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01280 820188

Menwith Hill, Yorkshire
We live in a globalised era and politics, too, has never been more international. The biggest issues today never affect just one country. From the recession to climate change to security, contemporary citizenship hinges on our collective destiny.

Thus, keeping an international outlook will be crucial for the next generation of political thinkers and influencers. With the old conventional political apparatuses in flux, fresh ways of working are ours for the taking. The modern world can feel unjust – power, wealth and influence are concentrated among a few super-players. However, NGOs, digital activists, academics and film-makers can and do also make a potent impact on our planet.

We hope this year’s Political Studies Guide, produced in partnership with the University of Buckingham, will inspire readers to take a global perspective. The power is in your hands.
We are on the edge of one of those periods in history when the pattern of world power changes; when the established order shifts, and a new order begins to emerge. These are almost always difficult times for the weak, tough for those whose power is waning, and usually bloody for almost everyone.

This economic recession is not like any other we have recently experienced. We will not plummet down and bounce back comfortably to where we were before. This is about something deeper. The tectonic plates of global power are shifting, and when it is over we in the west will, relatively speaking, be weaker and those in the east will be stronger.

The last time we saw a shift of power on this scale was when leadership of the world passed from the old powers of Europe to the emerging power of the United States. And we all remember the convulsions which followed the collapse of empires.

Some propose China’s ascent will follow a straight line, but I do not believe that. China’s ascent to great power status – and great power is her most likely destination – will not be smooth. Their economy may be largely liberalised, but unlike India, their society is not. Chinese history is littered with instances when the nation, as disparate and ethnically diverse as Europe, stood at the edge of greatness and then descended into dissolution and chaos.

Nor do I agree with friends who tell me, often with ill-disguised glee, that the United States has passed the zenith of its glory. The symptoms of decline in nations are scleroticism, institutional arthritis and resistance to change. The United States shows none of these, as the still remarkable election of Barack Obama clearly shows.

As power shifts from west to east, and in a world where everything is connected, Lord Ashdown argues that nations and their governments must learn how to network.
Afghanistan: suffering the consequences of our inability to work together

space, where the instruments of regulation are few and the framework of law is weak. Look at the institutions having difficulties at the moment: national governments, political structures, the old establishments. Note how nearly all of them depend on the nation state; their range of action confined within borders.

Now look at those institutions growing in power and reach: the internet, satellite broadcasters, trans-national corporations; international money changers and speculators; international crime and terrorism. Note that all operate oblivious of national borders and largely beyond the reach of national regulation and the law.

Not only power but problems, too, have been globalised. The uncomfortable truth – which Westminster refuses to acknowledge and our old institutions find no way to cope with – is that almost no problem can be solved within the nation state or by its institutions alone. Not our ability to protect ourselves; not the cleanliness of our environment; not our health; not our jobs; not our mortgages. These and more now depend not on the actions of our governments, but on their ability to work with others in a set of institutions which are global in scope and international in character – of which history may say the European Union was the first, albeit highly imperfect example.

Another factor that is shaping our age in a way that is different in scale from anything before is our increasing global interdependence. Of course, what happens in one nation has always been of interest to its neighbours and allies – that is why one of the oldest government functions is diplomacy. But today’s interdependence is of a completely different order. Nations today are not just linked by trade, commerce and diplomacy; they are intimately interlocked in almost every aspect of daily life. What happens in one can have a profound, direct and immediate consequence on another. An outbreak of swine flu, the collapse of Lehman brothers, the revelations of 9/11 – these can set in train a domino effect across the entire globe in a matter of moment.

The problem is that our governments are not structured to do things in an interlocking way. They are made up of vertical stove pipes, steeped in a stove piped culture and are run, in the main, by people with stove piped minds.

Government structures and cultures remain resolutely stuck in the past. Ministers and senior civil servants are judged on how well they hold the territorial integrity of their department, preserve its budget and defend its payroll. Networking with other departments is regarded as a threat, not an opportunity. The screaming of gears heard in Whitehall is the sound of minds knowing that they ought to network, but finding it impossible to do so.

It is an institutions’ ability, not to do, but to network which matters most. If you want to see the price of failing to understand that, you need look no further than Afghanistan. The chief reason for failure lies not in the ineffectiveness of the Afghan government, which we love to blame, but in our failure to have a co-ordinated international plan: our inability to work between nations, our determination to look solely through the prism of the place in which we each fought, and our refusal to speak and act with a single purpose.

It does not matter if you are an army unit, an NGO, or a Ministry like the Foreign Office – the most important part of what you can do is not what you can do by yourself, but what you can do with others. And because everything is connected to everything, another revelation of our age is this: we increasingly share a destiny with our enemy. This concept is not new of course, for it has always been the proposition of poets and saints and visionaries that we should learn to live together. The great John Donne poem No man is an island says it all: “Every man’s death affects me, for I am involved in mankind. Send not to know for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee.” Gladstone said it too in 1879, when Lord Roberts invaded Afghanistan, in his second Midlothian campaign. “Do not forget that the sanctity of life in the hill villages of Afghanistan amongst the winter snows, is no less inviolate in the eye of Almighty God as can be your own. Do not forget that he who made you brothers in the same flesh and blood, bound you by the laws of mutual love.”

Here is the difference between their age and ours. For Donne and Gladstone, there were recommendations of morality. For us, they are part of the equation for our survival. Lord Ashdown of Norton-Sub-Hamdon is a diplomat with a lifelong commitment to international co-operation.
I was always fascinated by international affairs. The dramas and wars of foreign places were far more interesting to me than domestic politics. At an early age, I decided that I wanted to become a diplomat. On my second attempt after university, I managed to join what was then called the “fast stream” of the Foreign Office. I had postings in Norway, Germany, New York and Afghanistan. I was, for a while, speechwriter to the Foreign Secretary, until he sacked me (fair enough: he didn’t like my speeches). I worked on terrorism, climate change, the Middle East Peace Process (as it was then naively known), Libya, the Western Sahara, and Iraq.

This last was my undoing as a diplomat. I had served at the UK Mission to the UN in New York as Britain’s Iraq expert, negotiating Security Council resolutions on weapons inspections and sanctions. In 2004, I gave secret testimony to the Butler inquiry saying that the government had lied about the WMD threat and had ignored available alternatives to war. I sent my testimony, along with my resignation letter, to the Foreign Secretary. He never replied. I quit the career of my dreams and a job I thought would occupy me happily until my index-linked pension.

Looking back, this was the best thing that ever happened to me professionally. At the time, it felt like a catastrophe. I loved diplomacy. I had given up all security and indeed my professional identity, an identity that was fast becoming my personal identity too. I realised that I wanted to remain in diplomacy, but how? In the formal world of diplomacy, you had to work for a government to be a proper diplomat.

The answer came unexpectedly. I was working in Kosovo for the UN on secondment from the UK government when I resigned. In 2004, Kosovo was wracked by deadly riots. One reason for the violence was intense political and popular frustration that Kosovo’s future was undetermined, and that Kosovars themselves had no part in the secretive diplomatic discussions to decide it, even though they had a democratically elected government to represent them. I knew the Prime Minister of Kosovo. I offered to advise him on the diplomacy around Kosovo, which I knew about. Over a glass of local raki, he agreed.

Kosovo was the first client of what later became Independent Diplomat, the world’s first (and still only) non-profit diplomatic advisory group. A group of former diplomats and other experts, we now have eight offices around the world. As well as Kosovo, we have advised South Sudan on its independence process, Croatia on EU accession, the Marshall Islands on the ridiculously opaque UN climate change “process”, Somaliland, Moldova, Northern Cyprus, the Syrian Coalition (an umbrella coalition of moderate opposition groups), and the representatives of the people of occupied Western Sahara, the Frente POLISARIO, among others. We advise the legitimate representatives of the people whose problems are the stuff of interna-
Today, I don’t really believe in governments as the solution. The world has changed since the end of the Cold War, when I became a diplomat. The most important problems are global and transnational: terrorism, climate change, inequality. As the evidence is suggesting, national governments are ill-suited to solve these problems. We seem to be in a permanent war against “terrorists” all over the world. UN treaties have failed to halt growing carbon emissions, as the scientific prognoses for the climate have dramatically worsened. Inequality is getting worse, fast, more or less everywhere.

