

IS SOCIETY HOLDING TOGETHER OR SPLITTING APART?

I am remembering F.W. Riggs who wrote about PRISMATIC SOCIETY. It must have been in the mid 80s when Morton Davies introduced me to his work. He thought it would chime in with my masters dissertation that looked closely at a changing community.

I never found Fred Riggs easy to read, though sometimes exciting. He used lots of big words, many of them invented by himself. And when he used a word such as 'modern' it took a while to realise that his meaning was not quite the one you were used to. My, perhaps unfair, test of an academic is how they would cope with a bunch of 14 year olds on a wet and windy Friday afternoon. And a full moon.

His subject was Public Administration. Doesn't sound sexy does it? But he was looking at how some societies hold together, how some split apart and how some demonstrate malintegration. That is to say, they hold together but actually in the interests of one dominant group. I hope my memory of what he wrote is not letting me down.

Yes, I suppose I shall have to go back and look at him again. All those big words! In 2010 the Coalition Government caused me to coin the phrase Social Fracking. That is what I felt government was doing: they were not only destroying the foundations upon which the poor and the disadvantaged depended, but, very stupidly, doing the long-term same to the ultra rich. Did they really think that such people would benefit from being confined to their gated communities?

And now? Today? We can blame everything on Covid. We can blame it on Brexit. Blame what? Well, I do not think I am the only one noticing, experiencing, governmental incompetence. It is only partly corruption, a corruption explained away by those that were brought up benefitting from Rigg's malintegration. They are simply (important academic word) CRAP at what they are paid to do. And they do not care.

Just possibly de Piffle is beginning to feel a cold wind as Tory daggers are drawn from their scabbards. Private jets, expensive holidays, never mind the wallpaper, might they no longer be available to him? Prismatic Society? More like Pissmatic.

Cliff Jones, 13th. November 2021

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