

Synopsis

Patricia Morgan outlines how demographic trends point to increasing fragmentation or atomisation, something most advanced in the UK. She explains how these trends are counter productive for living standards; put pressure upon the environment, and are closely bound up with problems of poor child development, personal disadvantage, welfare dependency and increasing inequalities. As individuals are disconnected from family, friends, neighbours, churches, clubs, associations and community networks, social capital is destroyed, trust evaporates, despoliation and predation spreads. Patricia Morgan further explains how these destructive developments are not simply fortuitous or accidental, but can be furthered (or countered) by government policies. Deliberately or accidentally government policies can eradicate the links that bind families and communities together. Out of indifference or even hostility to human collaboration, by ignorance or design, they can (and are) subverting the formation of enduring bonds and furthering social dislocation.