I’ve become a kind of gentle anarchist. I think that action taken directly by us is the best way to solve these problems. Even democratic governments do not really represent what’s in the collective best interests of the people. As power concentrates in the hands of a few, government has become increasingly co-opted by corporate interests. I saw it for myself in government. Shell always go meetings with senior officials. Human rights NGOs were barely let in the door. And as inequality deepens, this problem is getting worse. My philosophy is all about agency. We have lost control of the things that most matter to us. We need to take it back. People spontaneously working together on the things they care about, non-violently and in consultation with those most affected. This is the best and most fulfilling way to change things for the better, not asking others - particularly governments - to do it for us.

What would I recommend to a young person who, like me, is fascinated by the world? There are many things to learn: economics, history, languages. I found that understanding the terminology of power has been very important in helping understand it, and change it. The neat but often inaccurate theorems of economics are often used by the powerful to bewilder and confuse everyone else. History can help understand how we got here.

One lesson sticks with me from my work as a diplomat, both with the British government and today. There are real, as well as philosophical, limits to all theory and indeed all narratives, whether of history or “the other”. I’m often approached by students of “international relations” who have been taught all kinds of complicated theories of things like “realism” and “neo-realism” or “game theory”. Diplomacy is, in its essential form, in fact very simple. It’s about people talking to other people trying to sort stuff out. All the terminology and procedure and protocol is basically bullshit, and often employed to preserve the advantages of the powerful. Learn these terms, but only in order to get past them.

Most important of all is this: international relations is a fancy name for what’s going on in the world today. The best way to learn about it is to live it. Don’t study African politics or history at a rainy university in England. Go to Africa, volunteer, travel, talk to people. One term spent as a teacher in the West Bank will teach you more than three years studying the Middle East and maybe one or two of your pupils might benefit a little, too. You will experience and learn extraordinary things. It may be uncomfortable, but it will be unforgettable. You will realise things you never expected about “abroad”, but also about yourself. With envy, I wish you luck. The world is yours to make.

Carne Ross is executive director of Independent Diplomat and author of “The Leaderless Revolution: How ordinary people will take power and change politics in the 21st century.”
How dangerous is the world? Is it getting more dangerous? On at least one measure we’re living through the most peaceful period in human history: the chances of one person dying at the hands of another are less now than at any time. As evolutionary psychologist Steven Pinker argues, even if we include the wars and genocides of the 20th century we must still conclude that violence is in decline. And yet this is not how we see the world. Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Somalia, drugs wars in Latin America, disorder on the streets of Athens: they all suggest the world is as violent as it has ever been. Perception doesn’t conform to reality.

Maybe people are naturally paranoid, and paranoia is rational. Using the “smoke detector principle”, false positives (no fire, smoke detector goes off) are less dangerous than false negatives (fire, detector doesn’t go off). Much human behaviour – particularly political behaviour – is affected by this principle. It is safer to assume that Iran is developing an offensive nuclear capacity, even if in reality its uranium processing facilities are intended only for civil nuclear power, or it is indeed developing nuclear weapons but for entirely defensive purposes.

Pinker attributes such distrust to the survival requirements in small hunter bands. But while we have inherited the psychology of our ancestors there’s now a mismatch between these ancient survival instincts and the modern world. The communications revolution has meant we are confronted through TV and the web with images of violence that aren’t actually part of our everyday experience. A cognitive illusion is created: we assign greater probability to those events that are easier to recall. Violent deaths are memorable, while deaths from natural causes are not.

So why has violence been in decline? There are a number of possibilities. People might be becoming nicer. Research into genetics is finding interaction effects between the environment and genetic predispositions. For example, testosterone – levels of which are highly heritable – is associated with violence but only under conditions of provocation. If you improve the environment the triggers for violence are reduced.

Declining violence has gone hand in hand with the rise of democracy

Another line of explanation points to institutions. The rise of the nation-state, so often considered a cause of violence, has actually been a major pacifying influence. The political philosopher, Thomas Hobbes argued that in the absence of a coercive authority we would be forced to provide our own protection, and since we don’t trust each other it is rational to pre-empt attack by attacking first. But if we know there is a powerful, third party enforcer we can learn to trust one another.

Hobbes’s argument only applied to domestic politics – to territorially bound groups of individuals. It didn’t apply to world politics, where no global authority exists to settle disputes or enforce agreements. So perhaps it could be argued that violence has declined within states but increased between states, but this is not supported by the evidence. Since 1945 there has been a downward trend in the number of battle-deaths.

Hobbesians would not predict this reduction in interstate violence. They would say that states will distrust one another. Even if a state is concerned only with its own security – and not interstate on regional or world...
Despite its economic difficulties, Iceland is the most peaceful place on earth.
The struggle for power

Who controls whom? Where does power lie? In today’s fast-changing world, the traditional answers don’t necessarily still apply, as our contributors demonstrate.

Digital activism can catch authoritarian governments off guard

Cellphone-wielding activists used to inspire a lot of hope. It seems like only yesterday that people believed a well-intentioned activist with a laptop, Facebook account and a decent data plan could bring any urban center to a standstill, or toss out even the most recalcitrant dictator. Yet these days, some are more sceptical.

Many dictators have figured out how to use digital media for social control. Regimes in Iran, Bahrain and Syria use Facebook to expose opposition networks and entrap activists. China, Russia, and Saudi Arabia make big investments in surveillance infrastructure. Even the advanced democracies such as the United States and the UK go to surprising lengths to surveil global internet traffic.

But none of this seems to have slowed down the pace or dulled the impact of digital activism. The latest social science research from the Digital Activism Research Project has compared thousands of cases from around the world. We define a digital activism campaign as an organised public effort, making collective claims on a target authority, in which civic initiators or supporters use digital media. People in countries where ruling elites control the media do their own investigative reporting and publish findings online. People use digital maps to track corrupt police. Indeed, it has become hard to run a successful social movement without taking advantage of digital tools.

Traditionally, powerful political elites could tax newspaper, shut off the power to broadcasters, and censor the news. While digital can make surveillance easier for some governments, it is much harder for most governments to exercise the same degree of control over digital networks. Creative, tech-savvy campaigns repeatedly show they can get protesters into the street, achieve policy goals, and catch authoritarian governments off guard.

Aid agencies empower local communities during times of crisis

In the midst of a conflict or natural disaster aid agencies respond quickly and provide lifesaving care to thousands. We do what governments sometimes cannot or will not: work directly with those in need; empower local people to rebuild their lives; and stand up for basic human rights.

In a large-scale or long-term crisis we may quickly become the major provider of basic services, not to mention the biggest employer, in the area. Budget and global reach depending, we can also begin to influence national and international policies affecting the lives of the people we serve. Aid agencies are able to help governments support their own populations or large influxes of refugees; we bring money into the country; and we generate regional and international pressure through diplomatic contacts, the media and advocacy campaigns for even more assistance.

There are, of course, limits to this power. Although international law provides a strong foundation for humanitarian aid, in the end we are present only with the consent of whatever authority is in place, whether a government or an armed group, and will have to negotiate access to people in need. For example, some governments and opposition groups have little need for us, and may be actively opposed to our...
presence. In Syria, where millions endure conditions bordering on the medieval, the IRC has consistently urged all parties to ensure aid can reach all people in need, but with limited success. Without a commitment to safe passage of aid, helping those in need is incredibly complex and dangerous.

In an interconnected world international aid agencies are increasingly seeking to tackle both the causes and effects of humanitarian crises. This may well be where our future lies: not necessarily in responding ourselves to crises but in supporting local groups to respond to needs and in focusing our efforts on addressing root causes at a global level.

