

Detoxing democracy in a post-truth world: a new role for ordinary people in politics.

Brisbane

19th July 2018

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Lateral Economics

How did we get here?

Materialist explanations

- Recession
- Austerity
- Inequality

Exhibit 4

Rising Inequality and Political Polarization

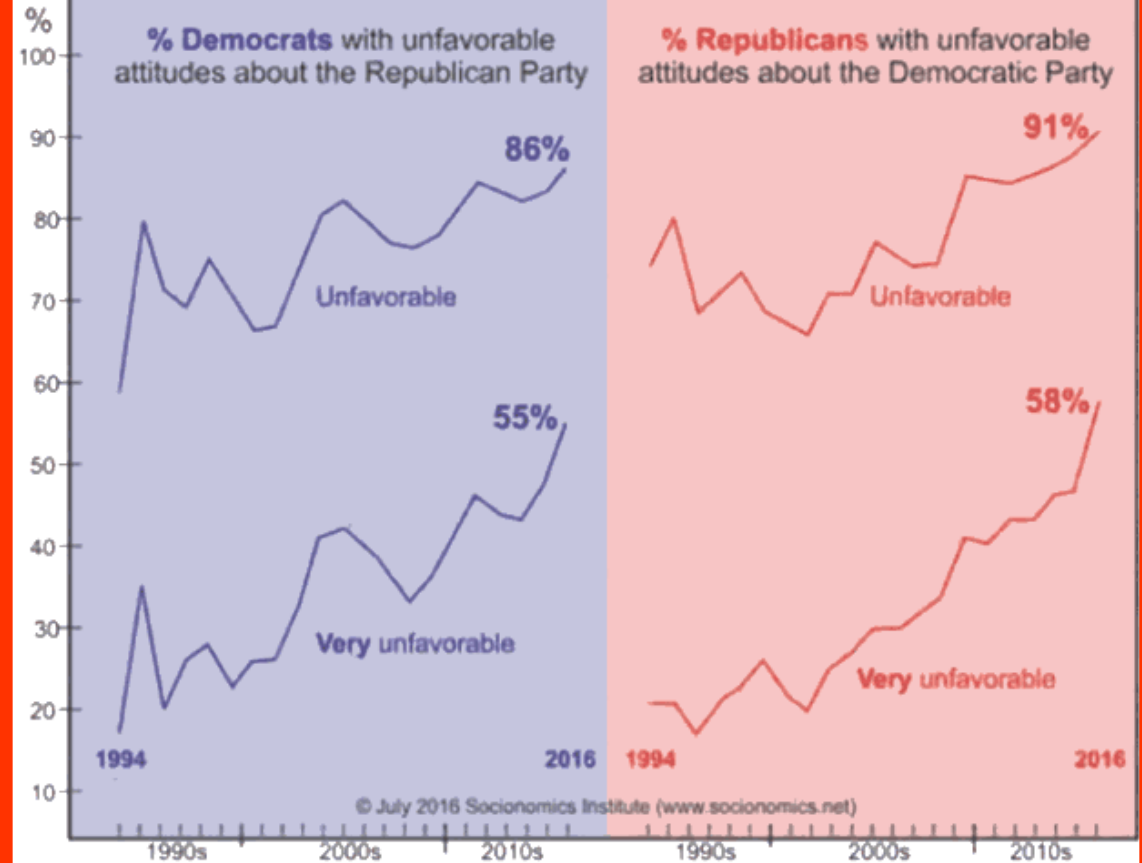


Source: Census Bureau, Voteview.com, Morgan Stanley Research

Negative Social Mood Has Polarized America

"Majorities have deeply negative views of other party"

1994-April 2016, data courtesy Pew Research Center



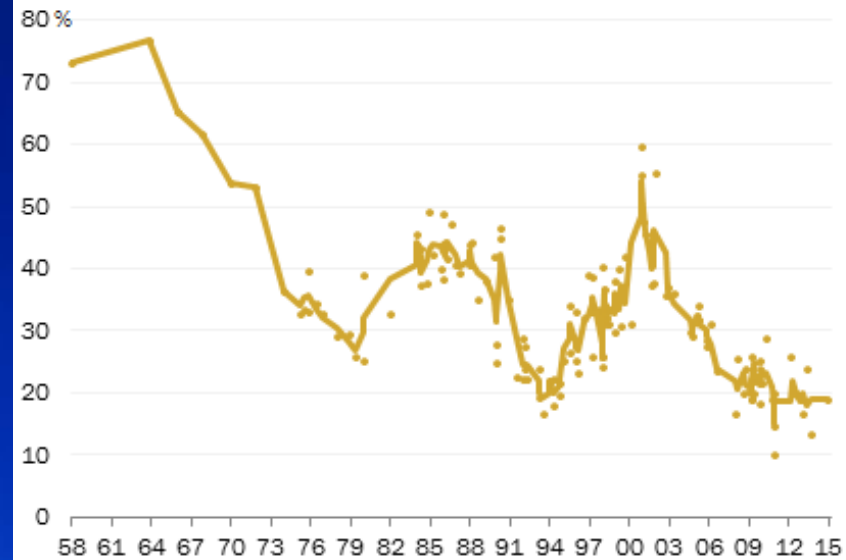
Mixed marriages in the US



Trust

Public trust in government: 1958-2015

Trust the federal government to do what is right just about always/most of the time ...



