



THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK



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There is enormous potential and a refreshing optimism when analysing the results of the UK 2011 census

The overused Political Football that is Immigration is worn out and tearing at the seams.

Immigration will always be a contentious issue because it is about the hopes and opportunities of each side. The debate has swung from left to right however.

When a country's economy is not going the right way and politicians start playing political ping pong, blaming the loss of jobs and the squeezing of services, it is played out in the emotive minds of the indigenous population.

Immigration is the star of social politics and ethnicity and diversity the accomplishments that are added to spice up the meal served for the to a constantly hungry public.

Often, the painting of foreigners as scroungers on the welfare state in Britain is hung for all to view without the recognition that foreigners in the British empire did help to build Britain up as an economic power and now that they are in Britain would do the same if only they are allowed the Opportunity!

Immigration; opportunity or

challenge is the question that will determine the political and social success of a new world economic order.

Let us not forget the USA was built on a strategy of immigration and became the ultimate super power.

Recently, however, it is the publication of the results of the 2011 census that has fuelled the discussion on increasing diversity of Britain.

The truth is, human beings are simply a resource to be used when it suits the host nation.

Around the world, the topic after censuses is not about how large the population has grown but more about the change in the constituent groups of tribes, races or ethnic composition of a region, country, city or town.

So whilst in America, the concern is about the increase in the Latino population and in Nigeria it is about the increasing number of the Hausa or Yoruba population and in Ghana whether the Akan as a contrived grouping is now more than 50% of the population or whether the Buganda or Luo or Lua population is on the rise.

The challenge is how does an indigenous population procure and adapt itself to the new challenges of its own social migration?

Politics invariably is at the heart of these discussions because in the West, foreigners tend to prefer people oriented parties.

The truth is, human beings are simply a resource to be used when it suits the host nation.

Opportunity can only be sought if irrational and emotive attitudes are kept under control! Grounded facts and balanced opinion must be central to any discourse on immigration.

The discussion on diversity and ethnicity need not be emotive; of course there are many people who come to Britain for economic reasons, but there are also several British who depart this country for tax havens, greener pastures

in emerging economies, better jobs in developing countries and retirement in idyllic places.

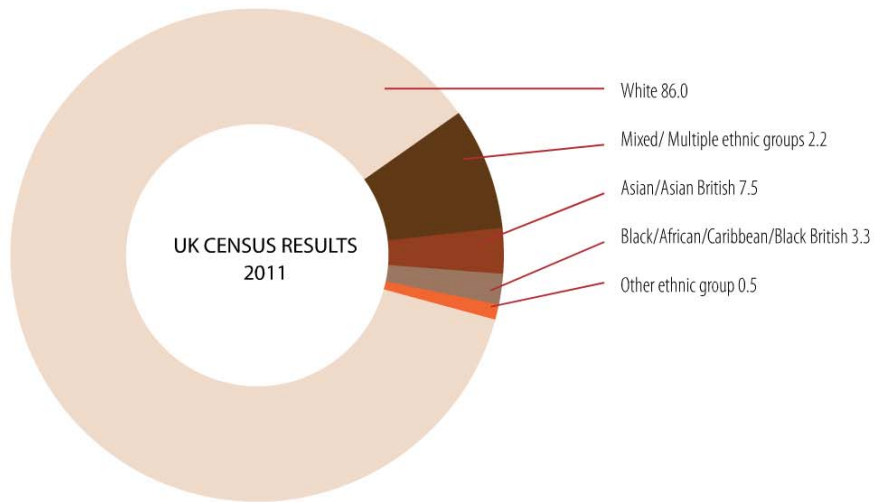
Immigration it must be remembered is a very British concept!

Indeed Britain has a history on ruling an empire from east to west on which the sun never set and therefore will forever remain the most desirable country to settle for most people of whatever culture or ethnicity.

Britain must be proud of its record as the most welcoming country for it was the British who first traversed their environs seeking newer pastures.

Today Britain is for many the destination of choice for most who are fleeing trouble hotspots in other countries. They see their past colonial master as a natural place for peaceful existence.

It is the interpretation of immigration that promotes the concentration of people of diverse cultures in Britain as unsavoury. The arrival of alternative cultures does not necessarily transform parts of this country into trouble hotspots as some commentators are claiming, rather places of



opportunity 'cultural havens' with links to new and emerging markets.

Opportunity must be seen through cultural ties these constitute billions of pounds in trade. Invariably improving the

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lives of indigenous peoples.

The world has more than enough resources to satisfy its inhabitants. It is the allocation of resources that is in question.

As the world becomes a global village, the free flow of people between states who are members of regional establishments by necessity becomes compulsory.

The European Union exists out of necessity in order to best manage human resource. It is the same between countries who

are members of the economic community of west Africa.

It is possible that in 50 years time there may just be free flow of people across the whole world.

Mankind may well by then have come to the conclusion that the greater world good outweighs the unilateral interests of single states.

In some respects this may be more desirable for mankind as the drivers for economic activity moves through information communication technology to knowledge based systems and people become more geographically mobile.

We must ask ourselves how do we as individuals see immigration? Are we willing to share resources? Why because one day we may need others to share with us.

Immigration and objectivity are conflicting words and the analysis of the high and low points of the 2011 British census is a true social economic challenge.

The number of people who describe themselves as mixed race is up from 1.27 per cent in 2001, to 2.2 per cent.

The number of households with members of different ethnic groups rose from 15.2 million in 2001, to 16.3 million households in 2011.

The most ethnically diverse area in England and Wales is London. 45 per cent are white British. 18.4 per cent in the capital are Asian. 13.3 per cent are Black.

91 per cent of the resident population identified with at least one UK nationality (English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British.)