Luke Browne is policy and advocacy officer at the International Rescue Committee

Films are a tool for catalysing change

When people ask why I work with documentaries, I tell them it’s because you can’t make this stuff up. Around the globe, concentrated wealth and power is degrading democracy and destroying the environment, and threatening the future in a way we have never seen before. Drastic inequality is increasing, as our world’s natural resources are being diminished. Film has the unique power, as a visual medium, to convey the magnitude of the situation, expose issues, champion stories of resilience and point to solutions. In doing so, it has the potential to gain the empathy, energy, and involvement of the viewer, even if the story on screen does not reflect their own life experience.

Stories lead to action. Our charge at Working Films is to position films to advance social and environmental justice. We act as a matchmaker between social issue filmmakers and social issue leaders, using film as an opportunity to build community and as a vehicle for grassroots organisers and advocates to drive forward progress on some of the biggest issues of our time – climate change, education, the economy, the aging population, and reproductive justice.

In the 21st century – with our shortened attention spans and virtual habits – it takes more than one good film, short and long form, online and off to build the awareness, forge connections, and move the dial for a more sustainable and just future.

Molly Murphy is the interim co-director of Working Films

International criminal law is a bulwark against the abuse of power

International criminal law (ICL) was made in direct response to the human suffering that was caused by the flagrant abuse of power during World War II. The international tribunals in Nuremberg and Tokyo laid the cornerstone of ICL and its legal principles were further elaborated by ad hoc mechanisms such as the tribunals established by the UN Security Council for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda in the 1990s.

The International Criminal Court represents a permanent institutional anchor for the principles of ICL. In situations where the Court is able to operate, it confronts contemporary manifestations of abuse of armed force and power. International criminal justice is nevertheless still entangled with realpolitik. In a world of dynamic geopolitical realities, ICL must not end up being treated as a phenomenon owned by Western lawyers, academics, diplomats and NGOs. The efficacy and robustness of this framework of justice depends on a global sense of ownership.

I have met brilliant legal professionals who in their daily work, in materially...


**CONTROL AND INFLUENCE**

Less resourceful states, lack regular access to international legal sources – not to mention current developments and debates in academic publications and international courts. Empowering them by providing access to legal information (through, for instance, open-access publishing and online services) strengthens their ability to use international law as a domestic bulwark against abuse of armed force against civilians. It also facilitates an exchange of views on equal terms, which may enhance our common understanding of the political, economical and practical realities of enforcing international law in modern-day situations.

Alf Butenschøn Skre is executive officer at the Centre for International Law Research and Policy

Women are the bellwether of society

Power and control is at the heart of gender inequality. My experience has taught me two things about that power: it can be abused and misused, creating harm and suffering; but circumstances can be created where women can empower themselves and change their lives and the lives of others.

Power, as a negative force, is used to create and maintain inequality. Gender stereotypes infer power to men who abuse it in various ways that are specifically humiliating to women. There is no worse example than utilising rape as a weapon in war. Not only is the individual woman physically and psychologically scarred as a result, she is also being used as a tool to bring shame to her community and ethnic group.

**Female well-being directly correlates to how society fares overall**

Women for Women International provides female survivors of war or conflict with the resources to move from crisis and poverty to stability and self-sufficiency. We work with socially excluded women across the globe: Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda, and South Sudan.

We start by providing financial aid and emotional support, and help move them towards economic independence and stability. Women become confident, self-reliant and productive, and recognise that they play an important role in rebuilding families, communities and nations.

Women are the bellwether of society. Female well-being directly correlates to how society fares overall. When women earn an income, they reinvest a much higher portion in their families and communities compared with men. When women have more independence and confidence this translates into respect from men and a reduction in domestic and sexual violence.

Brita Fernandez Schmidt is the UK executive director of Women for Women International

**Nations with “the better story” hold the power**

In today’s world, the traditional instruments of national power, brute military force and economic exploitation, have limited acceptability. Global standing today is based far more on the soft-power elements a nation projects, either deliberately, through the export of cultural products, or unwittingly, through the ways in which it is perceived as a result of news stories and other modes of perception in global consciousness.

Dr Shashi Tharoor is Minister of State for Human Resources Development in the Indian Parliament

For long America was the leading exponent of soft power, with its world-famous brands and the American lifestyle they epitomised harnessing its dominance. Today, India is one nation that, despite its very different geopolitical standing, finds itself in the same space. With its attractive culture embracing ancient practices like yoga and wildly popular Bollywood films, its proliferating cuisine, technological prowess, and an unthreatening nationalism anchored in an ancient civilisation and sustained by pluralist democracy, India is the template of 21st century soft power.

In the Information Age, it is not the side with the bigger army, but the one with the better story, that prevails. Societies which, like India, offer democratic political values and breathtaking diversity, a free press and thriving mass media, and a vibrant people who have and still are making an impact around the world, have an extraordinary ability to tell stories that are more persuasive and attractive than those of their rivals.

Education brings empowerment in Rwanda

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In It Together: The Inside Story of the Coalition Government
Matthew d’Ancona
Viking, 432pp, £25
In It Together does not claim to be a book about class but the theme sneaks up on the story and, by the end, threatens to usurp politics as the main subject.

The title refers to promises made that the pain of austerity would be inflicted equitably across society, the sincerity of which has been imperilled by the perception of a government staffed by Old Etonians.

D’Ancona describes a tight social circle running the Tory side of the coalition – old friends, their wives, ex-girlfriends, all joining each other for holidays and dinner parties, now all ministers or Downing Street staffers.

His fluent narration of the first three years of coalition government explains why the project has consistently failed to fail when most onlookers predicted it would. Prompt agreement on a fixed, five-year term was not a minor detail; it was this that helped support Clegg’s assertion shortly after the election that Britain was witnessing the formation of not just a new government, but of a “new politics”.

Money: the Unauthorised Biography
Felix Martin
Bodley Head, 336pp, £20

By now, one may think there was little to add to the literature of the Great Recession. Felix Martin reaches beyond conventional analysis in explaining the events that brought about the biggest disruption to financial activity for more than a century. His core argument is that classical economists misunderstand the nature of money.

The broader narrative is one of account- ing: unseen transactions conducted pri vately among businesses and, in modern times, among banks without any notable intervention by central authorities. These transactions are so vast and so much more important socially and commercially that they far outstrip the notes and coins in cir culation and the officials bills and bonds is sued on behalf of governments. It is this enormous social edifice that was the hidden hand behind the ”great panic” of 2007-08 that came close to bringing the whole banking and financial system down.

Reviewed by Alex Brummer, 15 June 2013

The Reading List

Government, technology, economics, activism and the meaning of modernity

In It Together: The Inside Story of the Coalition Government
Matthew d’Ancona
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Reviewed by Rafael Behr, 17 October 2013

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Reviewed by Alex Brummer, 15 June 2013

The Democracy Project: a History, a Crisis, a Movement
David Graeber
Allen Lane, 336pp, £16.99

Zuccotti Park is mostly empty now. But if you strain to listen, you can almost hear the echo of the ear-splitting drumming, off-key singing and chanting that rang around the palaces of Wall Street: ”We are the 99 per cent!”

That slogan was coined by David Grae ber, the anthropologist and sometime anar chist author who was a constant presence in the intellectual life of the Occupy movement. Graeber’s talent is to take big, basic concepts such as debt and democracy that are fundamental to our daily political lives and unpack them, forcing us to examine their implications for society.

Books of political history are always nec essary but, when activists are isolated and despairing, the best ones provide a shield that can save the imagination from eviction.

Reviewed by Laurie Penny, 6 June 2013

The World Until Yesterday: What Can We Learn from Traditional Societies?
Jared Diamond
Allen Lane, 512pp, £20

The idea that modern human beings are vastly different from those who came be fore is central to the way that many people now think of themselves and, for most of them, it seems obvious that being modern is an unmixed blessing. “Modernisation” has been the rallying cry of generations of politicians. Everybody celebrates modernisation and understands it as the passage to a better world, but ideas of what it means to be modern are like the advertisements you watch on television – quickly dated and soon forgotten.

