

Islamism & Immigration Is OUT OF CONTROL - Matt Goodwin heretics. 67

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The era of Western nations tolerating people who do not tolerate the West has to end. We've allowed too many people into Western societies who hate who we are, who don't share our values, what we are witnessing is a civilizational moment. It's insane what we're living through.

The British people have been lied to by Boris Johnson and pretty much every frontline mainstream politician of the last 20 years because the British people have been consistently told they would get lower migration and high-skill migration. What they got was everybody's crying out for brave courageous voices that will stare down the mob. I then watched a number of my friends basically be thrown out of the universities or be harassed and discriminated against because of their politics.

I thought that was disgusting. Some of them will say openly they're taking medication to go to sleep at night because of the stress and the mental toll. For every three left-wing academics there was one conservative academic.

Today for every nine left-wing academics there is one conservative academic. Do we blame the students or do we blame the adults who started letting the students have an inordinate amount of power? Jonathan Haidt in the United States has made this argument, Jordan Peterson has made this argument, but actually where I have gone further than others is Give me a little insight for those maybe outside the country or who don't know about your backgrounds. I was born in England.

I became an academic. I became a professor of political science. I work mainly on politics, voting elections, the rise of populism, why people are so fed up with the status quo.

I've also become increasingly fed up with the status quo. I'm known mainly in Britain and Europe as being a commentator, probably a challenging voice, provocative voice. I write a sub-stack which is one of the biggest in the UK.

I generally annoy all the right people. That's what I do. That's an interesting place to start.

What is maybe your most challenging and controversial point that annoys the right people? I wouldn't say this is a controversial point given that 80% of people agree with it in certainly Britain and much of Europe, firstly, I'm very sceptical of mass immigration. I think it's a policy disaster that is weakening, not strengthening our economy and societies. I'm very sceptical of the established institutions.

I think there are lots of people now, millions of people who simply don't feel like they have a voice in the national conversation. I'm very comfortable with things like Brexit and the rise of populist parties. I think they are bringing a silver lining into politics.

I think they're correcting the system in many ways. These all put me on the wrong side or outside of the Overton window, which dominates the mainstream conversation, especially for somebody who works in universities, which as we know, over the last 60 years have moved sharply to the left. If you are like me, if you think on balance actually, you're pretty comfortable with Britain leaving the EU, you think mass immigration is out of control, you're deeply concerned about the direction of Western societies, you're deeply concerned about the rise of radical Islamism, the woke left, the threats to free speech and free expression, that puts you in maybe 1% or 2% on campus.

It's been an interesting 10 years. I'm sure we'll talk a bit about that. Mason Yeah, I do want to know actually, how did that start to feel? The reason I ask is because a lot of us do these podcasts and we say, bloody woke and bloody this and that, and there's the bravado layer here.

How has it actually impacted your day-to-day life and what does it feel like? Richard Yes, I think there are a number of turning points for me. The first arrived in 2016 with that big Brexit referendum before Donald Trump's victory in November. Then you could sense something was brewing.

Unlike most of the people in the universities, when Britain voted to leave the EU, an organisation which I've always felt was insufficiently democratic, it was not a genuine democracy, it was overly bureaucratic, it was quite corrupt, and it's also very inefficient. When Brits voted for that, I thought, well, okay, let's do Brexit. That instantly, and the reaction to that, the hostility, the way in which the elites described Brexit voters, much like they described Trump voters later on as the deplorables, bigots, gammons, Karens, the rest of it, I thought that was disgusting.

That began to push me in a political journey. I then watched a number of my friends basically be thrown out of the universities or be harassed and discriminated against because of their politics. Not just people like Jordan Peterson, who was disinvited from Cambridge, but scholars like Noah Karl, who was essentially chased out of Cambridge because students protested that he was looking at controversial areas like intelligence and a moderate conservative scholar.

Kathleen Stock, the philosopher who was gender critical, she was chased out of Sussex. My good friend Eric Helfman, who was essentially chased out of Birkbeck. I just watched this intolerance playing out among the very people who claimed to be the most tolerant of all.

