

Populist Principles

By Russell White

WHAT IS POPULISM?

Populism is the political creed which draws its beliefs from the "will of the people". Populists form policies from a background of support for family, community, and tradition. We distrust politicians and manifestos. We prefer a policy based upon unchanging principles. That is why our statement of beliefs is called "Populist Principles".

Populism is for all classes and backgrounds and puts people before politics. Our hero is the **small man** standing up to the big forces in society - be they bureaucrats, big business, or trade union bosses. Those who struggle against all the odds - the housewife making ends meet on a pittance; the shopkeeper threatened by supermarkets and department stores; and those who save lives such as firemen, police officers, and doctors. They are the real heroes - often unsung and underpaid - but more worthy than the celebrities and high-flyers who become the false idols revered by the media. Populism is best illustrated in the films of Frank Capra and books of George Orwell. "Populist Principles" is written so that the reader will find it relevant fifty or one hundred years hence and to apply to all cultures.

Welcome to Populism!

FAMILIES FIRST

The family is the bedrock of society. It is the glue which binds us together and separates us from the animal kingdom.

Populists make no apology for supporting the institution of marriage as the best and time honoured way of domestic life. Where attacks upon marriage and the traditional family values occur within the mass media (especially television) we oppose them. Instead of the hostility fostered by feminists there should be partnership between men and women. United we stand – divided we fall.

But, when couples break up, fathers should be entitled to and expected to maintain contact with their children. The children are the future and need to know that they are loved by both parents in a stable environment. Populists will take any action necessary to protect children from perverts who would corrupt and harm them.

Populist economic policies are designed to reduce much of the financial strain upon marriages by reducing the potential for debt and providing a taxation system which favours married parents.

Where single parent mother tenants face isolation and childcare problems we favour imaginative housing policies to bring them together under one roof and create a more constructive environment. Families do not need a heavy handed local council looking for problems where there are none, by sending in armies of social workers and health visitors. By building an extended family (of grandparents, aunts and uncles and neighbours) parents may solve some problems and prevent others.

Poverty and crime have been linked to family breakdown in studies and surveys for many years. Only by putting families first can we ever solve such problems and provide a better future for our children.

EDUCATION FOR LIFE

Education is important to Populists. Every human endeavour stems from education be it structured, as in school or university, or outside formal institutions. Education is so vital that it has to be right first time. Everyone has the right to a good education regardless of income, and society succeeds if that maxim is adhered to.

Schools must be safe places and fit for the task in hand. If a child is being bullied their education will suffer, quite apart from any psychological damage such experiences may cause. All children should wear school uniform in order to instil discipline and formality and also avoid a “clothing culture” which leads to poor children being teased if their parents cannot afford fashionable clothing. School is not a fashion parade but a place of learning. Discipline therefore, must be firm but fair – there is no place for bad behaviour in a Populist education system.

Ultimately the school is part of the local community and parents should be encouraged to play a part in its policy and administration. If parents are involved in their child's school they can monitor the performance of teachers to ensure that their children's upbringing is not undermined by anti-family ideas in the classroom. Parental rights to educate their child according to religious or moral beliefs should be upheld. Populists also support state funding for all religious schools (of all faiths). We are committed to the right to single-sex education on demand and full access to nursery education.

The type of education provided should suit a child's abilities if the best results are to be obtained. This means a selective system which does not hold back brighter children, or push less-able children beyond their abilities. All schools should be centres of excellence, the only difference being the degree.

Schools should equip children with the tools for life, not just the essential verbal, written and numeracy skills but also the practical skills. With social skills, budgeting, and housekeeping included in the curriculum, all young people could then obtain employment, marry, and set up home.

After leaving school there should be full encouragement to use libraries, museums, and galleries, all of which should be paid for by subsidy or donation rather than entrance fee. A real education is ongoing and teachers should teach children *how to learn* as self discipline is a vital component for personal fulfilment. One should ideally learn something new every day.

In summary, Populists support an education which is patriotic (essential) and traditional, diverse, relevant to personal needs and constantly evolving.

In other words – an education for life.

CIVIC VIRTUES

Civic virtues are those which are based upon decent behaviour, respect for one's neighbours, and respect for society. All reasonable people wish to live in a lawful society where people are treated with dignity. If towns and cities aren't built with civic values they become hell on earth and people spill over into the countryside forcing development and loss of rural areas.