Recent history is littered with political ex periments aiming to impose models of modernisation on refractory societies, often incurring huge human costs. The World Un til Yesterday is a compelling account of the gains and losses that go with modern living.

Reviewed by John Gray, 31 January 2013

To Save Everything, Click Here: Technology, Solutionism and the Urge to Fix Problems that Don’t Exist
Evgeny Morozov
Allen Lane, 432pp, £20

Morozov describes how responsibility for solving social problems has been arro gated by engineers at Google and other private-sector businesses. Need to recycle more? Get BinCam, which photographs your bin’s contents and sends the image to freelancers hired through Amazon. They analyse just how wasteful you’ve been and then stick the results on your Face book page.

Then there’s “big data”, the concept, fashionable across Washington and now Whitehall, that any problem – from under performing pupils to failing hospitals – can be solved by collecting some tightly fo cused data, crunching it and making tweaks, such as changes to nurses’ shift pat terns rather than dealing with bigger issues, such as the poverty of the catchment area or the spending cuts made by the local trust.

This is a prime example of “solutionism”: the notion that a messy problem sprawling across morality and politics can be resolved with just a little engineering ingenuity and the latest technology. Solutionism is the natural extension of the engineer’s desire to turn society into a well functioning ma chine – and it’s everywhere.

Reviewed by Alinessa Chakravortty, 9 April 2013
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Head of department
Jenny Mathers
Main strengths
The department is the oldest of its kind in the world, founded in 1919. The department continues to be centrally concerned with the major questions in global politics. Widely recognised as the home of the discipline, it has evolved into the leading centre in the UK. It was acknowledged as number one in the UK for the study of international politics (Research Assessment Exercise, 2008) and possesses one of the most successful graduate schools in Europe, and enjoys EIRRC recognition for research training and supervision.

Resources
The university library subscribes to an extensive range of relevant electronic resources that can be downloaded remotely. In addition, the National Library of Wales, a copyright library, is located less than 500 metres away.

Study abroad
The university offers students the opportunity to take part in student exchanges in Europe under the Erasmus scheme as well as exchanges in North America and a few other countries around the world.

Work placements
A parliamentary placement scheme enables students to spend a voluntary internship throughout the summer working in Westminster or Cardiff with an MP/AM.

Added benefits
The most popular extracurricular activity is the Crisis Game, a roleplaying simulation exercise which allows students to get a feel for the dilemmas and challenges of the real world. Students also have the opportunity to edit their own journal, Internats, which enables the publication of their own work.

Alumni
Includes the environmental campaigner and founder of SolarAid, Jeremy Leggett and the former president of Sierra Leone, Ahmad Kabba.

Acton University
Politics and International Relations
School of Languages and International Relations

University of Bath
Department of Politics, Languages and International Studies
Bath
BA2 7AY
Tel: 0117 414 3819
Email: admissions@bath.ac.uk
Website: www.bath.ac.uk/polis
Head of department
Professor Charles Lees

General information
Politics, Languages and International Studies (PoLIS) is one of the largest departments in the University of Bath. Our students are ambitious and highly committed leaders of the future who are preparing for careers in international politics, business and communication. Many staff are leading scholars and involved in a range of research activities, including collaborative projects at both national and international levels.

Our programmes
We offer a range of undergraduate, masters and postgraduate research degrees. Our BSc (Hons) Politics and International Relations attracts a AA students and is one of the UK’s top programmes for student satisfaction and graduate employability. We focus on Europe (including France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Spain, the Western Balkans, and the UK), Latin America (including Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay), and Asia-Pacific (including Afghanistan, Australia, China, Pakistan, and New Zealand). We engage with key cultural, political, and socio-economic issues such as new trends in citizenship and political engagement, the future of defense and counter-terrorism, as well as questions of gender and inequality, minorities and minority rights.

Our research
Our academic expertise and research activities are organised into three broad Research Clusters: Conflict, Security & International Order, Governance, Citizenship & Policy; Memory, History & Identity. Our diversity and the disciplinary mix of political science, political theory, policy analysis, social anthropology, political sociology and others create a stimulating academic environment.

Study abroad
The university offers students the opportunity to take part in student exchanges in Europe under the Erasmus scheme as well as exchanges in North America and a few other countries around the world.

Work placements
A parliamentary placement

University of Birkbeck, University of London
Politics
Malet Street, London
WC1E 7HX
Tel: 020 7831 6780
Email: politics@bbk.ac.uk
Website: bbk.ac.uk/politics
Head of department
Professor Dubhthach Mabbert

General info
Birkbeck’s politics department celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2012, having been founded in 1972 by the author of In Defence of Politics, Bernard Crick. Situated in the heart of Bloomsbury, its location provides the name for the departmental blog ‘co-gove street.com’, as well as facilitating engagement with Whitehall and Westminster. Many students work, or aspire to work, in politics-related careers, staff members engage with policy makers, and the department’s Centre for the Study of British Politics and Public Life attracts speakers of national prominence.

Main strengths
Our teaching takes place in the evening and we have a mix of part-time and full-time students studying on our 3 undergraduate and 12 postgraduate programmes. The department’s staff enjoy international research reputations. Major research and teaching interests include public policy, British politics, demography, global politics (the United States, Russia, the Middle East, Africa), international relations, and social and political theory.

Alumni
Include a range of people whose time at Birkbeck contributed to successful careers in political life – for example, in the civil service, NGOs, the media, and parliament, amongst the latter being several MPs.

The guide
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University of Buckingham</th>
<th>Department of Economics and International Studies</th>
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**University of Bristol**

**School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies**

11 Priory Road

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bristol</th>
<th>BSS 1TU</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tel: 0277 7783</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:spairs-admin@bristol.ac.uk">spairs-admin@bristol.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website: bristol.ac.uk/politics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Head of department**

Dr Nathaniel Copsey

**University of Bradford**

**Peace Studies**

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Bradford

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Tel: 0800 073 1225

Email: course-

enquiries@bradford.ac.uk; peace-

ma-admissions@bradford.ac.uk

Website: bradford.ac.uk/peace

**Head of department**

Dr Julia Buxton

**University of Bristol**

**School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bristol</th>
<th>BS8 1TU</th>
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<td>Tel: 0117 331 7583</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:sas-enquiries@brunel.ac.uk">sas-enquiries@brunel.ac.uk</a>; <a href="mailto:sas-politics@brunel.ac.uk">sas-politics@brunel.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website: brunel.ac.uk/sas/politics</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Head of department**

Professor Matthew Hughes

**General info**

University Bridge featured in the dystopian nightmare, A Clockwork Orange, but a multi-million investment in both the campus and town ensures stimulating and modern surrounds for study.

---

**Political Textbooks from Polity**

- **Government and Politics in Britain, Fourth Edition**
  - John Kingdon, with Paul Fairenough
  - Balliol College, Oxford
  - "An excellent text for sixth-form students."
  - Paul Brennan, Runshaw College
  - Ph 978-0-7456-3889-8 £24.99
  - 17 January 2014

- **Political Philosophy, Third Edition**
  - Adam Swift
  - Balliol College, Oxford
  - "A wonderful introduction to the concepts and ideals at the heart of political life."
  - Simon Casey, Magdalen College, Oxford
  - Ph 978-0-7456-5237-5 £15.95
  - 10 October 2013

- **The Welfare State Reader, Third Edition**
  - Christopher Pierson, Francis G. Castles and Ingela K. Naumann
  - University of Exeter; University of Edinburgh
  - "A must for every student of the welfare state, whether approaching the topic through the lenses of political science, sociology or social policy."
  - Martin Swedel-Kaiser, University of Oxford
  - Ph 978-0-7456-3693-9 £18.99
  - 15 November 2013

  - Roland Dannenbruch
  - University of Exeter
  - "Sets a very high standard of scholarship which others must now strive to emulate."
  - Jolyon Howard, Yale University
  - Ph 978-0-7456-5177-8 £19.99
  - 5 April 2013

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**Brunel University**  
Main strengths  
Major research and teaching interests are in international relations and international history, political science and political theory, intelligence and security, war and conflict. Several key politics journals are edited within the department. There is a highly rated sandwich degree option. Joint degree programmes with history, sociology and economics are also offered.