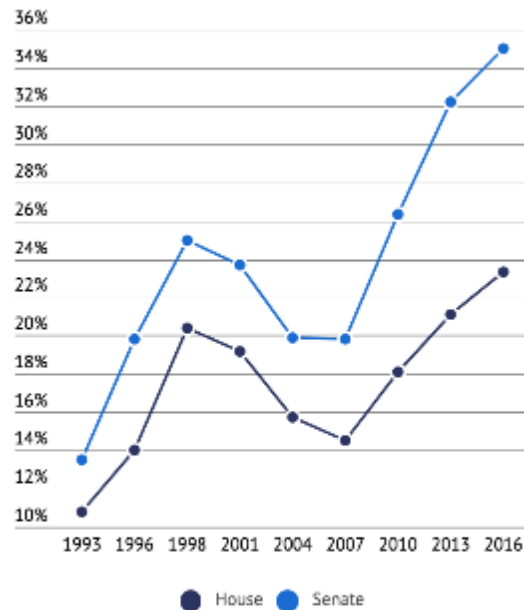
Survey conducted Aug. 27-Oct. 4, 2015. Q15. Trend sources: Pew Research Center, National Election Studies, Gallup, ABC/Washington Post, CBS/New York Times, and CNN Polls. From 1976-2014 the trend line represents a three-survey moving average.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Polarisation amidst policy blandness

Minor parties are attracting more votes and stronger support

Percentage of votes cast for minor parties

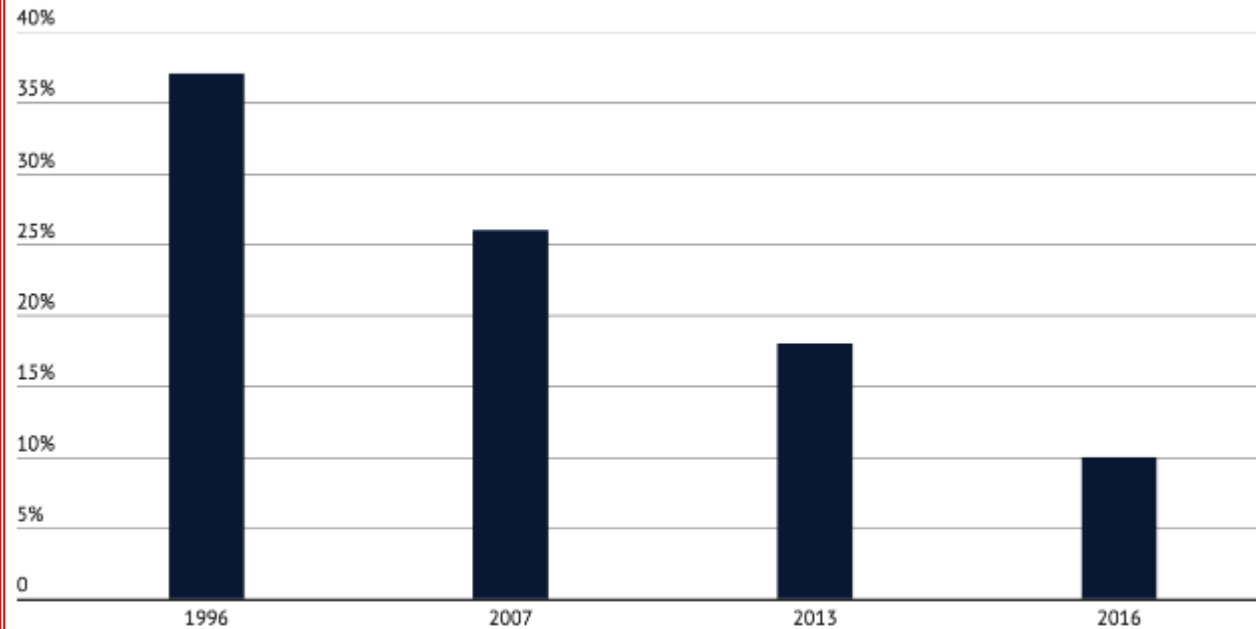


Australian voters are polarising

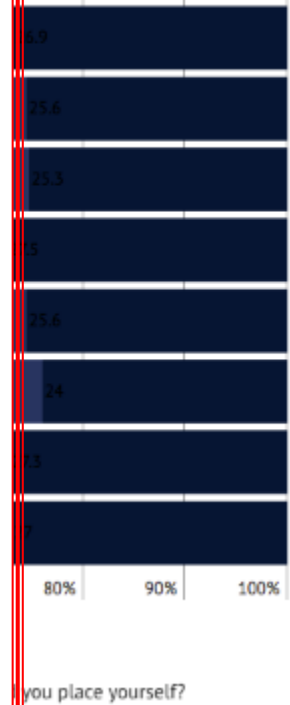
Percentage of voters describing themselves 'left', 'right' or 'centre'

