

## The five principles

My parents went on honeymoon in Dublin, presumably because my mother's first name was Sheelagh, spelt the Irish way. It rained every day, so they decided to stay in. They ran out of contraceptives, and this was Dublin after the War, so they could not obtain any, but they took precautions. On returning to England, they discovered that my mother was pregnant, although they had planned their first child much later. My mother claimed I weighed a tonne, but I think she must have been exaggerating. The doctor ought to have turned me round in the womb, because this did not happen as it should, but he did not. I was born the wrong way round. Some claim this has been my attitude ever since.

My parents were comfortably middle class, and because of the division of British society on a class basis, I was given a good education, even though had selection been based on some just criterion of ability, I would not have received it.

I can remember talking to an Irish member of the kitchen staff at school. I was 14. She told me about the Irish potato famine. I did not believe her, because I thought no government would behave in this way, and I had never heard about it. I had taken Social and Economic History as an O level, instead of the only subject I dropped which was History. I was not interested in memorising the dates of the misdoings of various monarchs. I looked carefully at my Social and Economic History book. It contained four lines on the Irish potato famine. I was shocked. It is a very long time since this happened, I am now 69, but I think I asked my Social and Economic History teacher about the Irish potato famine, and he promised to talk about it, although it was not in the curriculum. He did so rather later, but it was not the whole of the lesson.

I had long considered that there were principles on which the governance of the UK should be based, and thought I had seen indications that there were ideas embedded in general culture and understanding which sought to implement them. They are

- Democracy
- Social justice
- Economic welfare
- Peace

and

- Rational government.

These are sometimes promoted, though never explicitly stated, for instance by the BBC, as the principles on which the state is based.

A problem on comparing this presentation with reality, is that it has no explanatory power. So wide is the divergence between the objective of good and fair governance, and the actions of those in power, that it is reasonable to give five principles by which the governance of the UK operates, its aims and methods. These are

- Violence
- Theft
- Promotion of destitution
- Lies

and

- Incompetence.

Viewed in this light, the governance of the UK, rather than stumbling from one disaster to another, is successfully implementing its policy, and its behaviour is fully explained.

Our objective is to fully document how the five principles operate in the UK.