**Alumni**  
Includes comedians Jo Brand and Lee Mack, and athletes James Cracknell and Iwan Thomas.

**University of Cambridge**  
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7 West Road  
Cambridge  
CB3 9DP  
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Email: enquiries@polis.cam.ac.uk  
Website: polis.cam.ac.uk  
Head of department  
Professor Christopher Hill

**Cardiff University**  
School of European Studies  
65-68 Park Place  
Cardiff  
CF2 1YQ  
Tel: 029 20 874 889  
Email: europ@cardiff.ac.uk  
Website: cardiff.ac.uk/europ  
Head of department  
Dr Stephen Thornton

**Canterbury Christ Church University**  
Department of Politics and International Relations  
Applied Social Sciences  
North Holmes Road  
Canterbury  
TT 1 2JR  
Tel: 01227 782 406  
Email: politics@canterbury.ac.uk  
Website: www.canterbury.ac.uk  
Director  
Dr David Bates  
Main strengths  
Vibrant undergraduate experience, with strong focus on excellence in learning, teaching and student support. Cutting edge academic research. 100 per cent general satisfaction in the latest National Student Survey. International courts at The Hague. “Making Politics Matter” initiative enables students to hold politicians to account.

**Added benefits**  
Visits to the House of Commons, European Union institutions in Belgium and University of Central Lancashire  
School of Education and Social Sciences  
Livesey House  
Preston, PR1 2HE  
Tel: 01772 894200  
Email: ees@ ulan.ac.uk  
Website: www.uclan.ac.uk  
Head of school  
Professor Keith Foulks

**University College Cork**  
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O’Rahilly Building  
University College  
Cork  
Republic of Ireland  
Tel: 00 353 21 490 2770  
Email: n.kiely@ucc.ie  
Website: ucc.ie/acad/govt  
Head of department  
Professor Neil Collins

**University of Chichester**  
History and Politics  
Bishop Otter Campus  
College Lane  
Chichester  
PO19 6PE  
Tel: 01243 794890  
Email: m.wyss@chi.ac.uk  
Website: http://www.chi.ac.uk/departments/history  
Head of department  
Dr Hugo Frey  
Main strengths  
The university has been named as the UK’s best for student retention, and the department consistently achieves sector-leading National Student Satisfaction Survey results. The trans-disciplinary teaching is informed by the staff’s research specialisms in Africa and the African Diaspora, Nationalism, the memory of war, the Cold War, modern Britain, and security. In order to increase the employability of our students, the academic curriculum also includes international law and economics, and study visits to international organisations in Geneva and Brussels.

**Resources**  
The newly refurbished library offers excellent study space, and substantial print and electronic resources.

**Study abroad**  
The growing network of partner universities under the Erasmus scheme and other exchange agreements offers students the opportunity to study in various European countries, the United States, and Canada.

**Added benefits**  
While living in the beautiful cathedral city of Chichester, students are not only close to the country’s capital, but will also be able to extend their intellectual horizons through the lectures of guest professors, lecturers and speakers from Britain and around the world.

**City University London**  
International Politics  
Whiskin Street  
London  
EC1R 0JD  
Tel: 020 7040 8500  
Email: socialsciences@city.ac.uk  
Website: www.city.ac.uk/artssocial-sciences/international-politics  
Head of department  
Prof Ronen Palan

**University College Cork**  
Government  
O’Rahilly Building  
University College  
Cork  
Republic of Ireland  
Tel: 00 353 21 490 2770  
Email: n.kiely@ucc.ie  
Website: ucc.ie/acad/govt  
Head of department  
Professor Neil Collins

**Alumni**  
Includes the former Taoiseach of the Irish Republic, Jack Lynch, former government minister for agriculture and food Joe Walsh and the media personality and journalist Brendan O’Connor.
De Montfort University
Department of Politics and Public Policy
The Gateway
Leicester
LE1 9BH
Tel: 0116 250 6195
Email: enquiry@dmu.ac.uk
Website: www.dmu.ac.uk/politics

Head of school
Professor Alasdair Blair

Why study Politics at De Montfort University?
• We are a student-centred academic department that is focussed on delivering a first class university education by scholars who have a national and international profile for their research and teaching.
• We provide a caring and supportive academic environment that includes a personal tutor who will assist in providing guidance to students with regard to their academic and personal welfare.
• Enjoy the benefits from learning in a Department that is recognised for its teaching excellence. We are the only UK Politics Department to have two National Teaching Fellows, which is the most prestigious award for teaching excellence.
• There are numerous opportunities to study abroad at universities in Europe through the Erasmus educational exchange programme and in North America.
• Gain from the opportunity to participate in high profile lectures and events with eminent speakers that include an annual visit by former members of the US Congress.
• Experience learning in a state-of-the-art learning environment that uses the latest technology to support student learning.
• Undertake great placement opportunities that include UK central government, Parliament, and leading employers, which will enhance employability upon graduation.
• Choose from a wide range of modules across the disciplines of Politics, International Relations and Public Policy.
• Undertake studying in a truly international diverse student community.

Coventry University
International Studies and Social Science
Priory Street
Coventry
CV1 5FB
Tel: 024 7765 3787
Email: cuc@coventry.ac.uk
Website: www.coventry.ac.uk

Head of department
Dr Mary Knyspel

University College Dublin
School of Politics and International Relations
Third Floor
Newman Building
Belfield
Dublin 4
Republic of Ireland
Tel: 00 353 1 716 8397
Email: spire@ucd.ie
Website: www.ucd.ie/spire

Head of school
Professor David Farrell

University of Dundee
Politics and International Relations
School of Humanities

Whatever your career policy, we have the postgraduate politics programmes to help you succeed.

For more information, or to find out how to apply, please visit:
surrey.ac.uk/newstatesman
University of Dundee cont...
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Tel: 01382 388927
Email: humanities@dundee.ac.uk
Website: www.dundee.ac.uk/politics
Programme convenor
Professor Cameron Ross

University of Durham
School of Government and International Affairs
Al-Qasimi Building
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DH1 3TU
Tel: 0191 334 5656
Email: politics.department@durham.ac.uk
Website: www.dur.ac.uk/sgia/politics
Head of school
Professor James Piscatori

University of East Anglia
School of Political, Social and International Studies
Norwich NR4 7TJ
Tel: 01603 591515
Email: enquiries@uea.ac.uk
Website: www.uea.ac.uk/politicsinternational-media
Head of school
Professor Hussein Kassim

University of Edinburgh
Politics and International Relations
School of Social and Political Studies
Chrystal Macmillan Building
George Square
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EH8 9LD
Tel: 0131 650 4457
Email: politics@ed.ac.uk
Website: http://pol.ed.ac.uk
Director of the Academy of Government
Professor Charlie Jeffery

University of Greenwich
Social, Political & Cultural Studies
Old Royal Naval College, Park Row, Greenwich
SE10 9LS
Tel: 0800 005 006
Email: courseinfo@greenwich.ac.uk
Website: gre.ac.uk/politics
Acting Dean
Sarah Green

International Studies
Norwich NR4 7TJ
Tel: 01603 591515
Email: enquiries@uea.ac.uk
Website: www.uea.ac.uk/politicsinternational-media
Head of school
Professor Hussein Kassim

