

WHAT IS THE STATE
OF THE NATION?

January 2023

RADIX

THINK
TANK
FOR THE
RADICAL
CENTRE



THE STATE OF
BRITAIN



'PEOPLE'S PERCEPTIONS ABOUT THEIR LIVES
AND SOCIETIES STAND IN STARK CONTRAST
TO HISTORICALLY HIGH MEASURES OF
AGGREGATE WELLBEING'

United Nations Development Programme
2022



THE STATE OF THE NATION IN TEN CHARTS

How is Britain doing relative to its peers?

Events such as the Great Financial Crash, the COVID pandemic and the war in Ukraine have affected all countries around the globe. Some events such as Brexit and this Winter's strike fever are peculiarly British.

The mainstream media tend to focus on headline-making problems and difficulties while complaint and anger seem to form the very soul of social media. Does all that give us a good picture of Britain's overall performance relative to similar countries?

Here we present ten charts showing some measure of Britain's performance relative to European countries of a similar size: Germany, France, Italy and Spain.

We invite you to draw your own conclusions.

About RADIX

RADIX is a politically non-aligned, not-for-profit network of public policy think tanks. Our aim is to re-imagine the way government, institutions and societies function based on open-source, participative citizenship. To kick-start the thinking that is needed for politics and policy to embrace technology, innovation, social and cultural change.

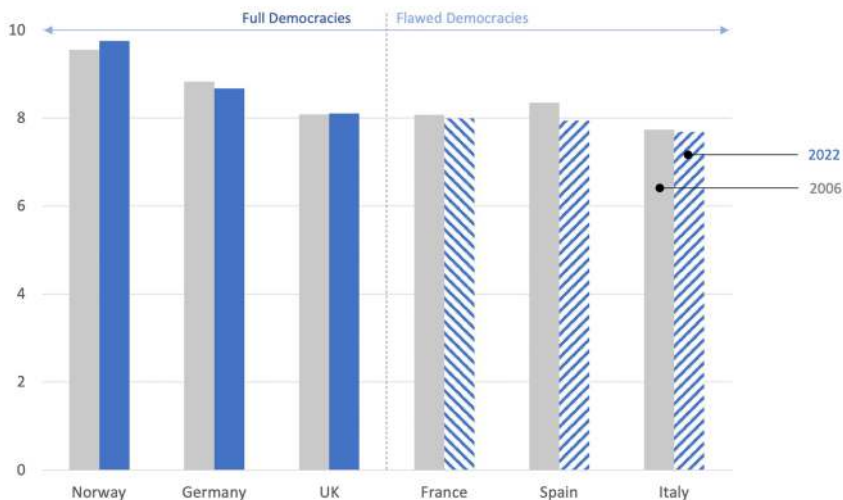
We are a network organisation bringing together a significant pan-European network of individuals and organisations capable of driving the needed transformations.

Our organisations include RADIX - the think tank for the radical Centre; The Big Tent Foundation, The RADIX Centre for Business, Politics & Society, and POLITIKA - the RADIX youth wing. Our network of Fellows from politics, academia and business numbers around 70 and we collaborate with other organisations across Europe.

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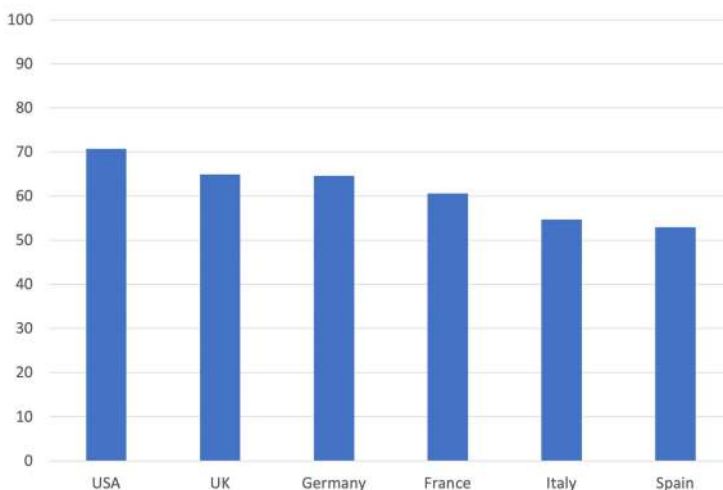
The State of Democracy

