-election against four of five possible Democratic contenders. Yet he remains broadly unpopular across personal and professional measures, marking his vulnerabilities in the 2020 election.

Forty-four percent of Americans approve of Trump’s overall job performance, up a slight 5 percentage points from April and 2 points better than his peak early in his presidency. Still, 53 percent disapprove,

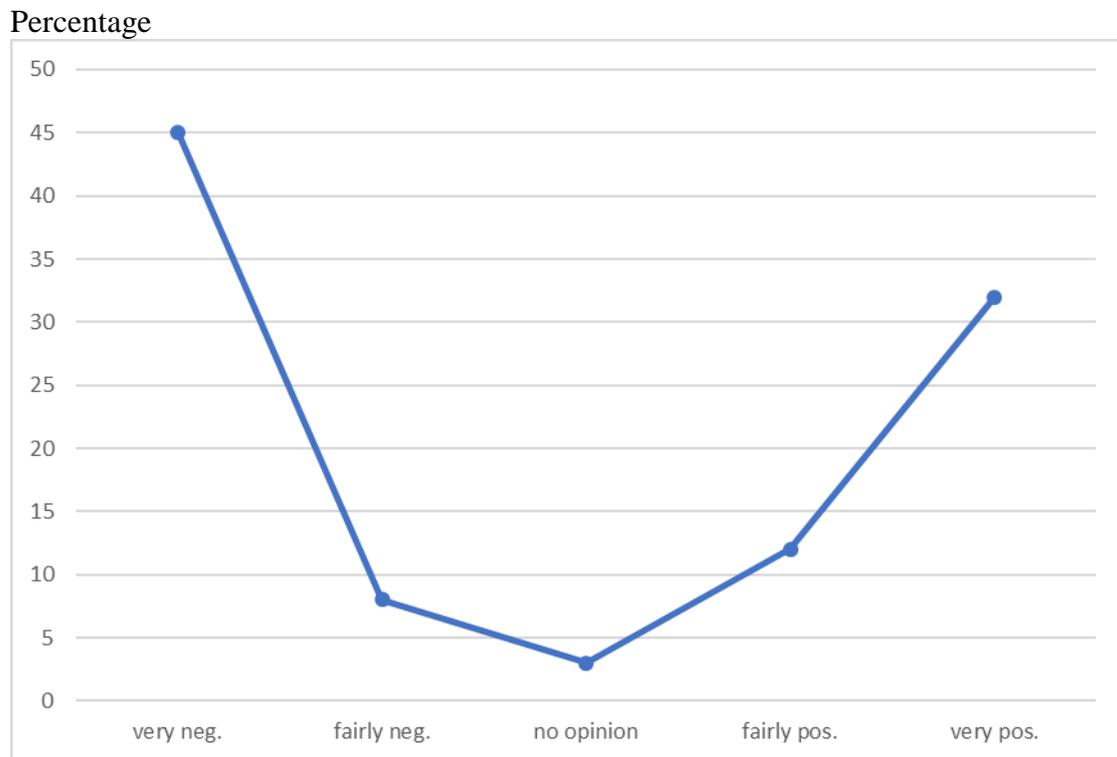
keeping him at majority disapproval continuously for his first two and a half years in office, a record for any president in modern polling. Washington Post ABC News poll”
<https://www.langerresearch.com/category/abc-news-polls/>;
<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/trump-reaches-career-high-approval-faces-range-election/story?id=64117018>;
<https://www.langerresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/1206a2Trumpandthe2020Election.pdf>;

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

On a scale from -1 to +1 the mean is -0.11: in other words the ‘average’ person mildly disapproves of how Trump is handling his job – there is mild dissatisfaction. Note: I have given scores of -1, -0.5, 0, +0.5 and +1 to the scale points.

However there is great polarisation - see Figure 1. A simple measure of polarisation is the minimum extreme, here 32% (maximum polarisation occurring when the minimum extreme is 50%, and the minimum being 0%).

