

The Road to Somewhere

The New Tribes Shaping British (and
Western) Politics

Anywhere v Somewhere 1

- Value divides that have created populist instability (Brexit, Trump etc)
- Anywheres (20 to 25 per cent) – educated, mobile, value autonomy/openness/fluidity
- Somewheres (around 50 per cent) – less educated, more rooted, value security/group identities
- Key differences: social change/group attachment
- Too Binary? In-Betweeners variety of As & Ss
- Not invented (fuzzy edges) and both legitimate

Anywhere v Somewhere 2

- Achieved v Ascribed identity (social change)
- Social class (business/academic)
- Progressive individualism v decent populism
- Great liberalisation...
- ...And it's limits: strong national attachments, anti-mass immigration (don't deport, slow pace of arrivals), common norms/integration anxiety, welfare free-riding, security before liberty, modified gender division of labour

Anywhere domination

- Knowledge econ, hour glass labour market, reduced status of non-grad employment
- Higher education, neglect of technical etc cognitive ability key to status, loss of jobs that took years of practice but little cognitive ability. (The three H's.)
- Econ openness, mass immigration (Free Movement)
- Family policy bias against private realm/domesticity, modified gender div of lab popular
- Technocratic state
- Social mobility, the shadow cast, Greening/leaving Rotherham, council estate to Oxbridge, achievable hierarchical progression
- Somewhere? Tabloids, crime/welfare

Why Now?

- The rise of socio-cultural politics to compete with socio-economic politics in response to new openness, left/right to open/closed (self-serving)
- Rapid increase in Anywheres, higher ed, economic/technical, international networks
- Bigger gap in UK/US (residential univs/London), 40 years ago British common sense Somewhere now Anywhere

Meaning not Money

- Revolt against liberal overreach, more Weber than Marx, more even distribution of status/recognition/social honour (Young, Murray)
- Economic and cultural overlap but if mainly former left populism would be bigger
- Inequality steady, Kaufmann death penalty, young people don't respect Brit values etc

New Settlement

- Militant v admonished Anywheres
- More respect for Somewhere priorities without illiberal lurch or squashing Anywhere dynamism
- Legitimate v illegitimate populism
- Voice. Localism, compulsory voting, social media.
- Equality and group attachment, minorities
- The hidden majority, reinventing modern middle
- German model/Bavaria