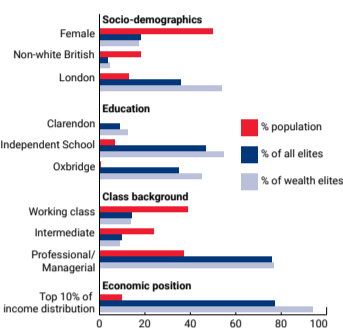


WHO RULES BRITAIN?

WHO ARE AND WHERE ARE THE ELITE?

The British elite are predominantly male (more than 80 per cent of current *Who's Who*) and overwhelmingly white (96 per cent).

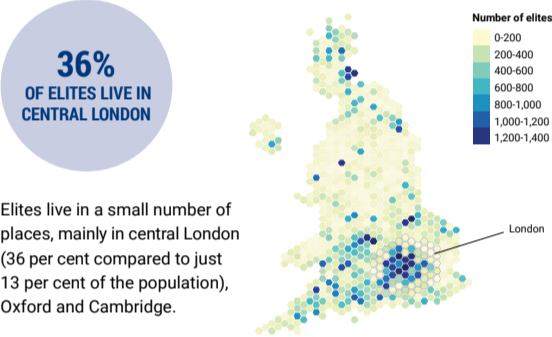
DEMOGRAPHICS: WHO AND WHERE ARE THE ELITE?



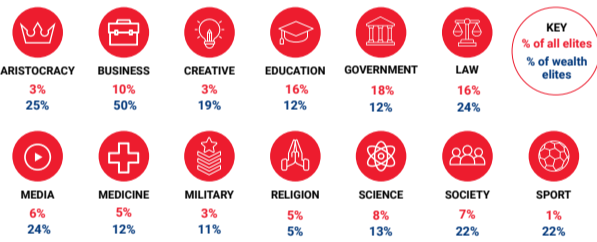
80%
OF BRITISH ELITES
IN *WHO'S WHO*
ARE MALE

The wealth elite have a similar demographic to the wider elite, except for slightly more prestigious educational trajectories and a much higher likelihood of living in London.

WHERE DO ELITES LIVE?



PERCENTAGE OF ELITES WITHIN EACH OCCUPATION



The power of the clergy and military has waned since the end of the 19th century. Now elites are drawn broadly from the fields of business, politics and law. The wealth elite are more likely by far to be business leaders.

HOW ARE THE ELITE MADE?

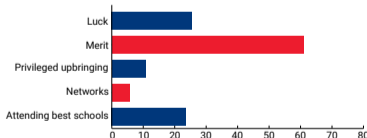
"I'M JUST A CHAP SITTING IN A LITTLE HOUSE IN A SUBURB WHOSE LIFE IS, AS YOU'VE DISCOVERED, NORMAL ... QUITE ORDINARY."
JAMES, FINANCE (WEALTH ELITE) BORN 1945-1950

EVEN THOSE IN THE WEALTH ELITE REJECT THE LABEL ELITE

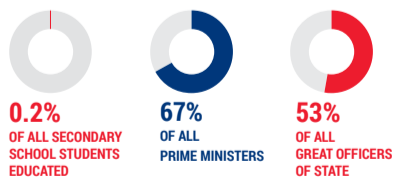
43% PERCENTAGE OF ELITES WHO SAY THEY ARE FROM WORKING-CLASS BACKGROUNDS BUT ACTUALLY COME FROM PROFESSIONAL, MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES.

KEY FACTORS ELITES ATTRIBUTE TO THEIR SUCCESS

THE ELITE SEE MERIT AS THE MAIN DRIVER OF THEIR SUCCESS



Those educated at the prestigious Clarendon schools* continue to be vastly over-represented among the elite.



*Clarendon schools are Britain's nine most elite private boarding schools – Eton, Harrow, St Pauls, Westminster, Winchester, Rugby, Charterhouse, Shrewsbury and Merchant Taylors.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE PEOPLE WIELDING POWER AND INFLUENCE IN BRITAIN?