University of Kent
School of Politics and International Relations
Canterbury campus
Rutherford College, Canterbury
CT3 7NN
Tel: 01227 823798
Email: politpgadmissions@kent.ac.uk
Website: www.kent.ac.uk/politics
Head of School
Professor Richard Sakwa
Programmes
Undergraduate (BA):
• Politics and International Relations
• BA in Politics and International Relations (Bip-diplome) (dual award)
• Politics Conflict, Peace and Security
• Politics and Law (Joint)
• Politics and International Relations with a Language
• Politics and International Relations with a year in Continental Europe, North America, China, Hong Kong or Japan
Postgraduate Taught (MA/PDip):
• Comparative Politics
• European and Global Governance*
• International Conflict Analysis
• International Relations*
• International Relations with International Law
• International Security and the Politics of Terror*
• Peace and Conflict Studies*
• Political Theory and the Practices of Resistance
• Security and Terrorism
• Graduate Diploma in Politics and International Relations
*International Double Award option
Postgraduate Research (PhD):
• Comparative Politics
• International Conflict Analysis
• International Relations
• Political and Social Thought
School strengths
The school is dynamic and highly international offering exciting and professionally valuable programmes of study. Academic staff are engaged in cutting-edge research on a wide variety of political issues such as ethno-political conflict, human rights, regional integration, critical security studies, social theories of resistance, conflict analysis and democratisation, to name but a few. The strength of the school’s research culture is reflected in the numerous books and articles published and in the existence of three core groups: conflict, security and human rights; comparative politics; and political and social thought. We have excellent links with prestigious institutions in Europe and beyond. We are the only politics and international relations school in the country with a postgraduate centre in Brussels.
University of Kent
Brussels School of International Studies
5 Boulevard de la Plaine
1050 Brussels
Tel: 0032 2 641 1721
Email: bsis@kent.ac.uk
Website: www.kent.ac.uk/brussels
Head of School
Professor Roger Vickerman

Courses offered
• European Public Policy MA
• International Conflict and Security MA
• International Development MA
• International Political Economy MA
• International Relations MA
• International Migration MA
• Political Strategy and Communication MA
• International Studies: Two Capitals Programme MA
• International Law with International Relations LLM
• International Economic Law LLM
• Public International Law LLM
• International Relations PhD
• International Conflict Analysis PhD
• Migration Studies PhD
• Law PhD

School strengths
• The University of Kent’s Brussels School of International Studies is a specialist postgraduate centre, which offers advanced English language-based degrees covering the spectrum of international affairs.
• The broad selection of taught and research programmes available, ranging from politics and international relations to law, migration and conflict studies, means you can choose a degree that best reflects your interests.
• Our strong links with Brussels-based organisations greatly enhance the teaching on our programmes and you benefit from many opportunities for research, internships and future employment by studying in Europe’s centre.
• The school also promotes a culture of flexibility so that you are able to study on a full-time or part-time basis, completing your programme in an intensive 12 months or over several years. We offer course start dates in January and September, and have recently developed a suite of professional education programmes as well as a two-week summer school.

Website: www.essex.ac.uk/government
Executive Dean
Professor Todd Landman

University of Exeter
Politics
Amory Building
Rennes Drive
Exeter
EX4 4QJ
Tel: 03332 661000
Email: politics@exeter.ac.uk
Website: www.essex.ac.uk/government
Head of School
Professor Andrew Massey

University of Glasgow
Politics
Adam Smith Building
40 Bute Gardens
Glasgow
Scotland
G12 8RT
Tel: 0141 330 5130
Email:politics@glasgow.ac.uk
Website: gla.ac.uk/politics
Head of Politics
Dr Kelly Kollman

If you are searching for a vibrant and dynamic learning environment that stretches you at the same time it supports you, then you’ll find what you’re looking for in the Department of Politics and International Studies (PAIS). As a student in PAIS, you will join other excellent students from across the globe to explore, question and debate traditional and emerging issues facing the world today. You can tailor your undergraduate or masters degree by selecting the optional modules that suit your interests, Likewise, you will develop your PhD project according to your own research interests - not those of your supervisors. Our globally recognised academic staff bring expertise from across politics and international studies - and beyond - into the classroom, fostering a culture of lively debate and rich critical discussion where testing new ideas is the norm.

“What sets PAIS apart is the fact that it is vibrant in every way. The opportunity to learn, expand horizons and develop new understandings from renowned professors and fellow students is credit to the department’s great diversity and culture.”

Chandni Dhanak
MA International Relations

For more information about our five core BA, ten core MA, and PhD programmes, visit us online at www.warwick.ac.uk/pais.

Politics and International Studies
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

15–21 November 2013 | New Statesman | 19
Keele University
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ST5 5BG
Tel: 01782 733088
Email: d.a.mason@pol.keele.ac.uk
Website: www.politics.keele.ac.uk
Head of school
Professor Bulent Gokay
General info
The University of Keele has been renowned for pioneering new teaching methods such as the joint honours system. It also maintains a distinctive community feel, with many lecturers being housed, like the students, on the main university site. As part of the undergraduate courses offered in Politics, International Relations, Environmental Studies and Philosophy, there is an opportunity to study abroad in Australia, Hong Kong, South Africa, America, Canada and Europe thorough the ERASMUS programme.
Alumni
Includes Sir Nick Partridge OBE, Chief Executive of the HIV and Aids charitable organisation, The Terrence Higgins Trust; and Her Excellency Dr. Farah Faisal, the former High Commissioner for the Republic of Maldives in London.

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Website: gold.ac.uk/politics
Head of department
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Tel: 020 8331 9000
Email: courseinfo@gre.ac.uk
Website: gre.ac.uk/politics
Dean of school
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Tel: 01484 472472
Email: politicsadmissions@hud.ac.uk
Website: www.hud.ac.uk/politics
Dean of school
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Tel: 01482 466 209
Email: christopher.martin@hud.ac.uk
Website: www.hull.ac.uk/fass/politics
Head of school
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School of Social and Political Sciences
Policy Studies Research Centre
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Tel: 01522 882200
Email: enquiries@lincoln.ac.uk
Website: http://www.lincoln.ac.uk/humanities/socialsciences
Head of centre
Dr Jacqui Briggs
The School of Social & Political Sciences aims to combine high quality teaching and learning with high quality research. We provide a friendly and supportive environment and a great deal of our work bears the characteristic hallmark of co-operation and interdisciplinary. This bears fruit within our distinctive curriculum and also in our collaborative research, as we view the two as intricately connected. We align ourselves closely with the University’s ‘student as producer’ agenda and there is an active mentoring and placement programme running alongside many of our courses.
Visiting Scholars
We are very fortunate to have visiting professors in the form of Lord Victor Adebowale, who is also the university’s Chancellor, Professor Karen Celi, Sue Duncan. They visit and give guest lectures to our students.
Research
The School is home to the Policy Studies Research Centre, which offers significant ongoing research programmes and a vibrant seminar series. The School has provided the foundation for a number of national and international conferences. Find out more at: http://policystudiesresearchcentre.blogs.lincoln.ac.uk
Institute of Commonwealth Studies
School of Advanced Study, University of London
South Block Senate House
Malet Street
London WC1E 7HU
Tel: 020 7862 8844
Email: ics@sas.ac.uk
Website: www.commonwealth.sas.ac.uk
Director of the Institute
Professor Philip Murphy

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Head of department
Professor Theo Farrell

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Departmental Overview
The School of Politics and International Studies is a vibrant and innovative school where academic research informs and ignites our teaching. With over forty academics, our department is one of the largest in the UK. We offer programmes in the areas of Politics, Global Development, International Relations and Security. We are committed to delivering inspirational learning and teaching and to achieving an influential world-leading research profile. To help realise this, we have invested £8.5 million in our facilities in order to create an exceptional learning environment for our students and staff.

Main Strengths
We offer an extensive portfolio of courses which benefit from a truly interdisciplinary nature. Our research is internationally recognised and truly global in its range and focus. Our academics have expertise in Africa, North America, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and the UK. Our graduates enjoy a 95% employment rate and excel in a variety of high profile careers in areas such as politics and advocacy, the Civil Service, the media, international organisations, NGO’s and the private sector.

King’s College London offers a widening portfolio, has a department with an interdisciplinary research area, and boasts pioneering staff such as Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman, who in June 2009 was appointed as a member of the official inquiry into Britain and the 2003 Iraq War.

