* [Political Correctness, and other Middle-England myths](http://aspiringjourno11.blog.co.uk/2012/03/19/political-correctness-and-other-middle-england-myths-13213575/" \o "Post detail page of \"Political Correctness, and other Middle-England myths\")

by [**aspiringjourno11**](http://www.blog.co.uk/user/aspiringjourno11/) @ 2012-03-19 – 11:05:18

With a few hours to spare on a train to London, it seems like an appropriate time to vent some creative fury. Call it the fury of youth, if you will, but my anger is generally pre-empted by a self-interested middle-England.

The reason my generation is unemployed, and unfairly persecuted for numerous social ills with many left feeling alienated from our self-congratulatory service economy is, and i'm sure many white middle-colar workers will beg to differ, because of the selfish interests of the 35 - 50 year old senior figures within leading corporations that have mishandled finances, resources and priorities in equal measure. My generation has the highest proportion of young people attending University since the post-war period began. Presumably we, as a collective, presumed this would enhance our career prospects rather than impinge on them? and yet, with 1 in 4 graduates unemployed many are increasingly alienated from employment and society in general.

Yet I still have to sit there and listen to ignorant middle-Englanders complain that young people 'want it all, but aren't prepared to do the work'. More often than not, the individuals spouting this drivel are the same individuals that harbour essentially racist views, and regard society as being 'ruined' by political correctness. The same generation that regarded Bernard Manning, the Gollywog and the corner shop as staples of British society. Lest we forget, this is the same generation that has mismanaged our economy through short-sighted self-interest, and the very same generation that voted for the Conservatives on the back of the 'Nobody wants a N\*gger for a neighbour' campaign in byelections throughout the 1980's.

I find it disgusting that a generation so out of touch with society feels it has the right to speak on our behalf. Presumably, these individuals spend their Sunday afternoon's pouring over the Daily Mail's perpetual hate. The very same people that have probably never had a black friend, and reject multi-ethnic society citing the riots as evidence it simply doesn't work. No, dear elders, the riots were an expression of general disatisfaction. That's what happens when you feel there is no job and no hope. When it appears society shits on you from a great height no matter how hard you try. I wonder what could possibly have planted that particular political seed?

I'm not condoning the riots - many of those involved were mindless opportunists. Given half the chance i'd sooner see a retributary form of justice introduced for anyone taking liberties in a law-abiding society. We, as a country, don't know how good we've got it, and young people here haven't got a clue what suffering is. That said, too many suburbian semi-detached dwelling Englanders would happily sit there and 'lock them up' instead of attempting to identify the relevant issues. If we do that, we really are facing a ticking time-bomb of disatisfied youth. And unlike half of the politicians and people that speak on behalf of youth, I believe i'm appropriately placed to make that call.

The fact is, political correctness hasn't gone mad. It, as a concept, is just finding its feet. It's not perfect, and perhaps there is an over-emphasis on positive discrimination. But i'd rather that than 60 years of persecution - the only alternative we've ever known. A balance can, and will, be achieved with a patient and tolerant approach.

As anyone who knows me will be aware, I am by no means a 'lefty'. Academia may or may not be inherently left-leaning, but it certainly hasn't affected the freedom to express my political views. I regard conservatism as a progressive notion (ever the optimist). To be able to turn around and say 'lock them up', you must first understand the issues, and be tolerant of them. If you do everything you can to create an inclusive, accepting society, only then can you apply an iron fist to those that break the law. You have to first exhaust all other options. Just as the concept of good and evil come hand-in-hand, so too does legality and illegality. But, and this is predominantly addressed to you middle-England, do not ever think you are best placed to look down on society from your lofty perch and make judgement calls.

Attempt to build bridges not destroy them as you have for the last 20 years when the going was good. Engage with young people rather than dismiss them. Explore the society you created