

## **Matt Goodwin - I and I Is OUT OF CONTROL part 2**

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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. But what quickly became apparent is that basically the government had no real interest in implementing a high school policy. So they essentially lowered all the salary thresholds.

They've now been trying to raise them to deal with the mess they've created. And 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 things that would have allowed us to genuinely take control of our borders like the European Convention on Human Rights. We didn't reform the Human Rights Act.

We didn't reform things like the Equalities Act as well. So many things that were left over by Tony Blair and the Labour government, you know, Boris Johnson and the Conservatives could have completely rewired this country. They could have completely set a different foundation.

But for the Americans looking in at the UK, if you really want to understand why this fiasco and this failure has continued, I have to say Boris Johnson is a major reason why. Because he was never really a conservative. He was a bohemian liberal.

He basically liberalised the whole system. Oh my God. Have we gotten to a point of, and it sounds like we have, of no return, especially with regards to political Islamism? Well, I wouldn't say a point of no return.

I would say what we are witnessing, particularly in the aftermath of October 7th, though it's been a long time coming, is the rise of sectarianism in our politics. And by that, what I mean is the organisation of politics around openly ethnic religious lines. And we've seen this in the rise of people like George Galloway, who have specifically targeted British Muslim voters.

We've seen it in the rise of now Green Party councillors at the local level, who are celebrating their election by screaming Allah Akbar and so on. And we also see it in the surveys. I mean, we've had recent surveys that suggest 40% of British Muslims would like a Muslim only political party.

And we see it in very high levels of segregation in large parts of non-London England. People like Ed Hussain have talked about this quite openly. I was quite influenced by his book, *Among the Mosques*, where he turned up unannounced and made the point that in many parts of England, particularly outside of the big cities, although in some areas of

London too, if you are a young British Muslim, you can essentially live your life now without integrating into wider British society.

You can go to heavily segregated schools. You can go to your neighbourhood. You can go to the mosque.

You can basically live in isolation from wider British society. The attitudes that we've seen in surveys regarding the events of October 7th, we've seen alarmingly large numbers of British Muslims denying the murder and rape of Jews on October 7th, which I found particularly uncomfortable. And we've seen very high levels of support and sympathy for Hamas.

So we have a serious problem in the UK, which is feeding off two things. One is a continuation of the policy of mass immigration, which needs to stop. And the other has been the continued failure of our elites to integrate societies, to basically do what the Danes and now the Swedes have been trying to do, which is to be much more assertive and robust at integrating different communities into a shared national community.

It's impossible to do that while running mass immigration, I would argue. I think where we're probably going to end up is needing some kind of break, like a five-year break on migration and trying to incentivise and force some kind of assimilation and integration at the local level. Otherwise, we're going to end up with much higher rates of segregation.

We're going to end up with lots more white flight, where white Brits are basically moving out of more diverse areas. And we're going to end up with this more sectarian politics, which is going to be much more organised along ethnic, racial, religious lines, which I don't think any of us want to see. But that will be the inevitable consequence of this, partly because two, the rise of radical Islamism is feeding directly off the rise of the cultural left.

And what I've argued is there is a toxic alliance between the two movements now. We have to be clear in our thinking, what is it that the radical cultural left and radical Islamists have in common? They're both illiberal. They both prioritise group identities over individual rights.

They're both revolutionary. They want to overthrow Western societies and our ways of life. They're both suspicious, if not hostile, to objective scientific evidence and knowledge that undermines their core claims.

They both use blasphemy codes to shut down dissenters. You're either a racist or you're Islamophobic. They're both religious movements.

I mean, the woke left is a new religion, to quote John McWhorter, the professor at Columbia. And so they've got a lot in common. But because the woke left tend to dominate many of the institutions, the identity politics that they are embedding within

the institutions, within our schools, within our universities, gives a free pass to radical Islamists because they're a minority.

So essentially within the world view of the woke left, which I would define as being really about the viewing all minority groups as sacred and morally superior to the majority, radical Islamists get a free pass, which is what we've seen every week in London on the protests against Israel and where we've seen open support for Hamas. Islamist terrorists have been given a free pass because the woke left allows that to happen. And that is what I'm concerned about.