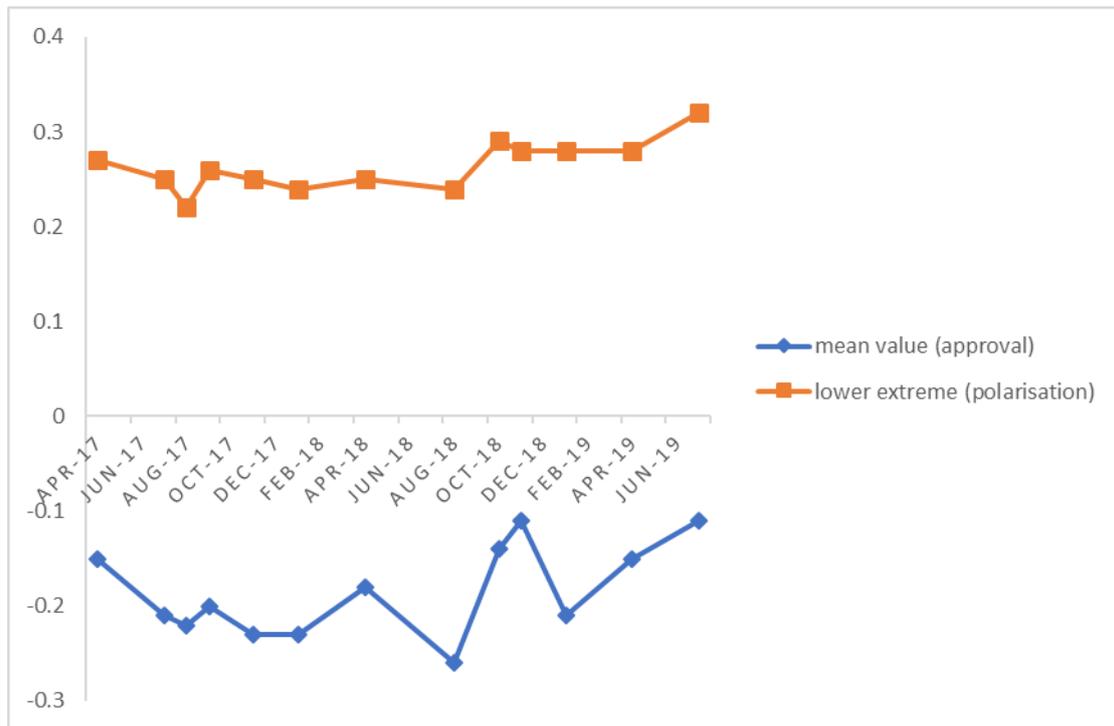
Figure 2 Polarisation of views about Trump: approval of handling the job



Percentages: 45, 8, 3, 12, 32

Figure 3 shows how Trump’s mean value and polarisation have changed over the past three years. There have been minor fluctuations about a fairly constant level of negative mean value and middling polarisation. Recently mean value has been slightly less negative but this has been accompanied by slightly more polarisation.

Figure 3 Mean value (approval) and lower extreme (polarisation); Trump April 2017 to July 2019



Note: mean value is in the range -1 to +1; and polarisation is in the range 0 to 0.5 (0% to 50%).

“Partisan differences in views of Trump are vast; 87 percent of Republicans approve while just 10 percent of Democrats agree.

But there are some issues on which he’s less well rated in his own party, slipping under 70 percent approval on gun violence, issues of special importance to women, abortion and, especially – at just 58 percent in-party approval – global warming.”

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Trump is handling [ITEM]?

On a scale from -1 to +1 the means are: +0.09 the economy, -0.07 taxes, -0.15 foreign policy, -0.16 health care, -0.16 gun violence, -0.17 immigration, -0.22 abortion, -0.24 issues of special concern to women, -0.33 climate change also known as global warming.

Thinking again about the general election in 2020, for each item I name please tell me how important it will be in your vote for president - one of the single most important issues, very important, somewhat important, or less important than that?

On a scale from 0 to +1 the means are: 0.67 the economy, 0.59 taxes, 0.61 foreign policy, 0.66 health care, 0.60 gun violence, 0.66 immigration, 0.56 abortion, 0.60 issues of special concern to women, 0.52 climate change also known as global warming.

Since taking office, do you think Trump has acted in a way that's (fitting and proper for a president of the United States), or has he acted in a way that's (unpresidential)?

Fitting and proper 28%, unpresidential 65% (a mean of -0.37).

If the 2020 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were (Donald Trump, the Republican) and ([ITEM], the Democrat), for whom would you vote? Would you lean toward (Trump) or ([ITEM])?

Trump would lose to Joe Biden (41, v 55), Kamala Harris (43 v 51), Elizabeth Warren (44 v 51), Pete Buttigieg (44 v 48) and Bernie Sanders (45 v 51) ... and ‘a Democratic candidate who you regard as a socialist’ (46 v 46; 49 v 43 for registered voters).