Australia's disappearing moderate politicians

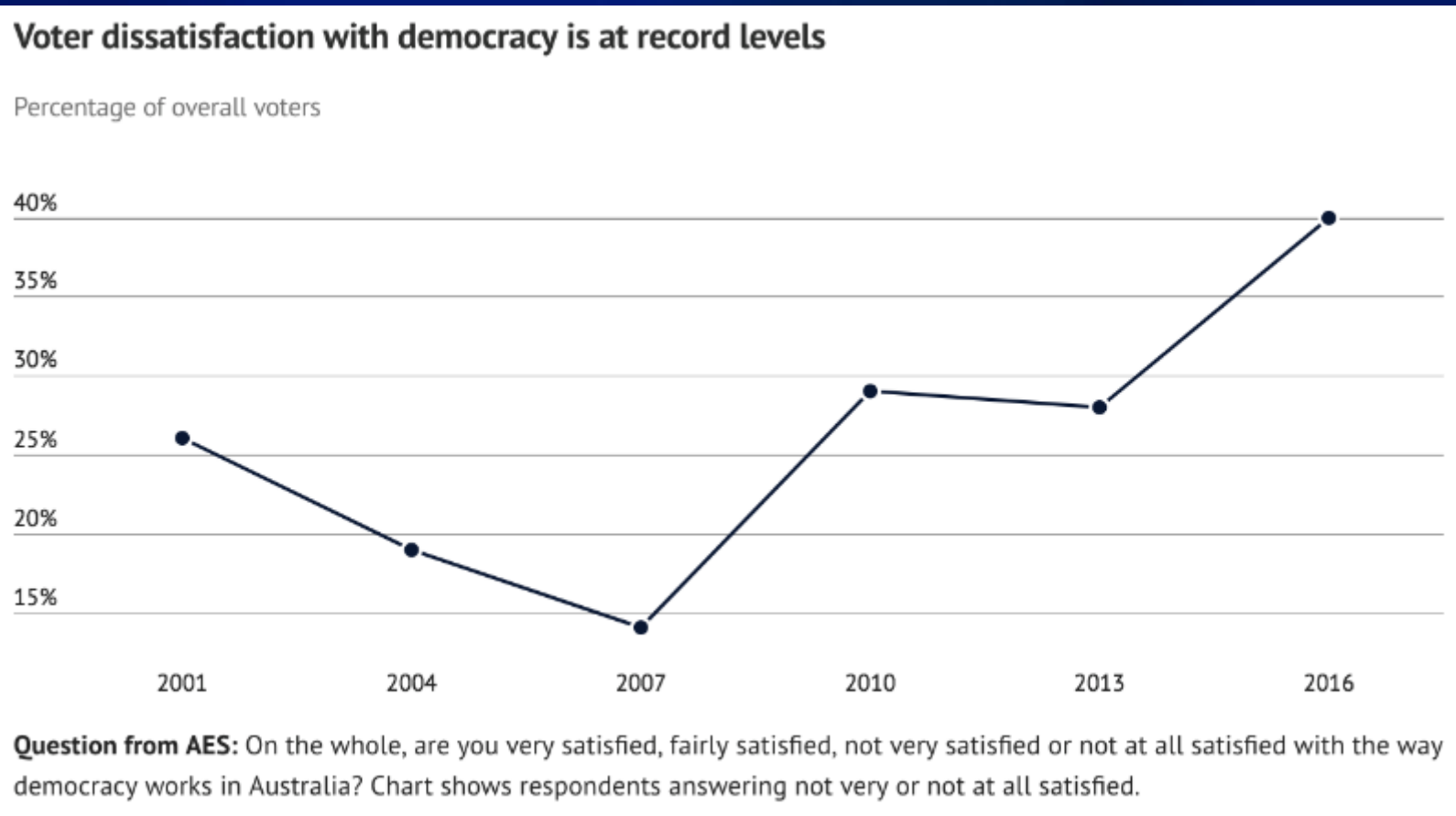
Proportion of major party candidates who describe themselves as 'moderate'



Results from AES survey of Australian political candidates to the question, 'In politics, people sometimes talk about the 'left' and the 'right'. Where would you place yourself on a spectrum from 0 (left) to 10 (right)?' 'Moderates' are ALP members who answer 5 or more and L/NP members who answer 5 or less.