PROFESSORS SAM FRIEDMAN AND AARON REEVES HAVE SHOWN THAT WHITE MEN FROM ELITE BACKGROUNDS, WHO HAVE ALL TOO OFTEN ATTENDED A TINY GROUP OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND HIGHLY SELECTIVE UNIVERSITIES, REMAIN PROFOUNDLY OVER-REPRESENTED IN THE CONTEMPORARY BRITISH ELITE.



The wealth elite is **0.01%** of the UK population, around **6,000** individuals

The analysis identifies an elite based on *Who's Who* – a longstanding dictionary of those reaching widely recognised positions of national influence. It further pinpoints a "wealth elite" who are both included in *Who's Who* and are in the top one per cent of the wealth distribution.

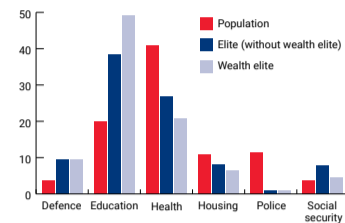
Research draws on data from the 125,000 people featured in *Who's Who* since 1897, currently representing about 0.05 per cent of the UK population, combined with probate records, survey and interview results, and data sources illuminating specific aspects of the lives of the elite including Desert Island Disc choices and UK Supreme Court judgments.



SCAN TO HEAR MORE FROM SAM AND AARON ABOUT THEIR RESEARCH

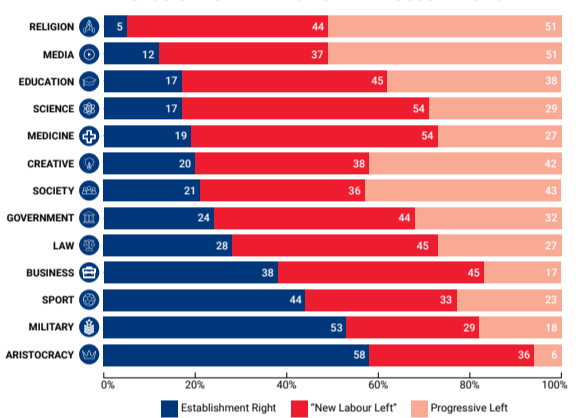
HOW DO THE ELITE THINK?

The research was able to show how the thinking of the elite differs from the rest of the population, for example when asked what the government's highest priority should be.



THE WEALTH ELITE THINK EDUCATION SHOULD BE THE "HIGHEST PRIORITY" OF GOVERNMENT

IDEOLOGICAL ORIENTATION OF ELITE OCCUPATIONS

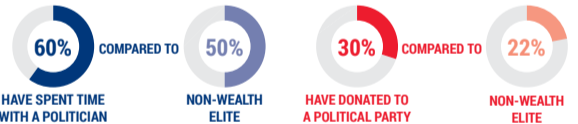
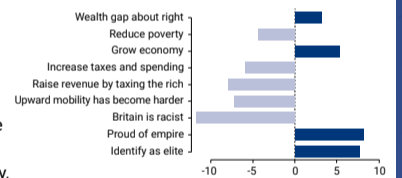


The ideological centre of gravity among elites in the military, the aristocracy, and even sport tilts strongly to the right, while elites in religion and the media are dominated by the progressive left.

While the more centrist "New Labour" left is well represented in most occupations, they are an outright majority in science and medicine.

THE IDEOLOGICAL ORIENTATION OF THE WEALTH ELITE TILTS TO THE RIGHT

How our elites are formed has important implications for the politics we get. Privately educated elites are more likely than other elites to be proud of empire and less likely to think reducing poverty is a priority.



The wealth elite are more politically active than other elites. Their access to positional and economic power grants them a unique ability to convert their beliefs into actions.

IT STILL PAYS TO BE PRIVILEGED

CLASS INEQUALITY WILL NOT BE MEANINGFULLY TACKLED UNTIL ...

- THE LINK BETWEEN WEALTH AND ELITE STATUS IS WEAKENED
- THE DISTORTIONARY POWER OF A HANDFUL OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS IS UNDERMINED
- OXBRIDGE IS OPENED UP
- AND POWER IS REDISTRIBUTED AWAY FROM THOSE WHO REACH THE TOP OF PARTICULAR PROFESSIONS.



FIND OUT MORE
Harvard University Press
(September 2024)