That too, I think, I don't want to say radicalised me, but certainly made me question

many of the assumptions and ideological priors that I had. Increasingly, as I've moved away from the universities into, let's say, the public realm, the public debate, I've realised just how many people are so utterly frustrated with this status quo in America, Canada, Britain, Europe. Everybody's crying out for basically brave, courageous voices that will stare down the mob and will explain through the lens of evidence and reason why so many of these policies are completely disastrous.

That's essentially my journey. I've got big news. Heretics is expanding to Substack.

I'll be writing weekly articles about the madness of the woke mind virus and also giving out little snippets and things I've learned from episodes with new guests that haven't even gone live on YouTube yet. In just six months, you grew this community from zero to 150,000 subscribers. But Heretics is expensive to run.

With its camera team, guest booker, production assistant, top of the range 4K cameras, moving sliders, editors and social media, it costs about £10,000 or \$13,000 a month. How can you help? Well, I don't want to rely on ads. You, the viewers, are the economic engine that will drive Heretics to the next level.

I'm talking about tours, time to make longer episodes, and bigger guests. This month on Substack I am writing about the email I received that cancelled me from my own book tour, the ten signs that gender ideology is a cult, and whether Britain and the US are racist countries. You'll also get the ad-free podcast early and be able to ask questions to my guests so you'll really be part of the Heretics community.

Most of the content is free with perks for paid members. My first article is up now and it's something I've been holding back and wanting to get off my chest for a long time. So go and sign up on andrewgoldheretics.substack.com. There's a theory that students going to university, they need to have that time where they break away from what their parents' views might be.

Maybe they get a bit irrational. Do we blame the students, or do we blame the adults who started letting the students have an inordinate amount of power? I mean, it's a good question. I think within the higher education sector that there are a couple of things going on.

I think the first is over the last 60 years, all the evidence shows this, universities have swung sharply to the left. I'll give you one example. Here in Britain in the 60s, for every three left-wing academics, there was one conservative academic.

Today, for every nine left-wing academics, there is one conservative academic. So what's the problem with that? Well, when you have an ideological monoculture like that, where only some beliefs are allowed to dominate campus, that emboldens extremists. It emboldens the radical, the woke left, the social justice left that is going even harder and

faster at taking over the university bureaucracy.

It encourages discrimination against political minorities, like conservatives, gender critical scholars, my friends in history who have said actually the legacy of empire in Britain or American history is more complicated and nuanced than the New York Times or the Guardian might have us believe. So it encourages that discrimination. But most of all, it lets down students.

And what's happened is, as the universities have moved sharply to the left, they've also become obsessed with student satisfaction, which is the perceptions of students on campus. And that's now the overriding metric. Are students having a good time? Not are they having a rigorous, intellectually demanding education, but are they having a good, comfortable time? And if they're not, then the university will essentially fall over itself to do whatever it needs to do to ensure that students come first.

So removing controversial speakers, chasing controversial academics off campus, reshaping campus life around the more liberal, progressive values and world views of students. So we're letting them down essentially. And I'm not the only person saying this.

Obviously, Jonathan Haidt in the United States has made this argument. Jordan Peterson has made this argument. But actually where I have gone further than others is I actually campaigned here in the UK for laws that are essentially now forcing universities to protect and promote free speech.

So we've gone a lot further than some of our counterparts in saying, actually, we no longer trust the universities to reform themselves. We're going to push. We did push for a new law here in the UK, the Higher Education Free Speech Act.

Again, maybe very unpopular among my colleagues, but now the universities have a legal requirement to promote and protect free speech on campus. And if you're sacked or you're removed from campus because of your political views, universities can now be heavily fined and sanctioned as a result. Now, I don't like to use the state in this way, but sometimes actually when the institutions won't reform themselves, I think intervention is necessary.

It's making my head swim a bit because I'm thinking we want free speech because of the authoritarian state of universities at the moment. So we have to implement an authoritarian measure to enforce it. Yeah, I think that's partly right.

I mean, but I wouldn't describe it as authoritarian. I would say when you've got institutions that are leaning so strongly in one ideological direction, you do actually have to intervene to try and level the playing field. And because the evidence on just what is happening on campus is so overwhelming in the US and the UK, we have alarmingly

large numbers of academics who openly say they won't have lunch with a Trump voter, they won't have lunch with a Brexit voter, they wouldn't hire an academic to an Ivy League college if they knew that that academic had Republican sympathies.