Distrust

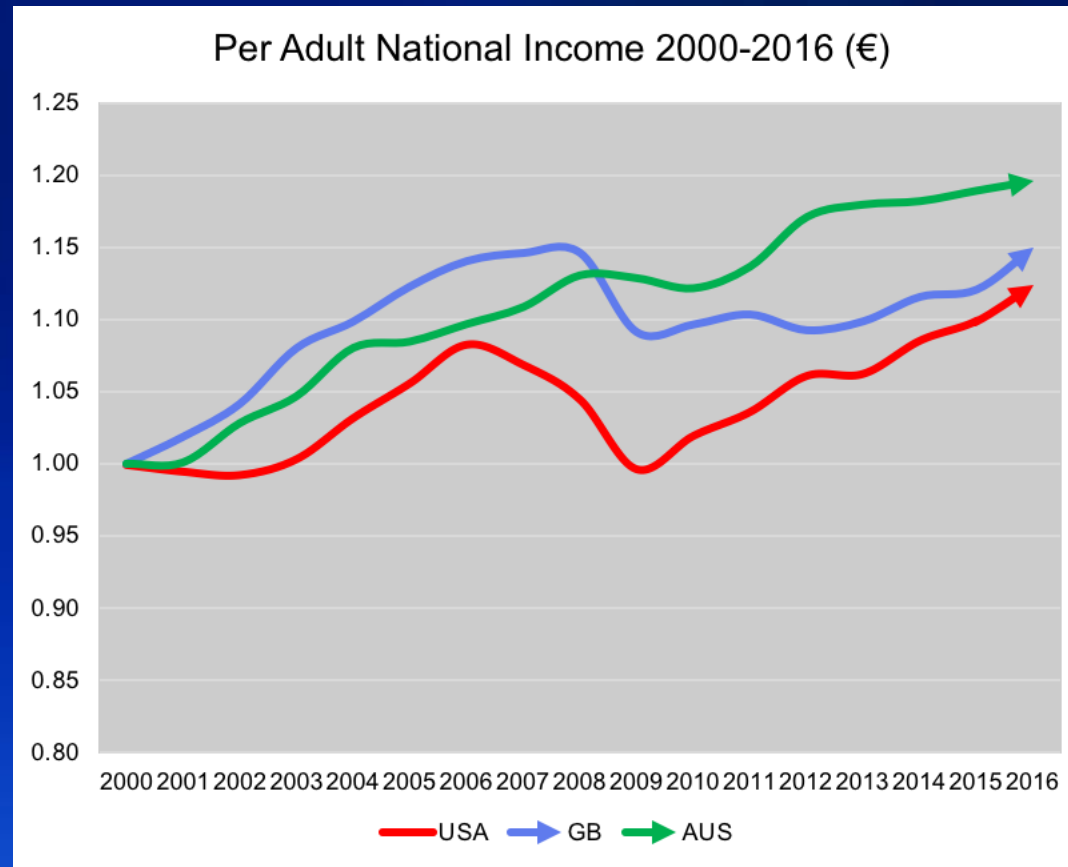




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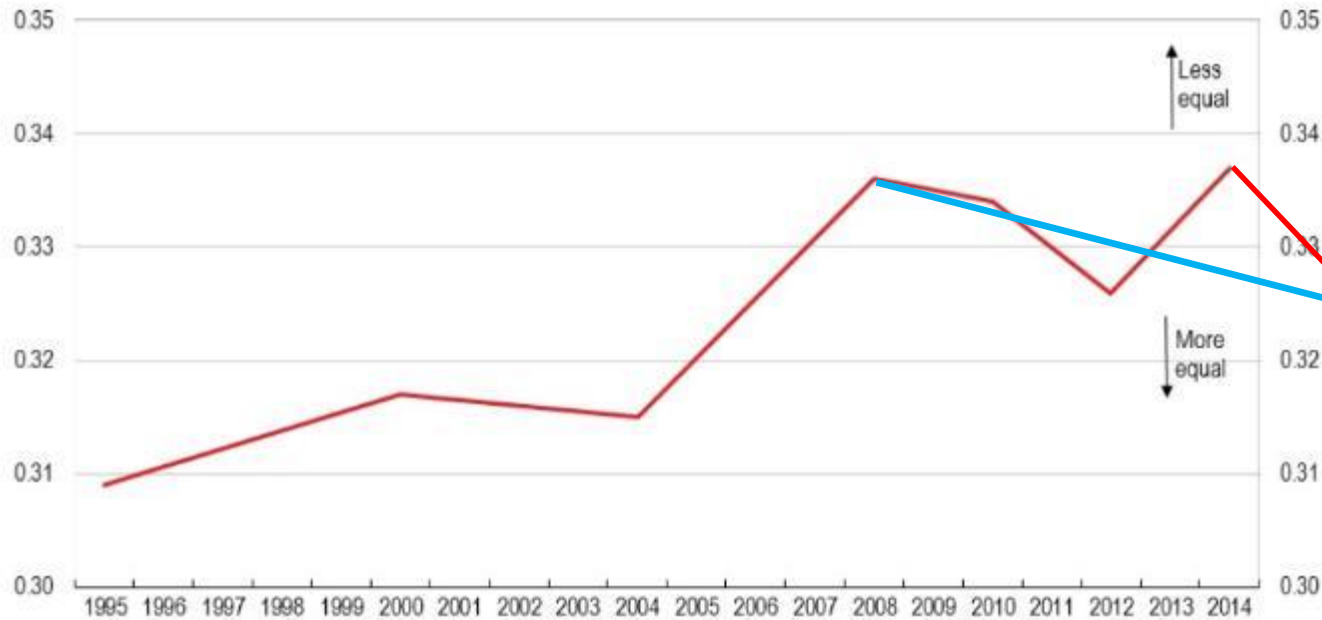


Source: World inequality Database

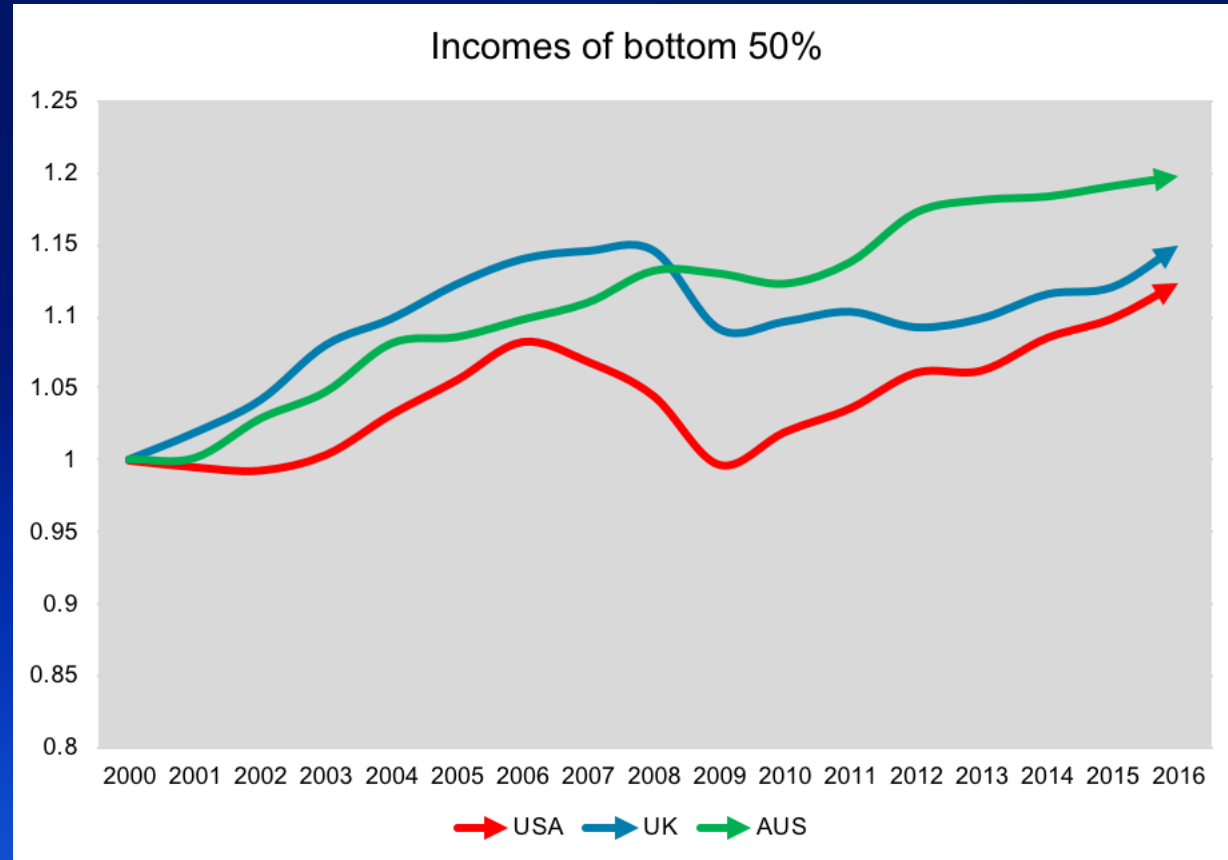


Inequality has risen (but not much and not lately)