Source: Economist Intelligence Unit Democracy Index, May 2022
Higher Score = Better Functioning Democracy. Maximum Score = 10
Norway included as showing the highest score worldwide



Perceptions Around The World – Soft Power

Source: Global Soft Power Index, 2022
Higher Score = Greater Impact. Maximum Score = 100
USA included as showing the highest score

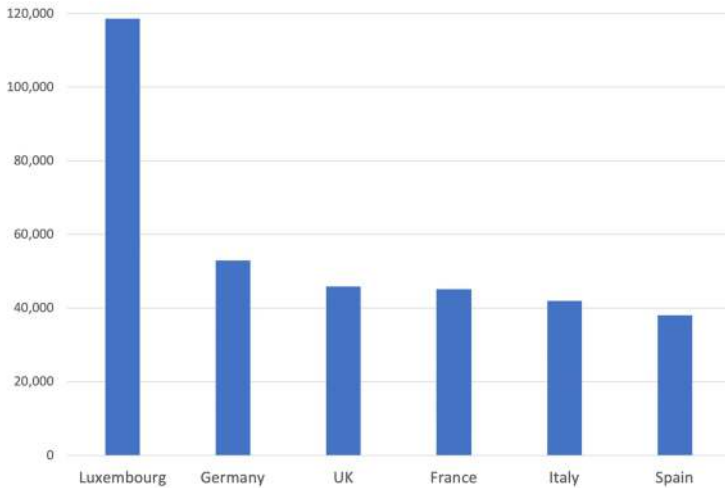


Prosperity: GDP per capita PPP (2021)

Source: theglobaleconomy.com

All figures in US\$

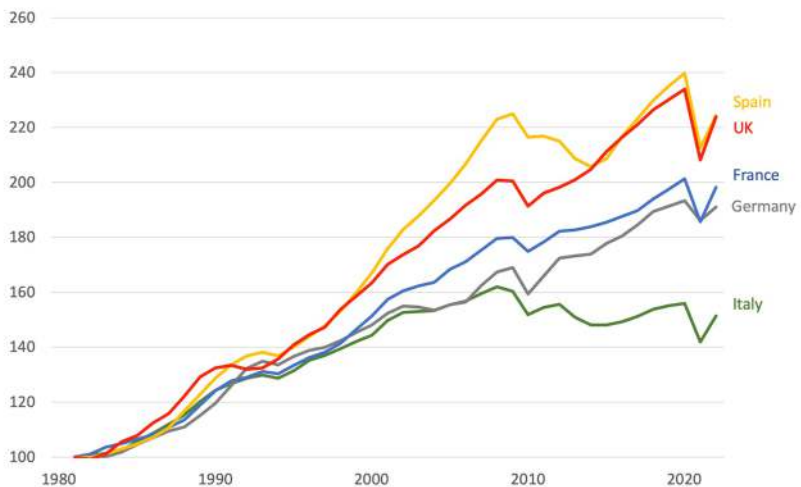
Luxembourg included as the world's most prosperous country by this measure