How much credit do you think the Trump administration deserves for the country's economic situation –

Percentage responses:

.	<i>great deal</i>	<i>good amount</i>	<i>only some</i>	<i>hardly any</i>	<i>none</i>	<i>no info</i>
Trump 30	17	27	20	4	2	

Compare to: How much credit do you think [ITEM] deserves for the country's economic situation, a great deal, a good amount, only some, or hardly any? 1/18/18

Percentage responses:

.	<i>great deal</i>	<i>good amount</i>	<i>only some</i>	<i>hardly any</i>	<i>none</i>	<i>no info</i>
Trump 19	19	29	27	3	3	
Obama 24	26	24	21	3	2	

Loving your political rivals

Turner, Janice. “Voters have had enough hate-filled tribalism. Britain and the US could learn a lot from Istanbul’s mayor, who triumphed with a message of loving your political rivals.” *The Times*, July 20, 2019: 25.

“... most mommas oughta qualify for sainthood”

As some of you know, Catherine and I are regular line dancers. The lyrics can be quite varied. Might the following lyrics have been written by Steven Pinker if he had chosen to become a Country and Western singer rather than an academic?

“... I believe this world ain't half
As bad as it looks
I believe most people are good ...

... I believe if you just go by the nightly news
Your faith in all mankind would be the first thing you lose ...”

As a grandfather I like to encourage my daughters and grandchildren ...

“Congratulations also to Robert’s Mum. Remember the bit from the line dancing song, ‘mothers qualify for sainthood’.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-KsToawMJE>;
<https://genius.com/Luke-bryan-most-people-are-good-lyrics>;
<https://tasteofcountry.com/luke-bryans-mom-most-people-are-good/>;

An opportunity for love?

The door bell rang.
An opportunity for love?

I opened the door and there were two young women standing there smiling. One was holding a leaflet in her hand. Jehovah's Witnesses.
An opportunity for love?

We exchanged greetings and they explained that they were here to tell me about a meeting that weekend about Love. (Their leaflet is reproduced below). Did I agree that the world would be a better place if there was more love? I did. I accepted the leaflet and glanced at it.
An opportunity for love?

In the past, depending on whether or not I am busy, I often take the time to chat and discuss with Jehovah's Witnesses on my doorstep. The exchanges are I hope invariably friendly and honest sharing of views ... there is both agreement and disagreement. By now I know their viewpoint and my own in relation to theirs pretty well.
An opportunity for love?

On this occasion my thoughts turned to an issue relating to love about which I knew we disagreed. We exchanged a few ideas about this ...

An opportunity following this for me to switch track and turn to areas of agreement? No. The first issue of disagreement led to a second underlying issue of disagreement. Soon they concluded that we had different views and we concluded our discussion ending as it had been throughout in a friendly tone.

On the whole I felt that I had done well to communicate my disagreements in a pleasant manner ...

... now, a day later, it occurs to me that I missed an opportunity for love. Here were two people who like me (and others mentioned on my website) felt that the world would be a better place if there was more love ... who were devoting their morning to going round houses to discuss this with people. And all I could do was to spend the time telling them about where I disagreed with them. An opportunity for love? I had failed to take the opportunity.

It struck me that failing to take the opportunity for love was a common theme in the bible – although I would not myself put a religious interpretation on that. And, to be gently controversial, God, Jesus and the Bible themselves sometimes fail to take the opportunity for love.

The general notion is that we are regularly being presented with opportunities for love. I think it would be good to be on the lookout for these opportunities and to take them.

Here is the leaflet they gave me. There are a lot of positive things about love here that I think I would agree with. My comments follow.

2019 “Love never fails”!

Convention of Jehovah’s Witnesses

Highlights

Talks and interviews

Discover how love can help you cope with adversity, unite your family, find supportive friends, become a better person and draw close to God.

Multimedia

See how real-life experiences from around the world show that “love never fails.” – 1 Corinthians 13:8.

Public Bible discourse

Where can you find people united by genuine love as described at John 13:34, 35? Listen to the Bible-based talk to be presented on Sunday morning with the theme “True Love in a Hate-Filled World – Where?”

Feature Film:

The Bible character Josiah grew up surrounded by evil. But he became known for “his deeds of loyal love.”

(2 Chronicles 35:26) On Saturday and Sunday watch the two-part feature film *The Story of Josiah: Love Jehovah; Hate What is Bad*.