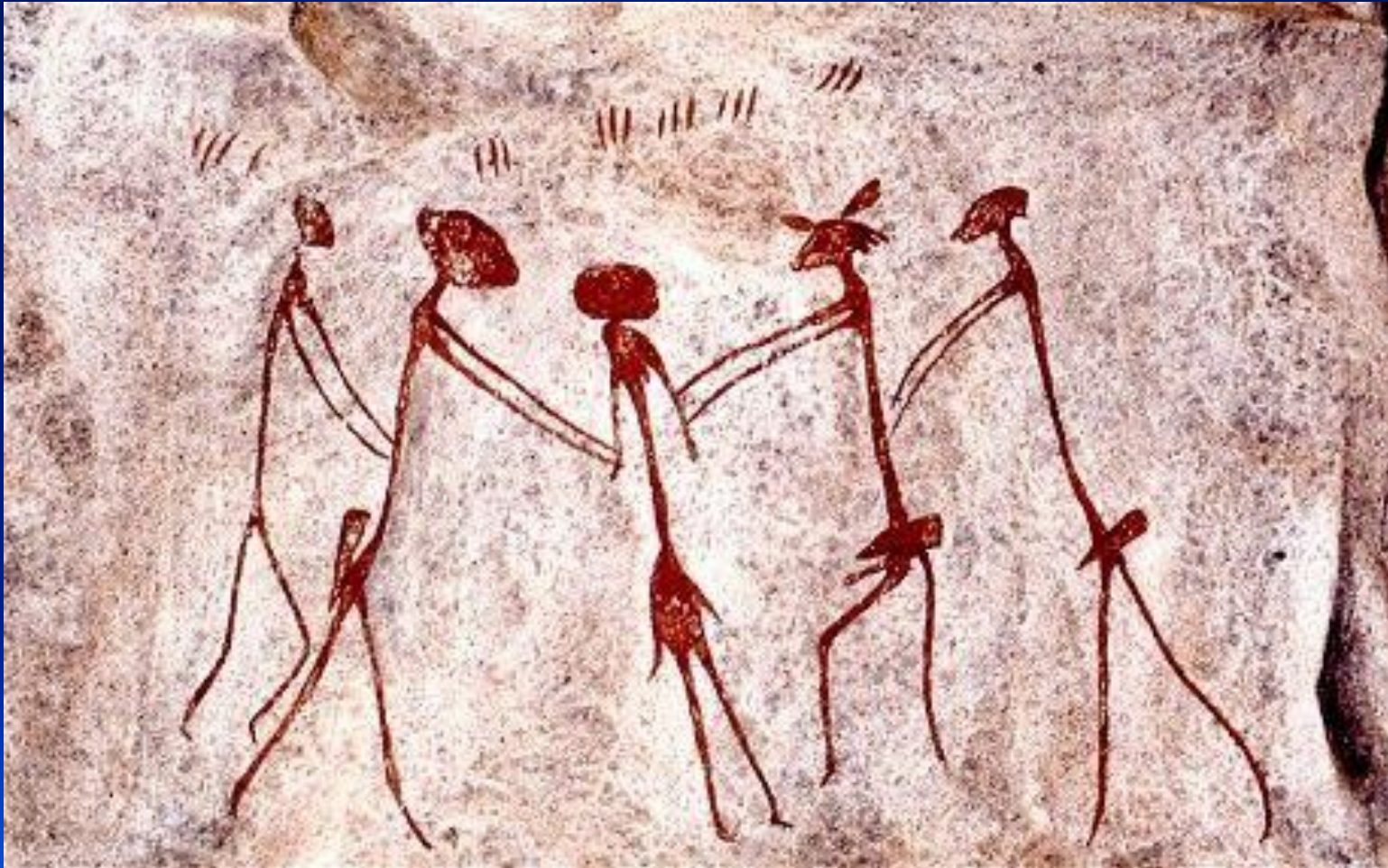
GINI coefficient (disposable income, post taxes and transfers)



Source: OECD Science, Technology and Industry Scoreboard 2015.