It is the interplay between the two. It's that toxic combination. I've now got to a point where every episode of the podcast I say that Hitchens quote that I've now forgotten, but the barbarians never take a city until someone holds the gates open for them.

Well, I think what is concerning is the extent to which... I've passed through an institution where it's become very visible to me how strongly embedded the identity politics or what Yasha Munk would call the identity trap is now in our institutions. It pervades everything. This binary worldview of minorities being sacred and the majority white group, including Jews, being morally inferior and so on.

We don't need to rehash the identity politics stuff. But what worries me, firstly, the extent to which moderate liberals and centrists are going along with this and not calling it out, even though they know it's not defending the heart of liberal democracy, which is about pluralism, bargaining, compromise, the lack of organization among those who are trying to oppose it, and also the generational trends. So if you look at all of the major surveys that my friend Eric Kaufman, among others, have shown, the Millennials and the Gen Z, the Zoomers who are coming up behind my generation, Gen X, are more fully invested in that ideology than Gen X and the baby boomers, much more fully invested in seeing the world through this very warped lens backed up by the celebrity class and social media.

So we have to, I think, hold people more to account at trying to get back to these shared stories about who we are, which aren't just about our group identities. There has to be something else, and it has to be rooted in a reassertion of who we are, and not being apologetic about who we are. Mason Do we need some levels of immigration? Does everyone need immigration? Al-Khalili Of course we do, yeah.

We need some immigration. I have no problem at all in saying we probably, in the UK, would need somewhere around maybe a net migration rate of somewhere around 50,000, maybe between 50 and 100k over the longer term, but it needs to be high skill. Ideally, migration from culturally compatible, similar nations, and migration that is not only built around filling gaps in our economy, but is also built around strengthening the cultural and social fabric that makes us who we are.

So that's where most voters are, by the way. Most voters are saying, look, my ideal level of migration is probably around 50,000 net migration. But as I say, in the short term, what we might need is actually just a break on migration of some description, because what we have at the moment is completely unsustainable.

Mason It does sound quite depressing, because I don't think you believe for a second that they are going to do something like that, the politicians. Al-Khalili No, I have come to the view that our politics is completely broken, and we're going to need some kind of new movement or vessel that is going to basically reassert the values and the voice of ordinary people that is going to be anchored in the principle of popular sovereignty, which is going to put, a bit like Brexit, the majority view against the elite minority. And on these issues like immigration, crime, embedding a principle of national preference into the economy, into housing, we see large majorities of people, 70, 80% are very supportive of all of those things.

So I'm of the view that after 2024, we've got massive elections in Europe, the UK, the US. I think there has to now be a new generation of people who can actually come forward and say, look, this political consensus isn't working. The status quo isn't working.

The political parties that were built in the time of the Industrial Revolution, they're no longer really working for a majority of people in the country. We're going to need something different. The question is, what is that thing? What does it look like? And who does it draw together? It needs to position itself as being above left and right, and it needs to speak very loudly for the forgotten majority.

And if it does that, and it does it convincingly and in a credible way, it will be enormously successful, because I'm firmly of the view that the political zeitgeist that we currently have, big state, high tax, mass migration, low growth, pro-woke, is completely at odds with where the vast majority of people are. And we've seen that in places like Scotland. We've seen it in places like New Zealand, in Canada, in Australia.

When a lot of these elite positions are put before the people, they are rejected en masse. So we need to create new political vehicles. Why do we pander so much to the woke? Because it appears that they would lose any kind of election.

They don't seem to make up any kind of majority. Why are they being pandered to? I don't think that they're being pandered to. I think they have power.

I think they have consolidated their power over the last 20, 30 years. I think, as we know from all of the surveys, the people that we would associate with the social justice left, the woke movement, whatever your preferred term, and I understand why people are dismissive of the word woke, but they are undergraduate, postgraduate degree holders. They live in the big cities, the university towns.