Growth: Cumulative GDP Growth

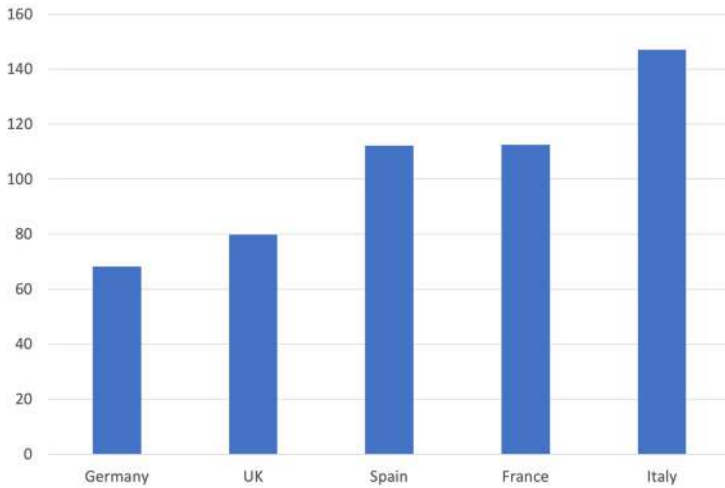
Source: World Bank: World Development Indicators

1980 GDP re-based to 100



Government Indebtedness

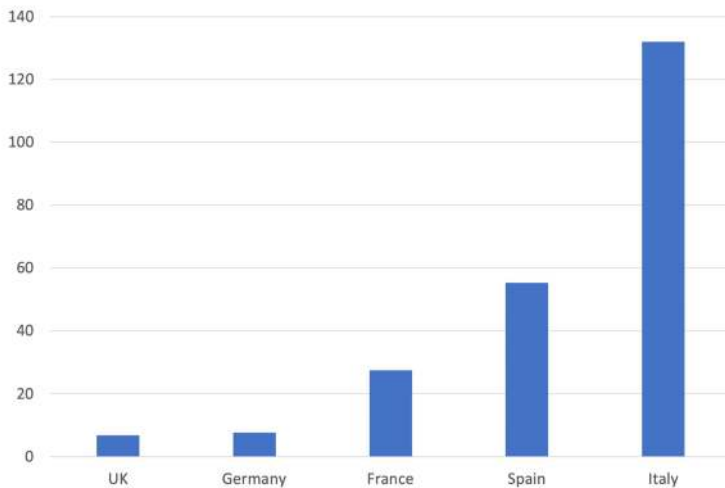
General government gross debt as a percentage of GDP
Source: IMF 2022



Default Risk: Price of Credit Default Swaps

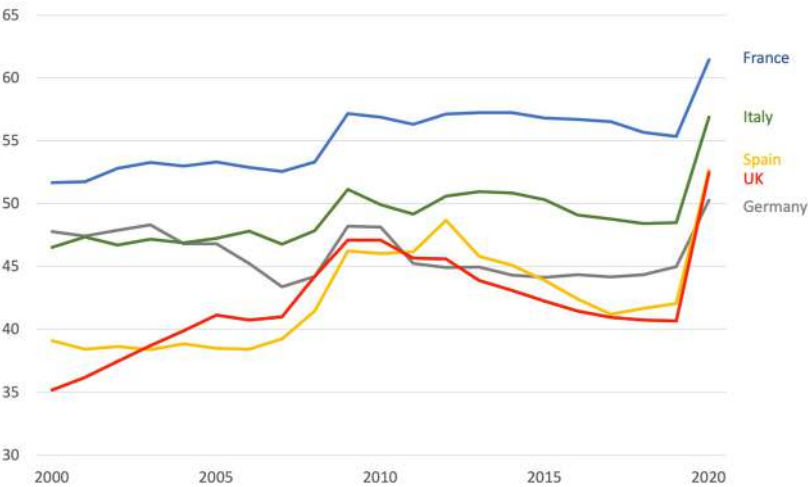
Source: World Government Bonds

Credit Default Swaps are financial instruments that compensate the holder in the event of a default.
Higher price = higher perceived chance of default