Resources
The institute is connected to influential organisations, such as Chatham House, the International Institute of Strategic Studies, the Royal United Services Institute, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office among others. Founded in 1964, the Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives is a leading repository for research into modern
Main strengths

The University of Kingston offers intellectually-challenging degrees in Politics, International Relations and Human Rights. All our courses are designed and taught by research-active experts who combine teaching with work-in-practice to offer you an exceptional experience. Most of our courses can also be combined with law giving you even more career possibilities. In addition to building expertise in your own discipline, our courses will also help you to develop key transferable skills that you will need for professional life or further study once you graduate. As well as a range of careers and employability activities at Kingston, we also offer you the chance to apply and develop your skills in live contexts as an integral part of your course. Opportunities include:
- placements;
- working or studying abroad;
- volunteering;
- peer mentoring roles; and
- internship opportunities within and outside the University.

In your final undergraduate year, you will get the opportunity to bring together all that you have learned in a major “Capstone Project” where you can apply your subject knowledge to a range of real issues and contexts. This is a great way to learn how to project your skills and is a valuable bridge to employment or further research at masters level.

Resources

Our Academic Skills Centre provides one-to-one support and advice on the techniques you need to be a successful student including:
- essay writing;
- exam techniques;
- presentation skills;
- editing and web skills; and
- research skills.

Personal tutors

When you arrive, we will introduce you to your personal tutor – the member of academic staff who will keep a particular eye on your progress throughout your time at Kingston (and after you graduate) and who will show you how to make the best use of all the help and resources that we offer at the university. Your tutor will give you academic guidance and will make sure that you know how to access our other support services if you need them.

Alumni

Includes Hadia Tajik Norway’s youngest MP and the first-ever Muslim to serve in the Norwegian cabinet.

Study Politics and History at the University of Limerick

Main strengths

Politics and Public Policy. The department with recognised internationally orientated experts in European, African, Latin American, Russian and post-Soviet affairs. Administration is an internationally orientated department with recognised experts in European, African, Latin American, Russian and post-Soviet politics, as well as Irish politics and public policy. University of Limerick graduates enjoy a 98 per cent employment rate.

Resources

The university is situated on a superb riverside campus of more than 133 hectares with the River Shannon as a unifying focal point. Outstanding recreational, cultural and sporting facilities further enhance this exceptional learning and working environment. The campus
is also conveniently located 5km from the city of Limerick and 2km from Shannon International Airport.

Study Abroad and Work Placements
The university has links with more than 200 institutions and 1,600 employers worldwide, in countries including Australia, Canada, China, Korea, Singapore, New Zealand, Brazil, Thailand and the United States, as well as across Europe.

Politics Programmes
Programmes include:
- MA in Politics and International Relations; BA in Politics and Public Administration
- Graduate level research degrees
- MA in Development; Governance, International Studies; Peace and Development
- Structured PhD in Politics

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Head of department
Dr Erika Harris

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Head of School
Professor Jeremy Jennings

Courses include
- Undergraduate: International Relations, Politics, and Critical Theory and Global Politics.

Main strengths
- The School has particular strengths in international relations (especially of the non-western world), public policy, economic globalisation and critical theory.

Resources
- As well as the college library, students have access to and full user rights at Senate House Library and other University of London libraries.

Other strengths
- As a school, we have a strong commitment to research, and we aim to integrate our research interests with our teaching. This means that you will become familiar with the latest developments in your field. We strive to maintain a friendly and informal ethos where everyone, staff and students, can pursue their intellectual interests in an atmosphere of mutual tolerance and respect.

Careers
- The School of Politics and International Relations is committed to improving student experiences, skills, attitudes and opportunities, to give our graduates the best possible opportunity to succeed during a highly competitive graduate job market. Recent graduate destinations include Amnesty International, The BBC, Bloomberg, The British Foreign & Commonwealth Office, The UK Border Agency, CNN, The Italian Chamber of Commerce for the UK, The Thailand Embassy in the UK, UNESCO, UNO, The University of Westminster and Yahoo!
- Alumni includes the former secretary of state for environment, food and rural affairs Caroline Spelman, and the Labour MP Peter Hain.

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Website: liv.ac.uk/politics
Head of department
Professor Christopher Williams

General info
Liverpool Hope was granted full university status in 2005 but the history of its founding colleges can be traced back to 1844. It offers degrees in both Politics and International Relations.

Main strengths
- Politics and International Studies students at Liverpool Hope benefit from expert tuition on a small, open and friendly campus. The department has a particular research-focus based around its Centre for War & Peace studies.

Study abroad
- There is a range of Erasmus partnerships focusing on links with universities across Europe and North America. Study trips are organised each year to political institutions both at home and abroad.

Work placements
Work placement options are offered for final year and MA students with local councils and policy groups.

Alumni
- Includes the MEP and deputy leader of UKIP Paul Nuttall, and the House of Lords crossbencher Lord Alton of Liverpool.

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Head of Department
Chris Szejnmann

University overview
Loughborough University is consistently placed in the UK's top 20 in league tables and has been voted England's best student experience six years in a row. Its single-site campus sits in the heart of England, only 90mins by train from London St Pancras and 15 minutes from Nottingham and Leicester.

Department overview
The department provides undergraduates with a deep understanding of states, institutions and ideas. Its expert faculty is committed to ensuring that each student is fully supported. The department has accordingly

London School of Economics and Political Science

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Email: s3.enquiries@ntu.ac.uk
Website: www.ntu.ac.uk/s3
Head of department
Dr Rose Gann

Main strengths
The Division provides a vibrant, close-knit academic community in which to base your undergraduate and postgraduate studies.

Beyond the course
Our students have the opportunity to broaden their experience and gain a range of skills that employers are looking for. Students can hear directly from experts and professionals, join our lively Politics Society and get the experience and gain a range of skills that employers are looking for. Students can hear directly from experts and professionals, join our lively Politics Society and get the chance to study abroad with the Erasmus foreign exchange scheme.

Resources
On the City site our students have access to a great combination of facilities including the £13 million Boots library, 3,000 student open access PC's and our virtual learning environment (NOW).

Research
Our courses are research-led and are informed by the latest developments. Our research areas include Citizens, Parties and Political Action, the Middle East and North Africa, Politics, Innovation and Pedagogy, Political Theory, and Security, Political Violence and Change.

Arts and Humanities
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Email: hum.enquiries@ntu.ac.uk
Website: www.ntu.ac.uk/hum
Contacts
Gill Alwood/Amanda Smith

Main strengths
We offer Global Studies and European Studies as named awards as part of a BA (Hons) Joint Honours degrees. We also offer these subjects at postgraduate level as MA (by research).

Resources
Clifton campus is a self-contained, modern campus with its own Students’ Union building.

Beyond the course
During the second year of undergraduate study students can study and live in another country with our international exchange partnerships, or they could complete a work placement with our highly-valued Humanities in the Workplace modules.

Research
Our research is rich and diverse; with members of our staff conducting internationally recognised and world leading research.

In 2013 Politics and International Relations at NTU were rated 6th joint third out of 70 institutions in the national Student survey for student satisfaction.

BA (Hons) Politics
BA (Hons) International Relations
BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations

We also offer a range of Joint Honours courses in Politics and International Relations which are delivered by the School of Arts and Humanities.

www.ntu.ac.uk/politicsandIR
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To the Letter
by Simon Garfield

To the Letter tells the story of our remarkable journey through the mail. From Roman wood chips discovered near Hadrian’s Wall to the wonders and terrors of email, Simon Garfield explores how we have written to each other over the centuries and what our letters reveal about our lives.

Along the way he delves into the great correspondences of our time, from figures including Cicero, Petrarch, Jane Austen and Ted Hughes – as well as John Keats, Virginia Woolf, Jack Kerouac, Anais Nin and Charles Schulz – and traces the very particular advice offered by best-selling letter-writing manuals.