Cities can be a nightmare and harbour the worst elements in society. Most often it is the poorest and most vulnerable who are their victims and have no means of escape. Populists are not cynical, yet we can see that if lawful behaviour is not fostered in the home or school then, as a rule, the offender is a lost cause. People don't change as a result of liberal minded rehabilitation schemes. They change as a result of continuing harsh punishment for their misdemeanours.

Populists say that people should be responsible for their own actions.

The Populist vision is one of mutual respect, where duties and responsibilities are as important as rights. These duties apply equally to the humblest or most "distinguished" in a society. In fact those in positions of power are better placed to show the way. Populism demand that they behave with integrity. If the ruling class becomes decadent then they will surely be deposed. A society with no direction and no agreed standards is a decadent one doomed to descend into squalor and violence.

The media has a particular role to play in upholding standards. If they undermine the fabric of a nation with obscene and degrading material then they should be censored.

If new technologies which allow the world to become a smaller place threaten to subvert society from abroad then their transmissions should be blocked and the broadcasts considered an act of hostility. There is no right to coarsen society either from within or outside of its borders.

Populists want clean air and safe roads. We support any non-polluting form of public transport (underground railways and trams for example) as an alternative to the excessive use of fossil fuels. This is best achieved under public ownership. It is essential that public transport is safe, clean, crime free, and affordable if the commuter is expected to use it.

Beyond maintaining standards of public morality and cleanliness there is a duty to the sick, the old, and the poor. Populists support the concept of good health for all regardless of status or income. All healthcare (including prescriptions, optical, and dental tests) should be free at the point of use. A civilised society does not "tax" personal health and hygiene. The welfare state, whilst paved with good intentions, fostered a culture of dependency. Populist welfare is based upon principles of self help and targeted assistance. Our pro-family and full employment achieved by self sufficiency policies are compatible with the scaling down of the need for state assistance. Populists prefer voucher based payments where possible as a way to deter fraud and misuse.

We quote the proverb "***charity begins at home***" with regard to both welfare and foreign aid.

In essence our ideals are those of Victorian philanthropists and moralists. They are as relevant today as ever.

A PRODUCTIVE SOCIETY

Work is important. Work for all. Why?

Is it only about generating “wealth” and increasing economic growth? No! Work is not just a material concept but a framework for life and something which can bring both financial and emotional rewards. We believe in full employment and support the fair distribution of work. If people are trained to do a job, let them do it! Can it be right to have some families without a breadwinner and others where both adults are in work?

Unemployment is a waste. A waste of talent and resources. There is some truth in the old adage that “the devil makes work for idle hands”. In the longer term unemployment leads to alienation and lethargy. Populists believe that it is impossible to plan for the future without a regular source of income. Employment also provides us with purchasing power and is essential for a truly healthy economy.

Populist economics are based upon a national economy which is mainly owned by its workforce, with smaller businesses and co-operatives at the fore. This is described in more detail in the next chapter.

Productivity is only possible when a society is dynamic. It must be a “can do” rather than a “can't do” mentality. Small firms and good ideas should be encouraged, not strangled by red-tape and the taxation system. Tax rates should never be a disincentive to work – low pay should always mean low tax. Crucially, however, all people with an income should contribute something to a society if they are to receive anything from the state.

Young people should be fully integrated into the working environment and Populists support apprenticeships and youth training as an investment in the future.

A productive society is one in which those who work hardest receive a just reward for their work. It is a society which accords a job its true value rather than the bogus one judged by the so called “free market”. For example, who provides society with something of lasting value, the builder who gives us the roof above our heads or the fashion model walking the catwalk? Who should be paid the most money?

Populist sympathies lie with those who live off the fruits of their labour rather than those who live off others. People who do real jobs. Agents and middlemen invariably live comfortable lives off the backs of other people. This is wrong.

Above all we believe in **producers first** as a bastion against those who would scrounge off others or make fortunes shifting money between different countries. That is a truly productive society.

POPULIST ECONOMICS

As we mentioned earlier, Populists support the existence of an economy mainly run by its workforce (co-operatives are model examples). We oppose monopolies, with few exceptions such as public transport and natural resources. Economies which are run by the few (monopoly capitalism and state socialism) lead to control by the few at the expense of the many. To be anti capitalist is not to be anti private enterprise as many would suppose. This is a common misconception. On the contrary, we believe that "free enterprise" is the problem and that without proper checks and balances, business becomes the nation's master rather than its servant.

A Populist economy must be a national one in order to work in its inhabitant's interests rather than against them. National independence means nothing if not accompanied by economic independence. That is why we oppose the international finance economy and private usury (money lending). Banks present a friendly façade whilst crippling small businesses and homeowners with interest rates. We advocate the existence of a National Investment Bank to ensure that money is ploughed back into the economy for the common good and prevent it being "lost" overseas. Capital could be lent to businesses freed of interest rates and companies could share their profits instead, and any interest charged would be pumped straight back into the nation's arteries.