Source: World inequality Database



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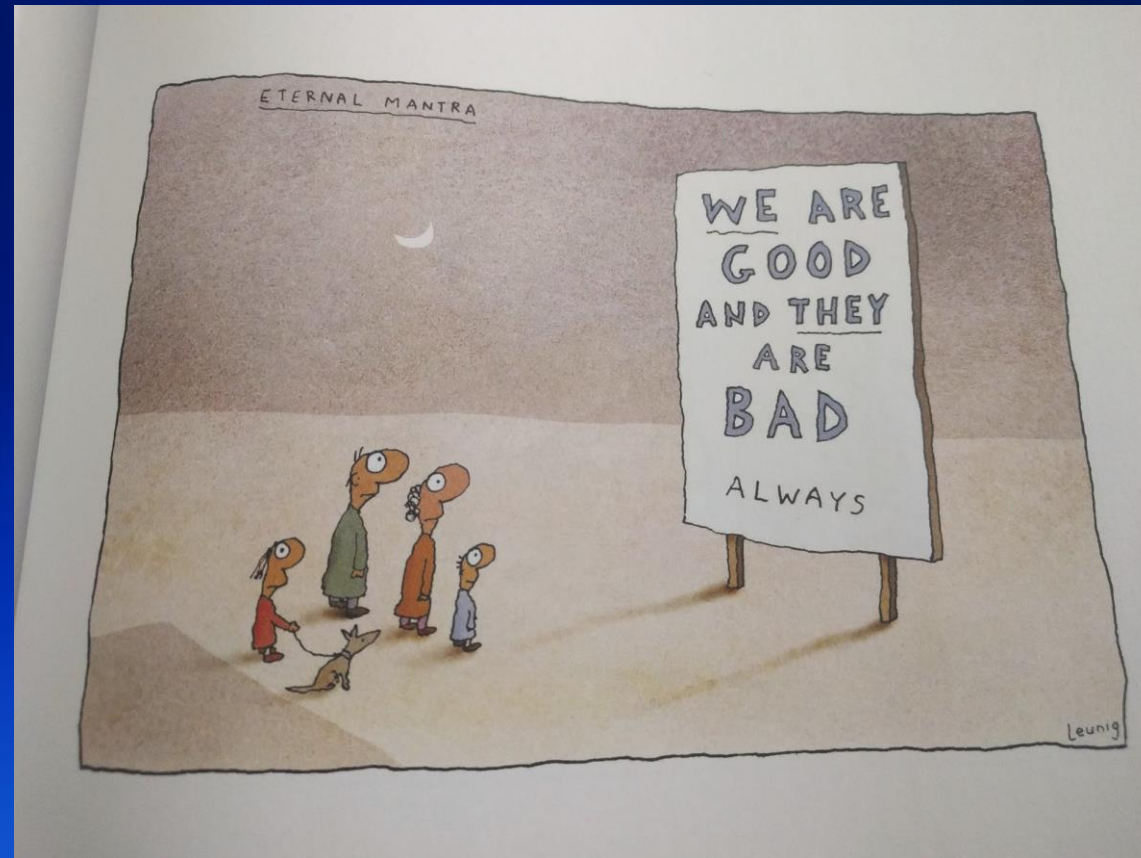
A culture optimised

A culture awash with instant gratification

- Food
- Media
- Advertising
- 24 hour news and current affairs
- content for mobile devices
- Astroturfing
- Astroturfing
- Rise free commentary
- Political punditry and TED talks
- Social media
- Micro-targeted marketing
- Fake News

Sound bytes fell from 48 – 9 Seconds from 1968 to 1988

Politics as culture war





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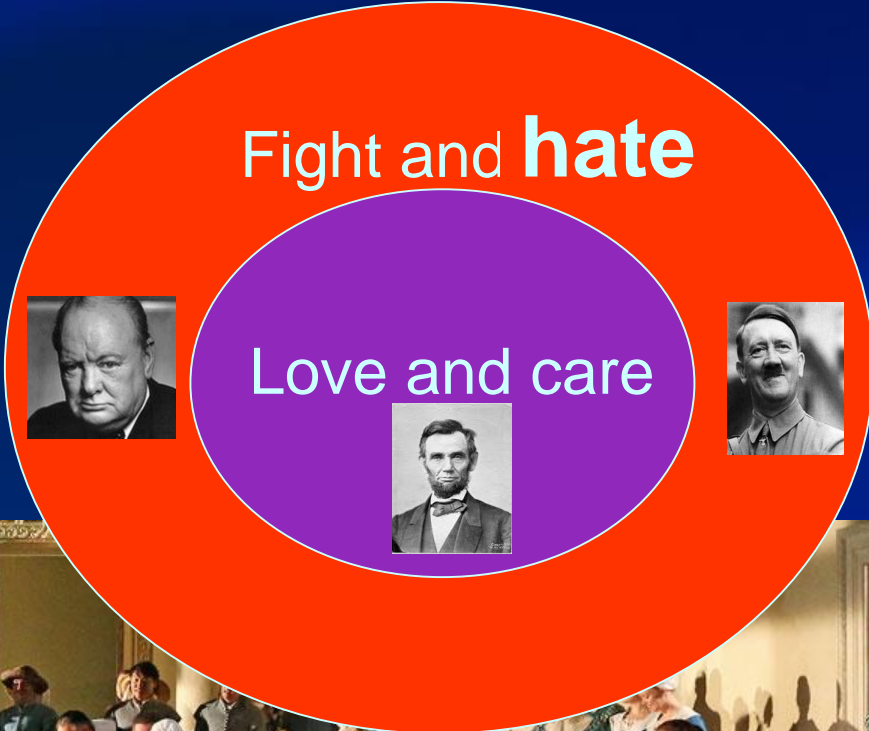
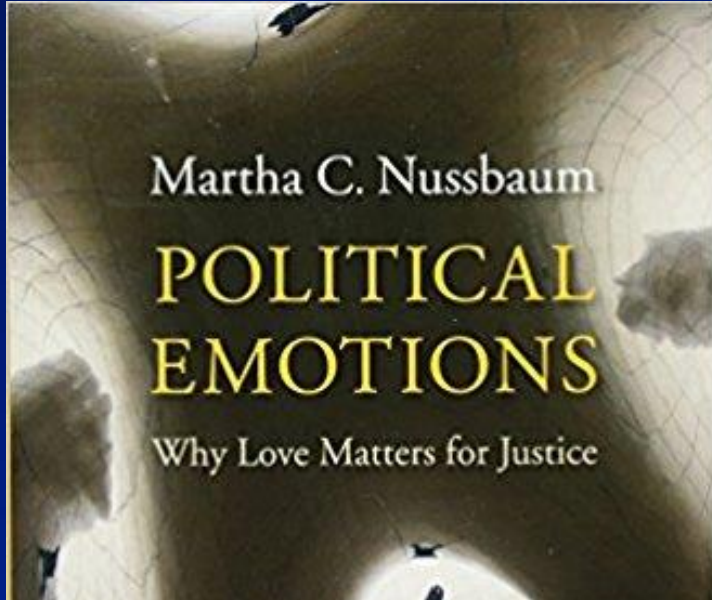
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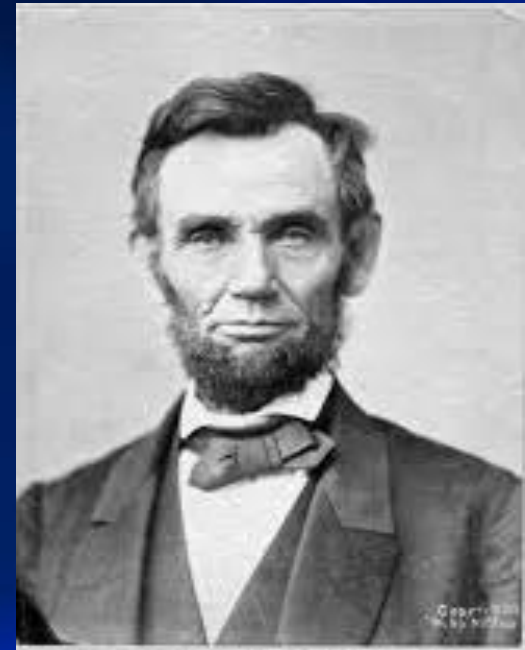


