

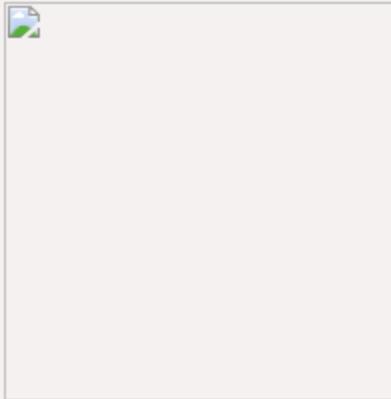
From: Intelligence Squared <info@intelligencesquared.com>

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Subject: Mark Zuckerberg on Trial: Villain or Visionary?

Date: Tue, 09 Apr 2019 09:09:04 +0000

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Mark Zuckerberg on Trial: Facebook is Damaging Society



Mark Zuckerberg on Trial: Facebook is Damaging Society

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TUESDAY 18 JUNE, 7PM

EMMANUEL CENTRE

Featuring Carole Cadwalladr, Damian Collins, Dex Torricke-Barton, Ed Vaizey, Helen Lewis

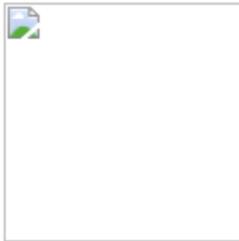
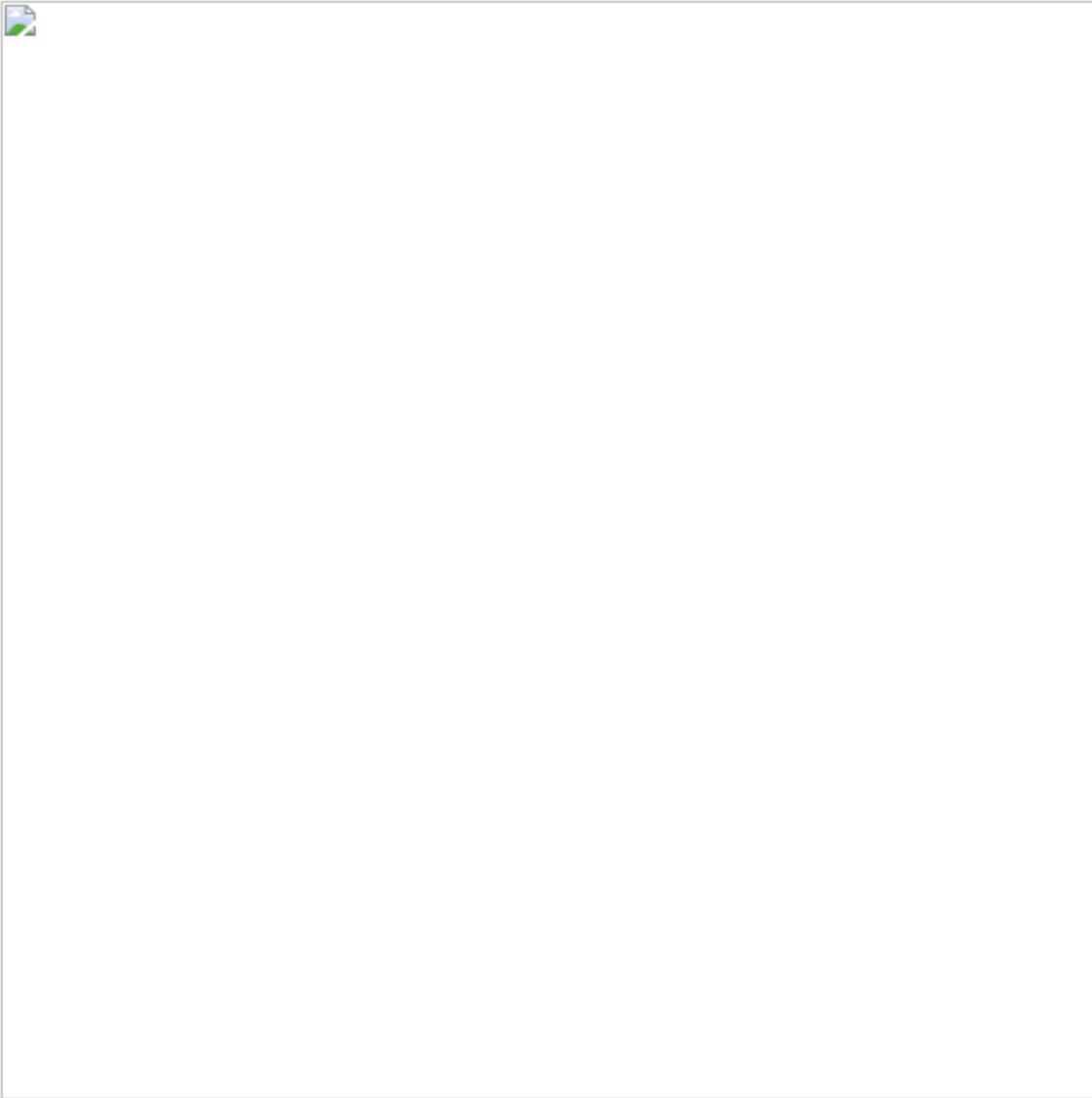
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Zuck sucks. According to his critics, Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of Facebook, presides over a company which is undermining our basic freedoms. It was complicit in the spread of fake news and foreign interference in our elections, and is partly to blame for the rise of political polarisation through its echo chambers and filter bubbles. The company has been selling the private data of millions of users around the world to select companies – most notoriously