Friday: learn how to strengthen your love despite a troubled upbringing, chronic illness, or poverty. Through a series of short documentary videos, see evidence of God’s love in the natural world.

Saturday: Consider Bible principles that are helping husbands, wives and children to show unflinching love to one another.

Sunday: The public Bible discourse “*True Love in a Hate-Filled World – Where?*” will make clear how showing love is helping millions of people worldwide to overcome prejudice and hatred.

Special Guests: Many conventions will host international delegates and missionaries from around the globe.

My own thoughts. I see a lot here that I think is good. My own viewpoint though is slightly different. I think a lot of the ideas work equally well whether or not there is any reference to religion. My own personal taste is that I would not make reference to religion. I think too that I might have a different view of the natural world and of the family – loosely speaking I would look to science and to social science. I am worried about hating – even about hating what is bad – about injunctions to hate. I am worried about loving god in that it might lead to not loving something else – in the above, loving god is linked to hating bad. Is the world hate-filled? How much? Is it “hate”? Or is it “insecurity”?

Gosh! I’ve done it again! I have spent more time on the differences in viewpoint and less on the agreements. Another missed opportunity for love.

What I should have included is establishing the common ground and hearing what they had to say about love ... and more.

Love: my website

<https://sites.google.com/site/gordonburtmathsocsci/love>

The email from Justine	turn to love	Tuesday 19 March 2019
Love, a first thought	love, whom?	Sunday 24 March 2019
Love, a second thought	reciprocation of love	Sunday 31 March 2019
Love, 3: Observation, communication and better understanding		Sunday 7 April 2019

2 Hate in order to Win ... factions, parties, majorities and polarisation

“Trump is riding a powerful wave of white resentment. The president’s calculated decision to take on the Democrats’ ‘Squad’ risks reopening centuries-old racial wounds.”

Baker, Gerard. *The Times*, July 20, 2019: 30-31.

“Fishing for votes. Boris Johnson held up a wrapped kipper to illustrate his argument about “pointless” EU rules at the final Tory leadership hustings in London.”

Courea, Eleni. *The Times*, July 18, 2019: 1, 7.

“Done like a kipper: fishy tale dismissed.”

[Euromyths debunked. Banning bendy bananas; Banning prawn cocktail crisps; Junking the double-decker bus, *Daily Telegraph* 1998; One-size-fits-all condoms, *The Sun* 1994]

Courea, Eleni. *The Times*, July 19, 2019: 7.

Mrs May warned against the idea that “mobilising your own faction is more important than bringing others with you ...”

“Stay out of the gutter, Mrs May tells frontrunner.”

Francis Elliott. *The Times*, July 18, 2009: 7.

<https://www.chathamhouse.org/file/theresa-may-state-politics>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-speech-on-the-state-of-politics>

However the speech has been criticised along the following lines:

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1155101/theresa-may-brex-it-news-no-deal-eu-michel-barnier-bbc-tory-leadership-video>

... but I think the arguments in the speech have merit in their own right.

At rallies and at hustings ... on social media and in traditional media ... simple symbols are used to create hatred and to mobilise opinion so that a faction can win ... can win against other factions and against society as a whole.

Trump seeks a second term in office and his strategy is to exacerbate the polarisation of the two major parties. Johnson and Hunt have likewise outbid one another in the exacerbation of the polarisation between Remainers and Leavers. Likewise Brexit party exacerbation of the polarisation between the UK and the EU.

In her last major speech as PM, delivered at Chatham House, May argued for compromise etc.

Back in the 1980s, the UK Open University produced a course on *Models of Democracy*. The set book had the same title and was written by the late David Held.

Models of Democracy.

David Held. 1987 Cambridge: Polity Press

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Held
<https://www.sup.org/books/title/?id=10597> 3rd edition, 2006

Factions and parties form to promote their own interests, against other factions and against society as a whole. They gain power for their faction or party in part by obtaining majorities. The notions of faction, party and majority are thus interlinked but interestingly are differently referenced in the index in Held's book.

Factions 63, 187-8, 189-190, 61-66, 190-1
Majorities 190, 193-4
Parties 154, 155-8 175 216-9 258

Held's discussion of *the problem of factions* examines James Maddison's Federalist Paper No. 10 in a way which is highly relevant to current debates in the US and the UK ...