Spending: Public Expenditure as a Percentage of GDP

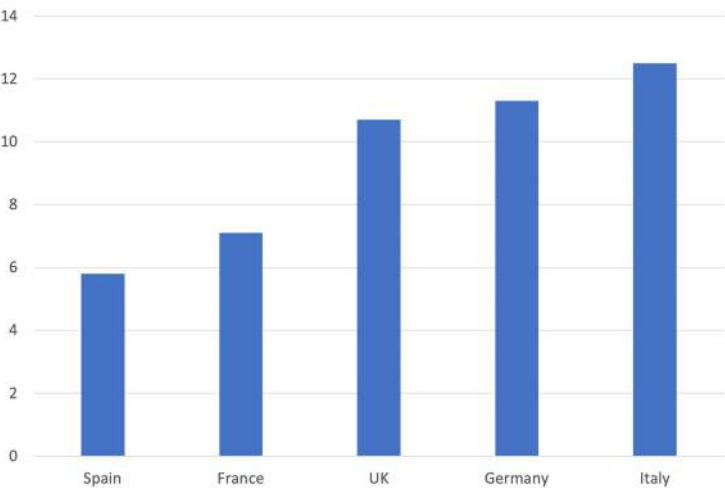
Source: OECD



Inflation

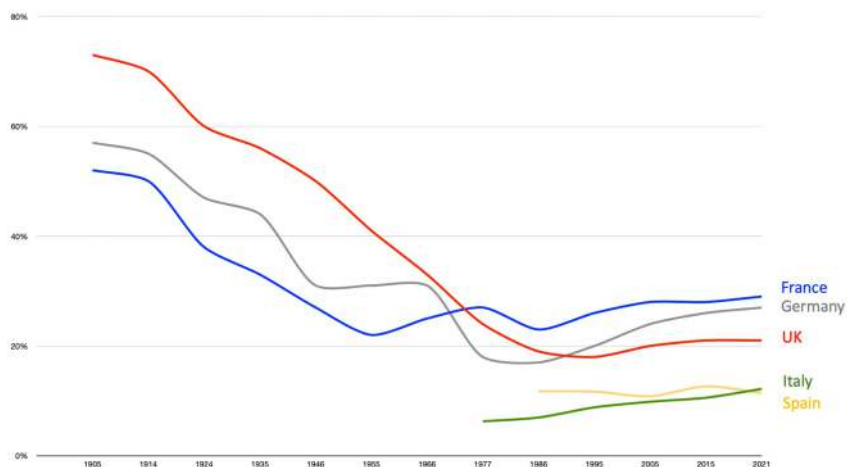
Recorded inflation rate (%)

Source: Eurostat/Trading Economics (July-November 2022)



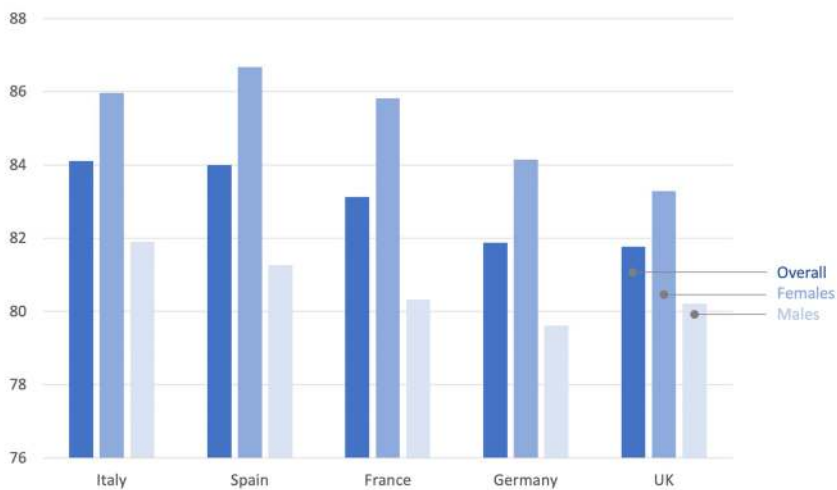
Concentration of Wealth

Percentage of wealth held by the top 1% of the population
Source: World Inequality Database



Health: Life Expectancy at Birth

Source: United Nations Population Division





'SOMETIMES PESSIMISM OR OPTIMISM
GETS POPULAR AND IT'S CONTAGIOUS'

Edward C. Prescott



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