

SOCIETY, SOCIETY, SOCIETY

Note: this is a fragment that I hope will contribute to what I have been writing using Gordon Brown's book as a prism to understand the current political mess the UK is in. The title echoes Tony Blair's EDUCATION, EDUCATION, EDUCATION, spoken in response to a question about his priorities in 1997. Needless to say, he had no idea what he was talking about.

I was asked to contribute a chapter to a book, *Mental Health and Well-Being in the Learning and Teaching Environment* (2016). My chapter concentrated on how the makers of policy created stress. They do not, of course, confine themselves to education. By holding the people accountable to government these policyfiers remind us that we are subjects not citizens. Get hold of enough money and you can win the right to be a ruler. All you have to do is set up your stall in the market for false politics and engage in a little bribery: exchange a peerage for a million or three and a little bit of favourable legislation and it gives you power. And, yes, I do think cynicism is appropriate.

The following link is to a review of a book written during the last New Labour administration. My question is why, given that so-called New Labour had been in power since 1997, it had to be written.

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2009/mar/13/the-spirit-level>

And this was written one year after New Labour lost power. I ask the same question.

<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/book-review-the-cost-of-inequality-why-economic-equality-is-essential-for-recovery/>

There is a lot more to come on this subject.

Cliff Jones, 6th. January 2018