[to be continued]

The problem of factions relates to what I have referred to as the majority problem:

Brexit and the majority problem: competing democratic criteria (121 pages)
<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDoyOWFiNmU0MzNiMjhhkZTEEx>

3 The next UK prime minister: the second stage of the contest

The first stage of the contest ended on June 20th with Boris Johnson winning the votes of over half the Conservative MPs. Jeremy Hunt came second, just ahead of Michael Gove ...

The second stage of the contest ran over five weeks with the two remaining candidates campaigning to win the votes of the Conservative Party members. Ballot papers were sent out in the middle of the period and the result was due to be announced on 23 July 2019.

The campaign began dramatically: police were called to the home of Boris Johnson following a domestic row. However the core of the campaign concerned Brexit, particularly the October 31st deadline, and also the candidates' other policies. The candidates were seen as bidding up the likelihood of No Deal and of bidding up government spending.

A flavour of the campaign is given in the headlines – see Table 1. The headlines cover a variety of matters: Johnson's row with his girl friend; Johnson's initial reluctance to debate; people seeking to be in Johnson's cabinet; people seeking not to be Johnson's cabinet; and moves by others in relation to the possibility of No deal. A number of foreign events entered into the debate: unrest in Hong Kong, resignation of UK ambassador to the USA; Trump's tweets about the Squad; and tension with Iran.

Throughout Johnson was seen as the front-runner and nothing that happened seemed to change that view. Almost all the headlines are about Johnson with only a very few about Hunt.

Table 1 Contest headlines, second stage, 19 June to 23 July 2019. *The Times* front page unless otherwise stated.

June

...

19 Tory leadership rivals raise heat on Johnson. Frontrunner comes under pressure in TV debate. Questions over strength of Brexit and tax pledges.

20 Javid 'wants to be next Chancellor'. Home secretary staking claim for No 11, say rival. Tory candidates threaten BBC debate boycott.

Johnson v Hunt

21 Dirty battle for No 10. Johnson v Hunt to be prime minister. Gove defeated in final MP's ballot. Environment secretary undone by 'revenge. Johnson 160, Hunt 77, Gove 75

22 Police called to Johnson's home after domestic row. Neighbour 'heard shouting and scream' between Tory leadership favourite and girlfriend.

Obs 23 Johnson under fire over row with partner as far-right link is revealed. Video shows Bannon ties to Johnson.

24 Johnson is a coward, says Hunt. Front runner under pressure after girlfriend row.

25 'Cowardly' Johnson launches fightback. Frontrunner refuses to address girlfriend row.

26 Johnson to pull out of EU 'do or die'. Brussels challenged as voters split over no-deal.

27 Johnson pledges points-based system to cap immigration.

28 Stamp duty slashed in Johnson no-deal budget. Javid offered chancellor's job.

29 Tory voters think Hunt would be a better PM than Johnson. 14-15.

30 *Obs* Sheer animal magnetism is not enough, Tory faithful conclude. 6.

Johnson 'might never enter No 10' if MPs withdraw support. 9.

July

1 Johnson to boost pay for public sector staff. Tory hopeful will 'show love' for state workers.

2 I'll scrap your summer holidays, 'macho' Hunt tells civil servants.

3 Hunt's Hong Kong threat strains China relations. 2.

Johnson's vow to bin sin taxes exposes splits in his campaign. 6-7.

4 Johnson lets fly at 'peacocks' jostling for jobs in his cabinet. 6-7.

5 Remain by-election pact could cut new PM's majority to three. 2.

Johnson holds talks with Gove on Cabinet role as they bury the hatchet. 6-7.

Farage donor puts money behind Tory frontrunner. 7.

6 Johnson set for landslide in battle to reach No 10. 74-26 poll lead against Hunt as ballot papers land.

7 *Obs* Top Tory says no-deal could split UK.

8 Johnson faces Tory plot to prevent no-deal Brexit. Group of 30 Remain MPs seek to block Britain crashing out of EU.

9 I won't deal with British ambassador, says Trump. President puts pressure on embattled envoy.

Johnson: My thick skin can handle hatred. 10

10 Johnson raises pressure on besieged ambassador. Leaks row grows during TV debate with Hunt. Trump criticises ‘wacky envoy and ‘foolish’ May.
11 May told to keep out of talks on new ambassador, Next PM must pick US envoy, say Johnson allies.
12 Tory voters wait for Johnson’s big test. 12
13 Hunt can’t promise Brexit by Christmas. 8
14 *Obs* Johnson failed Kim Darroch abysmally. He doesn’t deserve to choose the next envoy to the US. Malcolm Rifkind. 48
15 Johnson to seek Trump deal in first move as PM. Frontrunner plans US trip to repair relationship.
16 Tory rivals take aim at Trump. Johnson and Hunt condemn president’s tweets
17 Johnson plans early election to hit Corbyn. Labour in no fit state for the fight, claim allies
18 No-deal ‘will send Britain into recession’
19 Three cabinet ministers prepare resignation letters for Johnson
20 Johnson allies condemn threats to topple a no-deal government
21 *Obs* .
22
23 The result will be announced.
...
31 By-election which the government may lose, thus reducing its majority in parliament to just three.