There is no reason why a dynamic economy cannot produce goods of superior quality to those from abroad. But, if foreign workers are paid slave labour wages they will undercut the home industry every time. For job security and fair pay, people must be encouraged to buy the goods they produce and the products should be affordable. A tax system should protect home industries from unfair competition and phase out overseas ownership of its economy. We also prefer a policy which puts the tax burden on unearned income rather than earned income. Aid should be replaced by trade with poorer peoples, but only goods which cannot be grown or produced here should be exempt from import tax. We also support credit controls to ensure that money is only paid to those who can repay thus avoiding huge personal debts incurred by those lured into having credit cards.

The populist economy is one where the tax system works to break up large department stores and supermarket into smaller units and breaks up monopolies in retail distribution. This will result in an economy where small shops and the self employed who provide personal, friendly, quality service are allowed to flourish. One which all participants can be proud of.

POPULIST DEMOCRACY

The Populist concept of democracy is quite different to that of liberal democracy.

We say that the "will of the people" is paramount. So called "liberal democracy" is based upon the assumption that voters are unable to make decisions about their futures and require representatives to act on their behalf. We reject that and support the idea of direct democracy.

The system lets people decide by means of *initiative*, *recall*, and *referendum*.

Initiative allows a percentage of the voters to propose a law, or choose one for repeal, the results of which are binding.

Recall allows voters to remove corrupt or inefficient politicians from office mid-term rather than only at election time.

Referendum is the right to petition for a vote on a bill which has already passed through parliament (or local government) but not yet taken effect.

All three of these measures are essential to Populist Democracy.

In order to avoid sleaze and corruption all representatives, as well as having reduced power, should have no other income or reward beyond the wage they receive as a member of parliament. The same may apply to local government if the situation warrants it.

Political parties should be funded by individuals, not businesses or trade unions. Populists are also opposed to the state funding of political parties. The qualification to put a case to the people in an election should be popular backing rather than money. There are many strands of thought in society and they should all be put to the people at elections - not just a choice between two or three ideas.

There should be no laws which curtail free speech. All public bodies should be accountable and elected. The press should represent the best interests of the nation and people because freedoms carry responsibilities and Populist rule is incompatible with any other methods.

The Populist vision is of a government which is minimised due to passing power back to us, the people, in our local districts, schools, courtrooms, and councils. Populism means "power to the people."

POPULAR JUSTICE

Popular justice is based upon traditional attitudes and methods of maintaining law and order.

Populists have no truck with trendy ideas and soft options. We feel so strongly because it is ordinary folk who suffer most from crime. Liberal intellectuals who bleat on about “harsh sentencing” know very little about crime. They often live in areas far removed from the problem or they have the resources to provide security measures for their own safety. Quite simply, they are out of touch with reality.

Why do people commit crimes? Partly due to environment and relative poverty – we admit to this. However, a high proportion of crime is caused by sheer evil and hate. Most creeds have a notion of justice, yet all too few are prepared to back up their words with actions. Populism is different. Our belief in justice runs through time, is age old.

We say that all people should be criminally responsible for their actions and that all parents should be held responsible for the actions of their children.

And, fundamentally, **“the punishment should fit the crime”**.

The victims of crime should always be put first and financial compensation and repairs made by criminals wherever possible. We also support the right to self defence and the individual should be able to take any action necessary to protect his family and / or property against intruders with the full backing of the law.

The community is central to crime prevention and neighbourhood watch schemes have done much to stop crime. Police forces should be drawn from the local population if possible and trials should be held locally. Small traders in shopping centres should always have equal rights to paid security for their premises.

Central government should always act to support local anti-crime initiatives rather than thwarting them with red tape and so called civil liberties legislation.

If judges fail to reflect public opinion then the jury should step in to ensure a result which is in line with the will of the people. We believe in the power of the jury, and weak judges must be sacked. Prisons should be tough (not holiday camps) and graded according to the severity of the crime. Non-violent criminals should be segregated from those convicted for violence, and parole boards should be comprised of ordinary folk – not professional “do gooders”.

Control of borders is essential to prevent illegal immigration and drug smuggling. Populist independence policy guarantees this. A nation which cannot police its borders is not a nation at all. A compulsory National Identity Card scheme may be a useful addition if it had popular support. Populists view justice as a universal concept. If a citizen commits a crime abroad they should be subject to the law of that country rather than being extradited home.