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Emotions bind us for care

Let us strive ... to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations



Emotions bind us to fight

You ask, what is our policy? ... **To wage war with all our might** and with all the strength that God can give us; to wage war against a monstrous tyranny never surpassed in the dark, lamentable catalogue of human crime. That is our policy. You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word: It is victory, victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory, however long and hard the road may be.



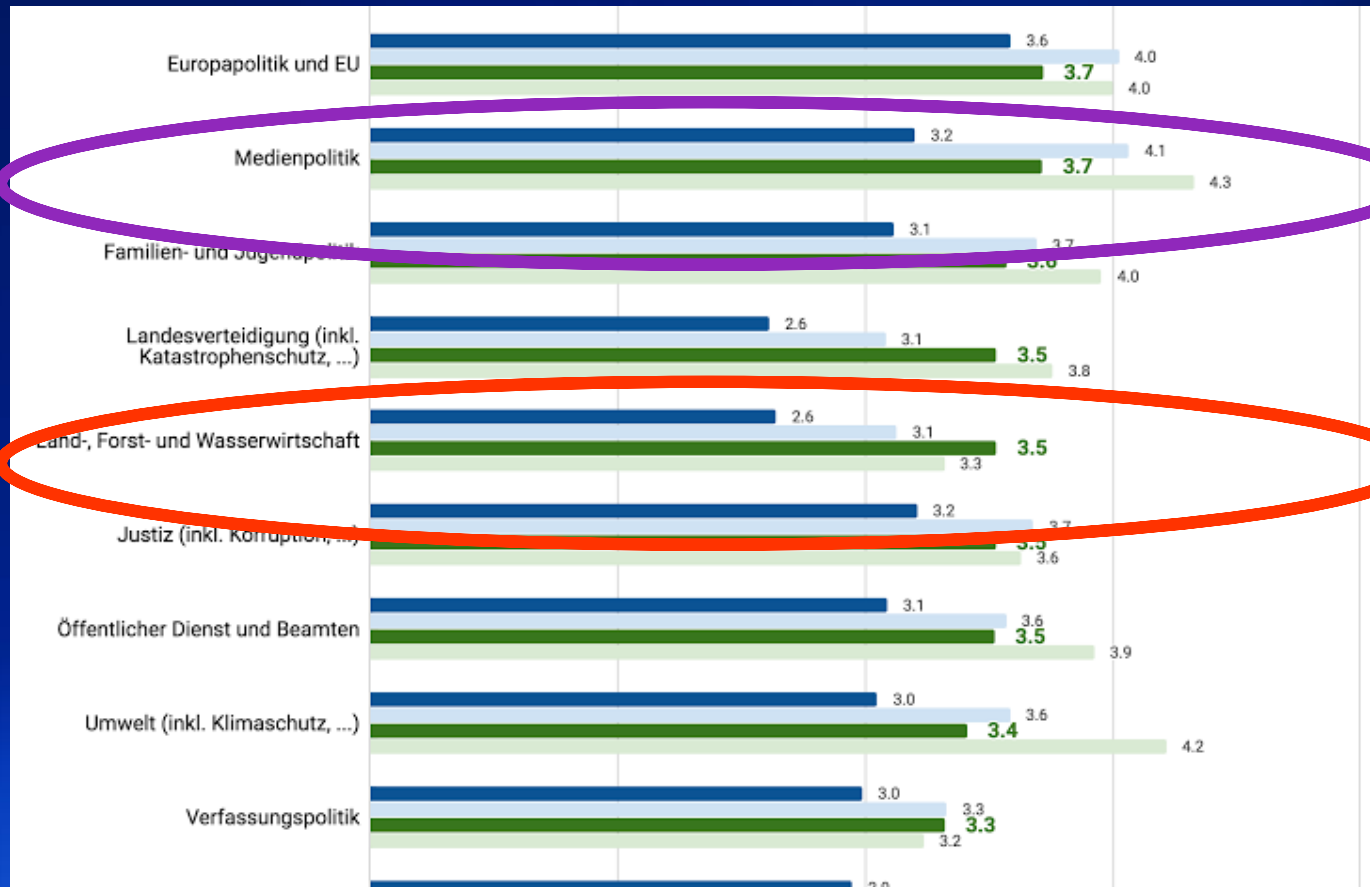
Emotions and toxicity

I use emotion for the many and reserve reason for the few.