The emotional force of the recent book by Rod Liddle drives the bidding up for No Deal and leaving on October 31:

The Great Betrayal. The True Story of Brexit.

Rod Liddle. Constable.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rod_Liddle

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y894TTaCoD0;>

With similar emotional force is:

“A premature polemic: the great British Brexit stitch-up
Rod Liddle’s rant at a Remain conspiracy is jumping the gun.”

Quentin Letts, *The Times, Saturday Review*, 12-13.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-great-betrayal-by-rod-liddle-review-the-brex-it-stitch-up-9nf2qt6gx;>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quentin_Letts

See my Brexit website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/gordonburtmathsocsci/central>

The next PM: Conservatives in political space (June 2019 version)

Pages 33 to 62 in:

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbnxnb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDo1OTkxMmI4MzI0Zjc0Nzk>

4 Game theory and artificial intelligence ... multi-player poker

Blakely, Rhys. "Poker bot locked up to save human players from ruin." *The Times*, July 20, 2019: 11.

Game theory has been central to conflict research since the middle of the twentieth century. Computers have been used to explore game theory from early on with Axelrod's tournament between computers playing different strategies and evolutionary models of populations with different game-playing strategies. In particular how successful a strategy is cooperation? The strategies used in these studies have been simple general strategies.

Players of more complex types of games do not employ general strategies in quite that way – they do something more complicated. It is of interest therefore that computers have defeated human world champions at successively more complex types of games. Looking at the world of politics is it perhaps quite close to multi-player poker?

Whipple, Tom. "Poker stars no match for robot that knows when to hold 'em." *The Times*, July 12, 2019: 3.

Superhuman AI for multiplayer poker

<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/early/2019/07/10/science.aay2400>

Noam Brown, Tuomas Sandholm

Science 11 Jul 2019; DOI: 10.1126/science.aay2400

In recent years there have been great strides in artificial intelligence (AI), with games often serving as challenge problems, benchmarks, and milestones for progress. Poker has served for decades as such a challenge problem. Past successes in such benchmarks, including poker, have been limited to two-player games. However, poker in particular is traditionally played with more than two players. Multiplayer games present fundamental additional issues beyond those in two-player games, and multiplayer poker is a recognized AI milestone. In this paper we present Pluribus, an AI that we show is stronger than top human professionals in six-player no-limit Texas hold'em poker, the most popular form of poker played by humans.

Rough notes:

The article explains a number of basic distinctions.

Number of players, value sum, strategies

Nash equilibrium; no player can improve by changing strategy

2 zero: playing a unilateral Nash ensures cannot be beaten

However, in more complex games even determining how to tie against a Nash equilibrium may be difficult; if the opponent ever chooses suboptimal actions, then playing the Nash equilibrium will indeed result in victory in expectation ...

[To be continued]

STOP PRESS

21 July 2018

The Observer

Iran, UK and USA

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jul/20/boris-johnson-iran-gulf-crisis-admiral-lord-west>

Johnson warned: focus on Iran crisis or risk descent into war.

Ex-naval chief slams UK over Gulf defences

Ministers ‘have been distracted by Brexit’

‘Isolated from our European allies, the danger is we simply become a satellite of US foreign policy’

How Trump’s arch-hawk lured Britain into a dangerous trap to punish Iran

Timeline 8 May 2018 (Trump unilaterally withdraws from treaty) to date

1, 2, 3, 50

Trump

“Trump is a racist and Hunt a coward for refusing to say so” 11.

“It’s a political civil war’: how Trump took racial tensions to a new level.” Smith, David. *The Observer*, July 21, 2019: 28-30.

“Trump revives the idea of a ‘white man’s country, America’s original sin.” Painter, Nell. *The Observer*, July 21, 2019: 47.

Brexit

Labour Brexit chief seeks to build alliance against no deal with Tory ex-ministers

6, 7, 48.

Boris Johnson

39-43, 49