Is the West's real problem a moral one. Sunday Times (Matthew Syed) says 'Yes', I say No – it's a digital technology and behaviour one. We are thinking and behaving differently, especially towards Governments and rulers. See why below

Missing from Syed article one central, decisive and pretty obvious aspect - the immense power of digital technology, via the microchip and its ubiquitous impact on attitudes, behaviour and organisation. Trust breaks down because hierarchies of governance break down. And hierarchies break down because the respect and veils of mystery and superiority which have long sustained them, and kept their flaws and defects well hidden, are exposed by the glare of transparency as never before. This rides along with the collapse of bureaucratic centralist effectiveness and the rise of localism and identity insistence - all enabled by the connection power in every pocket (almost) and the discovery that every person has their own echo chamber and their own mini-platform. This is what has changed the world, amplified protest everywhere, roused unending contempt for government institutions and set a new kind of populism on the march. One has to look at these phenomena in the round. The trust breakdown in government, is nothing new ,but it is now empowered as never before in history - and to provide any framework of governance and order demands entirely new skills. That's the real deep change going on, not just in the patterns and styles of party politics but in the whole development of democratic government.