The balance of emotions





Meanwhile
in Austria

www.abc.net.au/news/2017-10-14/austrian-election-populist-sebastian-kurz-takes-lead/9046564

Sites ABC Search

MONDAY 17°C Currently 13°
MIN 10° Feels Like 13°
Detail


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Austria election: Populist politicians take the lead as immigration and Islam dominate campaign

By freelance correspondent Kim Trill
Updated 14 Oct 2017, 11:19am



TOP STORIES

- Fairfax says it 'didn't get a fair trial' as Chris Gayle wins defamation suit
- Kevin Spacey apologises for alleged sexual advance on teenage boy
- 'A very bad drunken decision': Richmond's Broad admits sharing photo of topless woman
- 'Catastrophic breach' of Victoria's supervision order system led to bookstore rape, court hears
- 'I am Barnaby': Joyce fires shots at Liberals, calls for constitutional change
- Here's why we don't need a deputy PM
- Man pleads guilty to planning 'mass murder' terror attack in Sydney
- Canadian-born disabled man allowed to remain in Victoria while fighting deportation
- 'We've got nothing' say victims of alleged Pilbara Ponzi scheme
- Diet to boost gut health developed by Perth researchers
- 'Fairness goes out the window' as department chases public housing tenants: ombudsman
- Doctors prepare for deep dive into Las Vegas shooter's brain
- Where does Lewis Hamilton rank among the great F1 drivers?

Pass.pdf Show All

Most issues require balanced emotions ... and thought

Carbon pricing

Tax

Welfare

Migration

Trade negotiation (Brexit in UK, the TPP in Australia)

Nuclear power

Austerity

'Harm minimisation' v escalating criminalisation of illicit drugs

Professional demarcations (like software supported nurses prescribing some antibiotics).

Media irresponsibility

Representing the people

By election

- Aristocracy reformed
- 'Aristocratic'
- Extractive
- Competitive

By Lot

- Interdicts oligarchy
- 'Democratic'
- Generative
- Unitary

ἰσηγορία – isēgoría

Citizens' chambers, the balance of emotions and political culture



Assembly Members rated the Assembly an average of 5.5 out of 6 across the two weekends

86% 'strongly agreed' with the statement "Assemblies like this should be used more often to inform government decision-making."

A further 8% 'agreed' taking 'agree' to 94%.



Safer, more vibrant Adelaide night life

“I’m a man, I’m six foot two, I have no considerations for my safety in Adelaide. Then being with other people: older, smaller, females, you learn that their experiences are very different”

Changes in Jurors' perceptions

“I have a lot more respect for politicians.
People give them a lot of flack but it's so hard
when you have so many conflicting voices
coming at you.

Respect for decision

Table 6.11. The Level of Respect for the Final Result, Even if It Contradicts One's Own Opinion (fourth survey)
(Unit: %)

			Will respect		Won't respect		
			Completely	Moderately	Moderately	At all	
Total		93.2	32.1	61.1	6.8	5.3	1.5
Gender	Male	93.5	39.2	54.3	6.5	4.7	1.7
	Female	92.9	25.2	67.6	7.1	5.9	1.3
Age	19-29	97.1	47.1	50.0	2.9	2.9	-
	30-39	95.0	36.3	58.8	5.0	3.8	1.3
	40-49	95.3	29.9	65.4	4.7	4.7	-
	50-59	91.3	33.7	57.7	8.7	6.7	1.9
	60+	89.2	20.7	68.5	10.8	7.2	3.6
Region	Seoul	94.5	29.4	65.1	5.5	4.6	0.9
	Incheon, Gyeonggi-do	93.5	35.5	58.0	6.5	5.1	1.4
	Daejeon, Chungcheong-do	95.7	34.0	61.7	4.3	2.1	2.1
	Gwangju, Jeolla-do, Jeju	91.2	33.3	57.9	8.8	5.3	3.5
	Daegu, Gangwon-do, Gyeongsangbuk-do	93.0	28.1	64.9	7.0	5.3	1.8
	Busan, Ulsan, Gyeongsangnam-do	90.3	30.6	59.7	9.7	9.7	-

Unitary democracy is *generative*

Turns wariness about politics into enthusiasm

Increases participation

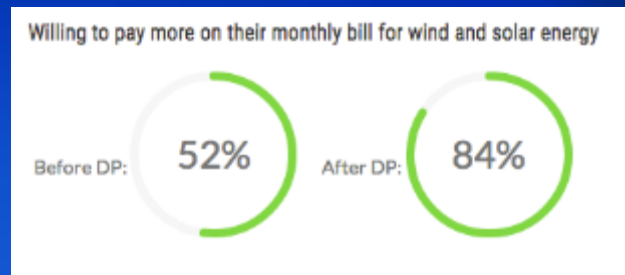
Associated with wider benefits.

How do views change?

More community minded

Less punitive

Moves towards more informed opinion



Citizen juries as activism



Operation Christmas 1914



Greek Crisis

Brexit

War

Timor Gas Treaty

There is little doubt in my mind now that the prevailing sentiment of the South would have been opposed to secession in 1860 ...if there had been a fair and calm expression of opinion.

But demagogues too old to fight, others who entertained so high an opinion of their own ability that they believed they could be spared from affairs of state ... denounced the Northerners as cowards, poltroons, negro-worshippers....

Mr. Jefferson Davis said ... he would drink all the blood spilled if there should be a war.

The young men who would have the fighting to do... believed all these statements...

The great bulk of the voters owned no slaves they too needed emancipation. The old regime looked down upon [them] as poor white trash.

Ulysses S Grant

Citizens' House
Representation by lot

Upper House
Representation of
aristocracy/property

Lower House
Representation by election



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The end

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Representation

By election

- Aristocracy reformed
- 'Aristocratic'
- Extractive
- Competitive

By Lot

- Interdicts oligarchy
- 'Democratic'
- Generative
- Unitary

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