They come from privileged families. They've got a large degree of economic security. They also disproportionately dominate the institutions.

They tend to work in universities, in the museums, in the galleries, in the BBC, in NPR, New York Times, et cetera, et cetera. And so they don't only wield power within the actual corridors of power, but they also wield an enormous amount of cultural power in the national conversation in terms of shaping the prevailing norms, rules, laws, values that they claim represent us. And actually, that conversation is not the conversation that the vast majority of people out there in the country want to have, but on multiple levels, they're wielding political, cultural, and economic power.

So they are able to do many of the things that we've seen. In Scotland, where they push for children to be able to legally change their gender without any supervision, or in the UK, where the incoming likely Labour government is saying it's going to give away government contracts on the basis of race and ethnicity, or it's going to make it easier for children to change their gender, or in the US, where we've seen similar calls among Democrats and others to completely overhaul policing, which by all accounts has been a complete disaster in low-income, crime-ridden societies. And I'm a pollster too, so whenever you put these positions out to the country, they're usually 15% to 20% positions, renaming pregnant women pregnant persons.

I mean, that's supported by 10% of people. But as we saw in the UK with the Cass Review of our National Health Service, what's happened is the elite expert class have gone so far in on things like gender ideology, where they're basically pushing kids down the medical transition pathway, they're not actually anchored in evidence anymore. And that's one of the most disturbing aspects of this for me, that when you look at the expert elite class, and they're all saying, well, why doesn't anybody trust the experts anymore? Well, if you look at things like the major government review, the Cass Review, Dr. Hilary Cass, she looked at gender ideology in our healthcare services, and basically said, look, a lot of the stuff that's happening here that's being promoted by the expert class just doesn't have anywhere near enough evidence to be happening.

I mean, there's just insufficient evidence to be doing this stuff to kids. So I actually think people have been justified in questioning the experts, because it isn't just about stuff like that review. It's these disastrous foreign wars in Afghanistan, Libya, Syria, Iraq.

It's endless inequality. It's a global financial crash, and not bothering to really punish anybody responsible for it. It's not regulating financial services.

It's the constant elite failures for much of the last 20 years, I think, have led people to look at all of these issues and think, well, hang on a minute. I'm not actually convinced the expert elite class does get things right. Maybe it is time for something different.

Mason That's right. I find when people don't like us using the word woke. I sort of agreed

at first.

Now I started thinking about it. I find that really insidious. It's this slippery kind of thing where we know they were using it about themselves.

Even still, many of them will say, oh, woke just means being aware of unconscious bias and this kind of thing. Then when we use the word, they go, that's a bit simplistic, and that's not the thing. We know exactly what we mean when we use it.

I think we should say it. Matthew I think just briefly, woke is a useful catch-all term. Don't start the culture war.

Say the people who started the culture war. I prefer the term radical progressivism because that's what it is. It's radical liberal progressivism, which has a history that goes back really to the early 1900s in New York and Greenwich Village and the Bohemians.

We can go into all of that if you want. I think it's a very distinctive ideology with a distinctive history, which has not come from Marxism, by the way. It's certainly been influenced by Marxism, but it's come from within liberalism.

It's got traits of liberalism about it, the obsession with minorities being virtuous, the disdain or the suspicion of the majority group. A lot of that comes from liberalism, not Marxism. Over the last 50 to 100 years has increasingly asserted itself onto the institutions and the cultural fabric.

Whether you call it woke, whether you call it social justice, identity politics, radical progressivism, we all know what it is. I think we have a good handle on what the identity politics part is about. I think moderate liberals and center-left folks are beginning to wake up to the problems inherent in this worldview.

I've been influenced by many people on the left. Yashat Monk, Susan Neiman, Karl Rhoades, David Brooks, people... Well, David would describe himself as a moderate conservative, but people who... David Goodhart, people who I think have often come from a center-left position, what we might call a moderate center-left position, but who have said, well, hang on a minute. This radical progressivism isn't even liberal at all.