In many liberal arts colleges, there are no Republicans. We have to ensure that these universities actually allow for a wide range of views. Because look, there are friends of mine who would say the answer is giving up on the institutions and establishing alternative universities.

I'm more nervous about that because I think in the end what you get is essentially segregation along political lines and you get these parallel institutions. My view is, no, let's stay and let's fight and let's reform the institutions so they can actually present and promote a wider range of views and dissenters and unorthodox academics and others can keep their places within those institutions. Mason That's really interesting because Peter Boghossian is one of those that he wants his own- Matthew Peter's a good friend of mine.

Mason Yeah, me too. And he wants to make his own universities, I think. Matthew Yeah.

And I think there's a role for that, what Peter's doing, what the guys at the University of Austin are doing, Neil Ferguson, Eric Kaufman at Buckingham. These are important people making a difference. But I'm not ready to give up on the established institutions.

And I'm not just talking about universities and colleges here. I'm talking about legacy media. I'm talking about the cultural institutions, the creative industries, the museums, the galleries, talking about NPR, BBC, New York Times, whatever.

Over the next 10, 20 years, I think we're either going to reform these institutions or we're going to see wholesale polarization between liberals and conservatives. Now, I'd rather not see that. I'd rather actually work within those institutions.

And even if it means intervening, try and force a better conversation and a better representation of views. Mason You didn't say how it actually felt for you being pushed to the sidelines. You avoided that.

Or pushed out by the sort of legacy people or the former colleagues and things. Matthew I think there are two stages. I think when you are in the institutions, and I've talked with many other professors, if I were to say their names now, the viewers would know immediately who they are.

I'm talking about top level global names. And I've talked to them about what they've experienced in universities as well by expressing countercultural views. Some of them will say openly they're taking medication to go to sleep at night because of the stress and the mental toll.

But it comes down to two stages. I think stage one is shock, anxiety, and worry. Nobody likes to be bullied.

Nobody likes to be harassed. Nobody likes to face regular pylons on social media. Nobody likes to go through the process of character assassination, which is what academics will do to people that they perceive to be opposing or just questioning the new religion on campus, the social justice ideology, the wokeism, whatever your preferred term.

But stage two, and only some people get to stage two, is no to hell with that. I'm actually going to dig in and I'm going to stare these guys down. And I think there are a few people that we can see around the world who got to stage two.

And we all know who they are because they're still fighting. They're in the trenches and they've built up ecosystems. They've built up YouTube channels and sub stacks and think tanks and non-profits and all the rest of it.

Stage two, I think, is where you really get people with courage and resilience. What my experience, and you might have some thoughts on this yourself, but my experience is that stage one is really, really difficult. At stage two, you realize that when you stand up to the mob, there isn't actually much there.

They don't really know what to do with you. They'll try and cancel you, but beyond that, if you survive that, you're basically fine. And other people will come.

You will lose friends, but you will make many more friends along the way because people rally around courage and strength. And I think many people, perhaps like many people watching this show, sense how high the stakes are now. And I think they can sense that actually what we are witnessing is a civilizational moment.

By that, I mean what we are trying to do is to not just defend, but reassert the values, the traditions, and the ways of life, and the collective memory, and the history that essentially is what makes us who we are. And so people can sense now, because of the rise of radical Islamism, the rise of the woke left, because of the collapse of strength and courage among the political class, with the exception of a few individuals, people can sense that actually if something doesn't start to change in the next few years, then it really will be too late to respond to this civilizational moment that we're in. Mason If somebody's just stumbled across this channel, hasn't seen it before, and they're hearing us talk about something like immigration as a bit of an issue, that's going to be maybe for them a red flag, like these are bad people.

So what are some facts and statistics you can give me that might shock those people into understanding that actually there might be some concerns around mass immigration? Matthew Sure. I mean, I think one of the problems we've got within this

conversation are social norms around immigration, this kind of, as you say, instinctive reaction to, well, if you're criticizing immigration, that must have something to do with race or racism. And that reflects how strong the taboo is around this issue, and how much it's been expanded over the last 20 years.

