

Text

Listen to the following interview between radio talk-show host George Sharp and Professor Christopher Hollingsly about British culture since WWII.

(Any similarity in the speakers' names to real past and living persons is entirely coincidental.)

George Sharp: Professor Hollingsly, how do you think this new understanding has affected those cultural values?

Prof. Christopher Hollingsly: The greatest example is the liberalisation of the Labour Party and the discrediting of the radical left. This, again, represents a greater willingness for individuals to accept responsibility for society. Hmm.. what a hard job it is too!

Other examples are our sense of identity in terms of race, gender, consumption, style, etc. Enoch Powell would have a very hard time with the "Rivers of Blood" speech today! Our cultural values in Britain have globalised. We have had to come to terms with the fall of Empire, and I think we've been successful - at least, as successful as possible. The fact is that today the British people do not think in Imperial terms at all. Anybody born after the 1970's is really too young to remember the last phases of it. This is a fantastic thing. It means that we really question why our country makes any political decision to use the army. Why Iraq? Why Afghanistan? Part of our collective answer has been – because we want the oil. Because we drive big cars. Because we want our luxuries. We are much more aware of how our culture affects the planet today, terms of politics, economics, the environment and culture itself. This has been important.

George Sharp: How would you describe the relationships between Britain and America in terms of culture?

Prof. Christopher Hollingsly: America has been a great problem for Britain, a problem that began before the Second World War. We looked at the amazing economic and cultural growth in the United States in the 1950's and 1960's and copied as fast as we could. If you read the transcripts of the Parliamentary debates from April 1945 you will find our government's only hope for any form of independent national identity was that the Americans "would view the world through British spectacles". That's not saying much about us now is it! We then set out culturally to either copy the United

States, for example in youth culture, or complain about it. The youth culture of the 1950's to 1970's was, in my mind, only an initial phase in our cultural own understanding. It was period of experimentation and confusion. Beautiful at times, but still too categorical and rigid. Youth are fantastic for that – lots of experimentation and creativity, but no experience and power. Demographically, remember, the baby boomers were the single largest generation of modern times. We've watched them be young, and then get old and conservative.

Name, Date, and Registration Number

Questions: You do not have to use complete sentences! This is a listening exam. SIMPLE AND CORRECT IS BETTER THAN COMPLICATED AND WRONG.

1. What is the greatest example of the effects of new understanding on cultural values?
2. What would Enoch Powell have a hard time with in 2008?
3. What are Britons born after the 1970's too young to remember?
4. What did Britain look at in the 1950's and 1960's?
5. What was the youth culture of the 1950's and 1960's, in the mind of Professor Hollingsly?

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True or False: Write "True" or "False" in the space next to each statement

1. The liberalisation of the Labour Party and the discrediting of the radical left represent a greater willingness for individuals to accept responsibility for society.

2. British cultural values have not globalised in the past 20 years.

3. We are much more aware of how our culture affects the planet today.

4. America began to be a problem for Britain after the Second World War.

5. Britain wanted to view the world through American spectacles.

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Answer Sheet

1. What is the greatest example of the effects of new understanding on cultural values?
the liberalisation of the Labour Party and the discrediting of the radical left
2. What would Enoch Powell have a hard time with in 2008?
The “Rivers of Blood” speech.
3. What are Britons born after the 1970’s too young to remember?
Empire and/or the fall of Empire
4. What did Britain look at in the 1950’s and 1960’s?
the amazing economic and cultural growth in the United States
5. What was the youth culture of the 1950’s and 1960’s, in the mind of Professor Hollingsly?
an initial phase in our cultural own understanding.

True or False: Write “True” or “False” in the space next to each statement

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