I mean, what is this? And I think slowly, Tony Blair and Barack Obama and others have sort of been saying, yeah, hang on. This is getting too radical, and this isn't really helping the left cause. So it's important.

We're not just talking about right-wing culture warriors. We're talking about a growing consensus within the center-right, center-left, and so on, classical liberals, that what we've let out the bag here is not liberal at all. Yeah.

I like that Obama thing. You know, that's not woke. You know, woke, whatever.

That's not cool. I don't know what he said. I don't remember what he said now, but it was good.

Good impression. Yeah, it didn't come out how I thought. I thought for some reason, oh, I must be able to do an impersonation of someone I've never tried to impersonate before, but it didn't happen.

So, I mean, one of the places we've seen this historically, I know you went back to, what was it, Greenwich Village, you said. But Iran in, what was it, the 1970s, was it? The leftists siding with the Islamists, and the Islamists got into power with their help and then killed them all. It's the frog and scorpion.

And, you know, historians, Tom Holland and others, would argue that what we're living through is something that goes back centuries and draws on, you know, many traditions and legacies within Christianity and so on. So, yeah, I think we can all agree, and it's been a long time coming, but we are, you know, this debate about have we reached peak woke, which, you know, is a fashionable debate among elites. My instinctive read on that, looking at surveys of millennials in Gen Z, my instinctive read looking at what's happening in the institutions, is we've only just begun to see what's going to be happening in Western societies.

I think this is just going to accelerate. The embrace- But woke's going to get worse. Yeah, I think the embrace of woke capitalism, I think the embrace of identity politics, I think the rise of center-left parties that are much more radical on cultural issues than they used to be.

And remember, one of the things that is driving this, which takes us into some of the arguments that are popular in the US, one of the things that's driving this is a reaction of radical progressives and liberals to the rise of people like Donald Trump or the rise of things like Brexit or Marine Le Pen and so on. So as the populists do better, as they're drawing in working-class voters and conservatives, non-graduates and so on, as they do better and better at elections, I think liberals are going to radicalize even more the kind of great awakening that scholars like Zach Goldberg and others have tracked. And I think that they're going to become even more committed to this worldview over the next 10, 20 years, because fundamentally, the elite liberal class want to disassociate themselves from the masses, because partly this is about status.

They want to be seen as part of what Rob Henderson would call the luxury belief class. They want to project the beliefs that win you status and esteem among the high end of society, and they want to disassociate themselves from the Trump-voting, Brexit-voting masses. But I think they also genuinely feel threatened.

I think they genuinely believe they're living in a revival of German Nazism. I think they think that we're on the end of days and that Donald Trump is the new Adolf Hitler. And I

think in response to that, they are radicalizing and becoming much more accepting of the radical cultural left.

And you see that in a lot of the survey data. So this isn't about, I don't think, this isn't just about people on the right expressing their anger and frustration at what's happening in the West. This is also about the fact that we are living through the greatest radicalization of the elite class since the 1960s.

I think we are living through the radicalization of the elite class, of the people who dominate the institutions, who've basically gone off a cliff on a lot of these issues around migration, identity, gender, history, and now basically define themselves by being anti-Western, radically progressive, pro-immigration, pro-Islam, anti-Israel. And for them, it's become now an overriding identity. And that's where I think we are.

Mason Do we have to worry? I mean, we're humans as well. We have the same evolutionary biology. Do we have to worry about also reacting and moving too far the other way and maybe picking evidence that suits our purpose against the woke? Richard Yes, I think we do.

Yeah, absolutely. Everybody is vulnerable to confirmation bias, to choosing the evidence that fits with our beliefs, motivated reasoning, interpreting that evidence in a way that's consistent with our beliefs, to tribalism. But again, this goes back to why free speech, free expression, and a diversity of viewpoints within the institutions is so important because you cannot counter confirmation bias, motivated reasoning, and tribalism unless you expose people to alternative viewpoints.