So terms like racism, hate, misinformation, disinformation, what essentially we've seen over the last 20 years, I would argue, is the expansion of those social norms, so that entirely legitimate, acceptable speech and views on those issues is repackaged as being somehow illegitimate and unacceptable. The way to cut through that, I found, is to have an evidence-led conversation about the effects of mass migration on our society. So I'll give you a couple.

We now know from across Europe that the kind of migration that we are now experiencing from outside of Europe, much of it is low-wage, low-skill migration that is taking more out of Western economies than it is putting in. So if you're a rational GDP calculating, cost-benefit analysis kind of person, just simply through a policy lens, you would look at mass immigration and say, this actually isn't working anymore. Because what we're doing is we're just throwing bodies at the economy.

We're getting people to consume. But as we can see, for example, here in the UK, GDP per head is declining. We're not innovative.

We're not dynamic. Why is that? Because we're... One of the big reasons is because we are importing low-wage, low-skill, non-selective migration from areas like Pakistan, India, Nigeria. And I think that in itself is one of the strongest arguments.

Before you get to things like housing, where clearly mass immigration is worsening the housing crisis, we see it in Canada, a big acceptance now that the experiment with mass immigration, as in Sweden, has been a complete disaster. And now in the UK, we have a lot of evidence to show much the same, which is that it is driving up rents, it's driving up house prices, and essentially is pricing out British kids and British families from the housing market. And that's before you get to what we call the cultural arguments, before you get to the dissolution of our shared cultural memory, the dissolution of shared cultural values that are needed to create high-trust, cohesive societies.

Robert Putnam at Harvard made this argument 10 years ago, which is that in highly diverse societies that are experiencing rapid, ongoing demographic change, you tend to have lower levels of social trust, you tend to have weaker social cohesion, communities find it is harder to keep them stuck together. And as a consequence, you then get higher levels of political distrust, you get lots of voters turning to populist parties, you get more polarization. My argument has been pretty consistently that elites need to listen to voters by dramatically lowering migration, by developing new policies for integrating who is already in Western societies, and by reasserting what is it that actually holds us together as a society.

What are our values? What's our shared history? What's our shared culture? What are our ways of life? And also, what are the lines in the sand? Because we need to start drawing some lines in the sand as to who we're going to allow into our country and who we're not. And one of my arguments has been the era of Western nations tolerating people who do not tolerate the West has to end. That's one of the critical underlying points in our time today, because the more that we tolerate people who don't tolerate us, the quicker we're going to lose these societies.

I saw this morning as well, somebody said, just to keep up with immigration now, we have to build 250,000 homes per year, just to keep up. Well, that's too low, actually. I'll give you some stats in the UK, we built 170,000 homes last year.

The government target is 300,000 homes. So we're not even coming close to meeting the government target. But here's the thing, if we maintain the current rate of immigration into the UK, net immigration this year in 2024, just coming up the latest data that we've got, 685,000 a year.

Just to maintain the demand, which is overwhelmingly being driven by migration, we need to be building 515,000 homes every year going forward. We're about 4 million homes short of what we need. So what I'm saying is, look at where a country like the UK is going.

Between now and 2036, if you take the government's own forecast, we're going to have another 6.5 million people coming into the country in 12 years. That's basically 10% population growth in little over a decade. So it took us 50 years to go from 55 million people to 65 million people.

It's going to take us 20 years to go from 65 million to 75 million. The pace of change that we're going to see in this country over the next decade, people haven't really even begun to understand how much change we're going to see. 92% of all of our population growth here in the UK will be down to immigration.

So we are going to become very quickly a much more ethnically, religiously, culturally, demographically diverse society, where I think it's going to become obvious to everybody pretty quickly that because a lot of that migration is from outside of Europe, it's going to become incredibly hard for us to simultaneously maintain the cultural bonds, the values, the traditions, the ways of life that make us who we are, that define our society. So it isn't just about GDP. It isn't just about housing.

To go back to the 60s and something Bobby Kennedy said is, it's also about all the things that GDP doesn't measure. It's about our ability to get on with our neighbours, our sense of belonging, our belief in the better side of our country and the better side of who we are. A lot of that stuff is going to be challenged over the next 10 years in ways that I don't think we can really currently comprehend.