He uncovers a host of engaging stories, including the tricky history of the opening greeting, the ideal ingredients for invisible ink and the sad saga of the dead letter office. As the book unfolds, so does the story of a moving wartime correspondence that shows how letters can change the course of life.

To the Letter is a wonderful celebration of letters in every form and a passionate rallying cry to keep writing.

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Head of Department
Dr Nick Randall

General info
Newcastle University is ranked in the UK top 20 (Sunday Times Good University Guide 2013), and is a member of the elite Russell group. Our degrees are globally recognised for their excellence. The university is located in the heart of the bustling city of Newcastle – the UK’s top student city (MSN Travel, 2013).

Main strengths
Our politics courses degrees are ranked third in the UK for student satisfaction, with a score of 95 per cent (NSS, 2012). We offer outstanding teaching and research in all areas of politics, including international relations, political theory, and UK politics and a wide variety of national political systems. Our student community is diverse, vibrant and closeknit, and our graduates go on to excel in a range of careers in politics and beyond.

Study abroad
Students can broaden their academic experience by studying or working abroad for one semester, in Europe or beyond elsewhere – or study abroad for a year on our Government and European Union Studies programme.

Resources
The university offers an award winning library and careers service and state-of-the-art study facilities, including a virtual learning environment for politics students.

Alumni
Tim Farron MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale, and president of the Liberal Democrat Party; Lisa Nandy MP for Wigan and shadow minister for civil society; Kate Adie, journalist and broadcaster; and the musicians Maximo Park.

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(switchboard) or 0800 358 2232

Head of Department
Dr Paul Pilkington

Alumni
Dr Michelle Donelan, MP for Reading West, who has been a Member of Parliament for the UK Parliament since 2010; Simon Darby, Chairman of Marks and Spencer; and Charles Villiers Stanford, a prolific English composer and conductor, and the first Director of the Royal School of Music.

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Website: soas.ac.uk
Facebook: facebook.com/SoasPolitics
Twitter: @soaspolitics
Head of department
Professor Salwa Ismail
General info
The Department of Politics and International Studies at SOAS is one of the most exciting places in the world to learn about global politics with a focus on the politics of Asia, Africa and the Middle East.
Main strengths
Students will gain knowledge of some of the most important power shifts and conflicts of ideas taking place in the world today, as well as learning about broader trends in international relations and global politics.
Study abroad
Students combining politics with a language will spend a year of study abroad.
Added benefits
All staff are leading scholars in their field and committed to teaching and student learning. The excellence of staff research was recognised by the high ranking received in the 2008 RAE.
Alumni
Graduates from the department follow many exciting and varied careers in business, government, media, journalism, international organisations and NGOs. Students leave SOAS with a knowledge and understanding of the complex political and cultural issues of contemporary global politics.

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Email: enquiries@roehampton.ac.uk
Website: roehampton.ac.uk/social-sciences
Head of Department
Dr Stephen Driver
Main strengths
The Department of Social Science at Roehampton is an international community of academics and students. The success of the department is built on its research excellence. At the last research assessment exercise in 2008, 95 per cent of research publications in sociology at Roehampton were rated of national or international standing. The Department is home to the Crucible Centre for Human Rights Research, the Centre for Research on Migration and Multiculturalism and the Social Governance Research Group.

Alumni
Former students of the department of social science have gained employment within significant international institutions, including the UN in Geneva, the British Foreign Office and leading NGOs including the Red Cross and Afghan Aid.

University of Surrey
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Website: www.surrey.ac.uk/politics

Overview
Politics at Surrey takes a lively approach to research, debate and public engagement that has earned a place in the Guardian University Guide top 10.
The School focuses on the nature of power, how it operates in the real world, and the roles that ordinary people play in shaping policy and politics.

Degrees
There is a rich choice of programmes at undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD level, taught within the stimulating and supportive atmosphere of a School with a growing reputation for innovative teaching and learning.

Global opportunities
All undergraduates can complete one of Surrey’s pioneering Professional Training placements, which provide invaluable experience of a professional or academic environment in the UK or overseas.

Added benefits
All students can learn a language for free as part of the Global Graduate Award scheme. English tuition is available for speakers of other languages.

Main strengths
• European politics
• International politics
• Political theory and philosophy
• Citizenship and policy studies
• Educational politics and policy

Location
Facilities are well located at the heart of the university campus, which is a short walk from Guildford town centre and train station. London, Heathrow Airport, the south coast and the Surrey Hills are all within easy reach.

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Head of department
Dr Alister Miskimmon
Main strengths
The department has particular strengths in political theory, European politics, new political communication, globalisation and global politics, and international relations. The department offers single and joint honours degrees, including degrees with economics, geography, history, and philosophy.
A wide variety of Masters degrees is also on offer. Resources

Students benefit from access to the library facilities of the University of London. There are advanced IT services on campus.

Study abroad

Most degrees offer students the opportunity of a year of study abroad with exchange partners in the US, Canada, Australia, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore and elsewhere. The BA in European Studies is a four-year degree that includes a year of study in Europe.

Work placements

There is a dedicated careers office that guides students towards work experience during their time of study.

Added benefits

The Politics and International Relations Society organises social and intellectual activities throughout the year, and has hosted a number of visiting speakers, which have in the past included representatives from national embassies in London and NGOs.

Alumni

Includes the backbench Liberal Democrat MP Norman Baker, and the journalist and broadcaster Francis Wheen.

University of Salford

Politics and History

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Head of department

Professor Chris Hughes

Main strengths

Politics and International Studies (PAIS) is a diverse, successful, and dynamic community of students and researchers situated within one of the UK’s leading universities, with more than 50 academic staff and growing community of postdoctoral research fellows producing world-class research across a broad spectrum of specialisms within Politics and International Studies. Major research centres in PAIS include the Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation, the Centre for Studies in Democratisation, and the interdisciplinary Centre for Ethics, Law and Public Affairs. PAIS attracts the highest quality students from more than 50 countries onto three core and several joint undergraduate programmes, ten core and two double Masters programmes, and a wide range of PhD topics. PAIS students graduate with very good career prospects in diverse fields including government, law, business, international organisations and the media.

Resources

In addition to its own holdings, the library is a member of the SCONUL Access Scheme, which allows students to use other member research libraries throughout the UK. The library is also a member of the Wolfson Research Exchange.

Study abroad

PAIS has strong partnerships for study in the US, Hong Kong, Australia, and Europe (through the Erasmus programme), which are available to second-year undergraduate students. PAIS also offers Double Masters programmes with partners in Germany and Singapore.

Added benefits

There are strong ties to Warwick’s Career Services Centre, including career workshops for postgraduate students.

Alumni

Include the former Private Secretary to the Deputy Prime Minister, James Clarke, and Shadow Secretary of State for Defence, Vernon Coaker.

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Head of school
Ruth Fee
Main strengths
Politics courses are based primarily in the school, which offers provision at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. There is a strong emphasis on the following areas: politics of identity, governance, and politics of Ireland. Interdisciplinary links with criminology and social policy allow breadth and depth in the study of areas such as terrorism, state crime, health policy, and equality and human rights.

Resources
The university offers excellent ICT facilities, a good collection of Irish, American studies and conflict-related material, and access to Ulster University and specialist libraries in Belfast, including the Linenhall Library which houses a collection of Northern Irish political ephemera.

Alumni
Includes Kate Hoey, former minister for sport, and Gregory Campbell, a minister in the Northern Ireland Assembly.

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Director of PEP
Professor Neil Carrier
Main strengths
The School is not itself a Department, but exists to coordinate the combined degrees involving Economics, Philosophy and Politics. It has established a very strong international reputation, and offers interdisciplinary courses in the various combinations of these subjects, with the flexibility to allow students to pursue their own particular interests. The three departments all boast internationally recognised research scholars and exceptional teachers.
Buckingham is a unique institution. Founded in the 1970s, for decades it was Britain’s only independent university and it remains the only one with a Royal Charter.

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- BA Politics and Economics
- BA Politics and History
- BA Politics, Economics and Law
- BA Law with Politics

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