Crime is not to be defeated by moving the goalposts and decriminalising illegal acts but by using every method to clamp down upon those who threaten the freedom to live free from fear. That is popular justice.

ANTI MATERIALISM

The traditional qualities of sincerity and chivalry seem to have suffered in the headlong rush for modernisation and the desire to be contemporary. Populists believe that there is no price upon values and oppose the decline in personal pride. Some individuals have “told all” to the gutter press and sensationalist television programmes about their personal lives by the lure of quick money and fleeting fame. That is their choice, but it is one created by certain elements in the media whose motives have nothing to do with helping those unfortunates who are drawn into their web.

People should come first. That's why we oppose materialism in its various forms. The pursuit of greed also led to the near abolition of Sunday observance, the introduction of the National Lottery, and the privatisation of natural resources. The family suffers when greed and consumerism reign. Companies expect their employees to work longer and more unsociable hours and the workers in turn accept this as they attempt to “keep up with the Joneses” with the latest fashions and technology. Fashion is created by big business and their allies in advertising. It is an essential part of the modern “disposable society” which creates little of lasting worth. This is the rat-race at its worse and people lose sight of the things which really matter – family, community, and country.

It is an immoral system which throws one person onto the scrapheap whilst expecting other people to take on that person's job without any increase in pay. It can result in family breakdown and mental illness.

Materialism has wider implications, beyond those affecting the individual. It leads to a cult of change as businesses seek to create modern designs for their companies. As a result, people feel a sense of loss as new corporate images are created and familiar sights and symbols are discarded. The virtual disappearance of the red telephone box in the 1980s following privatisation of the telephone system was a typical example. Excessive sponsorship replaced sportsmanship with gamesmanship, and winning became more a financial necessity than a sporting goal. Populists are wary of sponsorship.

There is an international effect too. Multinational firms destroy the environments and traditional lifestyles of native peoples. Populists are concerned about (and at one with) the natives but we recognise that the battle against materialism and the “global economy” must be won in the alleged “developed world” before they may be offered any means of release.

Materialism is decadence. It eats away at the soul and creates a dog-eat-dog society. It ravages the land and pollutes the atmosphere. It is like a juicy apple which conceals a maggot. That is why people of all classes, colours, and creeds in every nation should unite against the materialists.

PRESERVATION

Populists believe in the preservation of nations, cultures, and peoples. However, we admit that this must be based upon popular consent. The traditional society is usually one composed of one race but when a nation becomes multi-racial any move to change it to its former self must be based upon popular consent. Failure to gain such consent would have grievous consequences.

Much social change is engineered by a false media and big business for their own ends. It is generated from above rather than growing from the root in accord with natural law. Traditions are not created overnight, but form over many years, centuries even. They are invariably “of the people” rather than the elite, and provide a framework for life and tell us something about our past, from whence we came. That is why many people study their family tree and local history. ***Populists say that a nation which forgets its history has no future.***

The Populist society is one in which the countryside is nurtured and treated with respect. One where our rural life is defended against the developers. A clean earth is our birthright. We are not its owners, merely its stewards, and we should guarantee the land for future generations. Only a national economy rather than global one can make the dream a reality.

The Populist is unashamedly a nostalgic. We draw our inspiration from days past be they classical, Georgian, Victorian, Art Nouveau, Art Deco, etc. Older buildings were built with beauty in mind. They were romantic and were built to last. This came to an end during the 20th century with modernism. The modernists designed buildings to be purely functional, without any character and feeling, and often of a lower standard of construction than that of previous buildings. New concrete tower blocks scarred the urban landscape and many fine buildings were destroyed in the process. That is why Populists stress the need to have strong planning laws and traditional designs.

We accept that society cannot be kept exactly the same throughout time, otherwise there would be no progress. However, the ***pace of change*** should be moderated and in harmony with people's everyday lives. Excessive social and technological change within a short time span has disastrous consequences as we have seen.

Populists are opposed to Americanism which is the promotion of a global cosmopolitan culture which is faceless and valueless. Societies are most prone to excessive influence from outside when they share a common language with others. They have to guard against total loss of identity which is why we oppose the “cultural imperialism” which we describe as Americanism. Note: Anti-Americanism indicates disapproval of excessive attachment to American values and culture rather than prejudice towards American people.

A nation is only truly independent if it can create policy without the fear of disinvestment or sanctions and has the military power to fight its enemies. Neutrality is the best way to secure this aim with any alliances formed being only on the basis of shared values **and** self interest.