It's really scary. I'm not somebody who is that au fait with the microcosm of daily government things. So can you explain in a lay level, who is the person in government now going, well, we need more of this and why? Well I would say what we have is a political class overall, both within the mainstream political parties and the bureaucracy of government departments that lean much further to the cultural left than the average voter.

And that includes the Conservative Party, by the way. This idea that what we're living through in much of Europe is a kind of resurgence of the Third Reich and hard right politics is something that liberals like to talk about. But I mean, it's clearly not actually borne out in terms of policy.

If you were to take somebody like Boris Johnson and the British Tories, well, they've liberalized the immigration system to a degree that not even New Labour and Tony Blair would have done. They presided over an explosion of immigration. And that has partly been pushed on by people in the treasury, economic-minded civil servants who view mass migration as basically a sticking plaster for many of the problems that we don't really want to fix.

So they're looking at how we can keep people working in the social care system, how we can keep people working in the National Health Service, how we can keep international students going into the universities. The more difficult longer term solutions to those problems is to think about, well, how do you pay more people, pay people more money in the social care system? How do you get more British kids to go into the National Health Service? Do we need as many universities as we currently have? Is the higher education system really working? But instead of dealing with all of that, what we have is a political class that is basically saying, well, let's just use mass migration as a way of putting off these choices and let's have an era of what I would argue is managed decline. And I think across the West, what we're living in is an era of managed decline.

And it's not a conspiracy, it's just a combination of incompetence, ideological motivations on the left of politics, and I think a lot of conservative centre-right politicians who are unwilling to challenge the dominant consensus and the status quo. And those who do, like Donald Trump or Marine Le Pen or Nigel Farage or the Brexiteers or whoever, are roundly criticised for doing so and are basically attacked non-stop. So we have a kind of embedded political class that I think is fully invested in this policy of mass migration.

But do we need some amount of... Sorry, this just seems mad. This just seems really mad, and it's maddening. We're seeing the country just fall apart before our eyes right now.

Matthew Feeney It's insane what we're living through. I'll just give you one stat, just so viewers don't... because they might not know this. We've had two million people come into the UK over the last two or three years.

Two million people. What percentage of those do you think came in on a high-skilled working visa, that came in to take high-skill, good jobs that are driving growth in the economy? Rupert Murdoch That must be relatively low. Matthew Feeney 15%.

Rupert Murdoch 15%. Matthew Feeney 1.5%. So you say, who are the rest? Well, the rest are relatives of those workers, students, relatives of students, asylum seekers, illegal migrants. A lot of people coming in to do jobs that are below the median wage, are low-skill, non-selective.

What I'm saying, just to be absolutely clear, the British people have been lied to by Boris Johnson, Dominic Cummings, and pretty much every frontline mainstream politician of the last 20 years, because the British people have been consistently told they would get lower migration and high-skill migration. What they got was mass migration, uncontrolled migration, low-skill migration, low-wage migration, which is surely, steadily undermining the country and essentially diluting who we are. Nobody's being real with people about this.

The US is going through a very similar process, the collapse of control on the southern border, the rapid increase in illegal and legal migration. Canada has now finally accepted that this policy has been a disaster. Sweden, people on the left and the right now accept mass migration has been a complete catastrophe, leading to open gang violence and bombings in downtown Stockholm.

The Germans are now coming to the same conclusion, as are the Italians. The only people who aren't are the radical, for lack of a better word, woke left people who tend to dominate the institutions and the architecture of politics. The average person out there on the street can sense what's happening.

They can sense it's a disaster. They know it's suppressing their wages. They know it's undermining the economy.

More importantly, they know it's putting themselves and their families at risk, because what we now have is a very real and present security risk, which we can see in the aftermath of October 7th. More clearly than ever before, we've allowed too many people into Western societies who hate who we are, who don't share our values, and who are not fully invested in upholding the rule of law, our traditions, culture, and ways of life. Mason Does Australia have a different system than when they're a little bit more picky about who they let in? The Australians have had a points-based system, and that was the original inspiration for what Boris Johnson tried to do in the UK.

What quickly became apparent is that, basically, the government had no real interest in implementing a high school policy. They essentially lowered all the salary thresholds. They've now been trying to raise them to deal with the mess they've created.

They've simultaneously lost control of the borders, because while the UK left the European Union through Brexit, we didn't actually leave many of the...

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