“Social Progress in Britain should be compulsory reading for all policymakers, indeed for anyone who wants better to understand the trends in and drivers of social progress. Anthony Heath and his excellent co-authors at the Centre for Social Investigation bring out the facts clearly, compellingly and, perhaps, counter-intuitively showing that though major challenges remain, social progress in Britain has generally kept up with that in other countries.”

- Stephen Aldridge, Director for Analysis and Data, Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government

In his landmark 1942 report on social insurance Sir William Beveridge talked about the ‘five giants on the road to reconstruction’ - the giants of Want, Disease, Ignorance, Squalor, and Idleness.

Social Progress in Britain investigates how much progress Britain has made in tackling the challenges of material deprivation, ill-health, educational standards, lack of housing, and unemployment in the decades since Beveridge wrote. It also asks how progress in Britain compares with that of peer countries -- Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Sweden and the USA. Has Britain been slipping behind? What has been the impact of the increased economic inequality which Britain experienced in the 1980s -- has rising economic inequality been mirrored by increasing inequalities in other areas of life too? Have there been increasing inequalities of opportunity between social classes, men and women, and different ethnic groups? And what have been the implications for Britain’s sense of social cohesion?