

The liberal elite versus the hoi polloi

By Brendan O'Neill, Spiked, 16 March 2015

Clarkson-bashing is the glue of Britain's liberal elite... The chattering classes' Clarksonphobia was on full display this week, following Clarkson's suspension by the BBC after he allegedly hit, or in the Beeb's words "had a fracas with", a Top Gear producer.

Apparently, after a long day's filming, Clarkson was expecting a steak dinner but was given a plate of cold cuts, and he flipped...

Clarksonphobics

No sooner had the Beeb announced that JC had been suspended than the Clarksonphobics were hollering: "Make it permanent!"

"Why does the BBC put up with Clarkson?" demanded a Guardian hack who clearly doesn't have access to Google. For a quick web search would have revealed to her the reason the Beeb "puts up" with him: Top Gear is phenomenally popular, with the kind of people whose shoulders will never rub with Guardian writers' shoulders. Five million Brits watch it on BBC2, 300 million people around the world tune in, and it has made the BBC £50 million (\$95.6m).

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This is what most terrifies Clarksonphobics: the fact that people, the little people, like him.

The Guardian writer said Clarkson has become a blot on the Beeb, through "pushing the boundaries of ... political correctness". Apparently the BBC should only be for PC people, people like Us...

Elsewhere in the media Clarkson has been denounced as a dangerous "petrolhead", an otherworldly creature who "regards political correctness as a curse", and "the nation's biggest oaf" who should not be allowed to "get away with offending all of the people all of the time".

Free speech includes the right to offend

First of all, why not? Free speech includes the right to offend. Secondly, Clarkson doesn't actually offend all of the people all of the time.

What about those hundreds of millions who watch Top Gear? They love him. Media luvvies who are lucky if they have a couple of thousand readers never sound so spectacularly out of touch as when they slam as unacceptable, as Offensive To All, a man who is watched by throngs of humanity.

The New Statesman, wished these people were dead

And it is really these people, the Clarkson fans, that the pseudo-liberals loathe. Clarkson is seen as a corrupting force, turning mushy-brained viewers into car-desiring, rude-joke-telling Bad People. This is why The New Statesman, on hearing that 500,000 people this week signed a petition for Clarkson to be reinstated, basically wished these people were dead.

Clarkson fans live in a “world of stupid”, it said, and “if every signatory to this petition were boiled down for biofuel, the world would be a cleaner, smarter place”.