Cambridge Analytica, who used the information to meddle in the US presidential elections and Britain's EU referendum. And Facebook was accused of behaving like 'digital gangsters' by the House of Commons Digital Select Committee, led by **Damian Collins MP**, who claimed Zuckerberg has willfully misled lawmakers over fake news and data malpractice. Facebook is built on an essentially unethical business model, and the buck stops with Zuck.

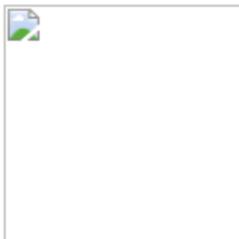
That's the case against Mark Zuckerberg. But let's keep things in perspective, say his defenders. Facebook has done more than any other organisation in the world to connect people through technology, allowing more than 2.2 billion users so far – that's 30 percent of the world's population – to share their lives with friends and family around the world – all for free. And let's not forget that Facebook has been a vital tool for social and political organisation, from the Arab Spring to Obama's presidential campaign. The world is a complex and messy place and while it's convenient to scapegoat a single CEO for our polarised politics, the fact is there were multiple causes for Brexit and Trump. Of course, there are problems at Facebook and Mark Zuckerberg is keenly aware of them. In January 2018, he made a promise to fix Facebook, admitting that the organisation makes too many errors and listing his priorities as 'protecting our community from abuse and hate, defending against interference by nation states, or making sure that time spent on Facebook is time well spent'. Much of what we are reading about Facebook is old news. Zuckerberg is essentially an idealist and we should at least give him the benefit of the doubt as he seeks to rebuild the world's trust in Facebook.

That's the argument of Zuckerberg's defenders. But are they right? [Join us on June 18](#), hear the arguments and decide for yourself.



Carole Cadwalladr

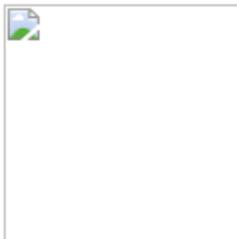
Award-winning investigative reporter for the Observer, best known for her reporting on the Facebook data breach and the links between Cambridge Analytica, pro-Brexit campaigners and Donald Trump's presidential election team. Her reporting led to the downfall of Cambridge Analytica and a public apology from Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg who was forced to testify before congress.



Damian Collins

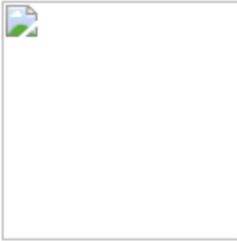
Conservative MP for Folkestone and Hythe and chair of the House of Commons Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee. He has played a key role in parliamentary scrutiny of Facebook's activities,

including invoking a rare parliamentary mechanism to seize internal Facebook documents over the Cambridge Analytica scandal.



Dex Torricke-Barton

Former head of executive communications for Facebook. Over the last decade he has advised some of Silicon Valley's most prominent leaders and companies. He was Mark Zuckerberg's speechwriter from 2012-16, and was previously executive speechwriter for Google's Eric Schmidt. He has also head of communications for SpaceX, Elon Musk's rocket company.

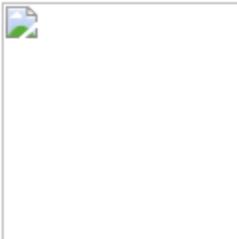


Ed Vaizey

Conservative MP for Wantage and Didcot, who served as Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries from 2010 to 2016 under David Cameron.



Chair



Helen Lewis

Helen Lewis is associate editor of the *New Statesman*, and has written on technology for the *Sunday Times*, *Wired* and the *Guardian*. Her first book, *Difficult Women*, is out next year.





Viral Sensation Rutger Bregman On How Utopian Ideas Can Become Reality

Viral Sensation Rutger Bregman On How Utopian Ideas Can Become Reality

This week's episode features **Rutger Bregman**, historian and author of *Utopia for Realists: And How We Can Get There*. In conversation with **Helen Lewis**, associate editor of the New Statesman, he discusses subjects ranging from Universal Basic Income, the benefits of the four-day working week, climate change, and his solutions for saving capitalism – plus his recent speech at Davos calling for higher taxes for the rich, a video of which went viral.

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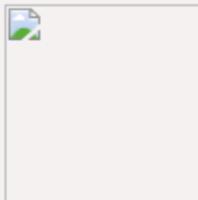


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