So if the institutions are all dominated by the same kinds of people with the same kinds of values, with the same kinds of backgrounds, and the same kinds of political loyalties, well, we're not going to be able to challenge the confirmation bias and the motivated reasoning and so on. So the institutions become a monoculture, and then everybody else ends up just breaking off. And that is, by the way, why we're seeing the rise of this alternative ecosystem on YouTube and with the substacks, with the new television channels, with all of the new media, which I personally think is extremely positive and beneficial so long as it remains within the parameters of a democratic conversation.

I mean, I personally have absolutely no interest in anything that would position itself against representative democracy. - Yeah, it does seem that historically, looking back, that there's probably never been an example of the people saying, hey, we need more diversity of thought. We need all the different people being the bad guys.

You know, we all need to debate more. We need to talk more. So that's what makes me think, okay, obviously I have my biases, but that's what I'm keeping close to me.

It sounds like that's important to you as well. - Oh, absolutely. - I've got another



question for you, but first, where can people find your work? – They'll find my substack, Matt Goodwin's substack.

So we're now one of the largest substacks in the UK. We're very countercultural. We challenge a lot of myths and conventional wisdoms.

And again, I think that's needed more than ever in our conversation. We have quite a big audience in the US, a lot of Californians with us who I think probably are seeing many of the same things playing out in America, but primarily substack and of course on X. – Yeah, I was wondering if there's like a microcosm or like a different, a smaller version, I suppose, of what's happening with people coming from different countries to the UK and then trying to change the culture. Would an example of that be maybe San Francisco? You've got the sort of work left there.

They all seem to be moving to Texas and the Texans are like, what the hell's going on here? And it's like, if you like the Texan life, then maybe it's your views that are wrong rather than you need to go and enjoy their life and then ruin their state. – Yeah, in the UK, I guess we're seeing, I mean, I work at the University of Kent, so we're seeing a lot of Londoners moving out to Kent and that's creating a sort of mini culture war because the Londoners are bringing their particular values and priorities and taste to what is a very, what's a pro-Brexit county. And the locals would refer to Londoners as DFLs, so down from London.

And then the Londoners would refer to the people from Kent as DFLs, dumb effing locals. So you've got this ongoing little microcosm of a culture war brewing between the big cities and the provincial areas. But I don't, you know, we're too small to be doing the Texas, Florida thing, but we're seeing, we are certainly seeing a lot of people segregating in response to some of these issues like immigration.

I have loads of my friends are moving out of London. A lot of people, you know, a lot of Zoomers as well, to go back to Peter Hitchens. It all comes back to Peter Hitchens, the older you get, you realize, but a lot of Zoomers in their 20s, if you stick around the pubs in Westminster, we will hear them talking about the great retreat, you know, in terms of where they're going to spend the rest of their lives because they're not going to spend it in the UK.

And I think there is an overriding sense that my friend Ed West, who is also, I mean, he's very funny and insightful, conservative writer, has made this point about us no longer being able to enjoy the nice things because we all now are aware of our ways of life, cultural traditions, rule of law, stability being undermined and steadily, but surely breaking apart. And I think people feel that now in the UK, you know, I mean, I was born in 1981 and I think through my lifetime, I certainly become aware of the extent to which people are, you know, sort of giving up on this culture and civilization and beginning to think about, you know, moving elsewhere. So maybe we are seeing some similar things

to the US.

Who's a heretic you admire? So somebody who really influenced me is Christopher Lash, who's an American writer, historian, sociologist, who, if you get a chance, read his book. He wrote a lot of good books. Culture of Narcissism was good.

He wrote some really good books on the decline of the family. But he also wrote Revolt of the Elites in 92, 93 on his deathbed. If you go back and read that book now, knowing what's coming, Donald Trump, Brexit, populism, culture wars, elites out of touch.

If you go back and read that book now, Lash was way ahead of everybody else. In fact, I would just say, read everything he wrote. He had an enormous, an enormous influence on me.

That's fascinating. People get on the Lash, get on the Goodwin as well. I'll have a link to his subset down below.

Please do, he's given up his time today to be here, so please do go and follow him. Thousands and thousands, tens of thousands of people already are because he's such a great writer. He's one of the best in the business.

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