

Culture confusion, Cornwall's outcomes and Covid's long tail

From statues to sport, a fervent jostling for the moral high ground is dominating British life. The so-called “culture wars” seem to encompass a wide range of social and political touchpoints – yet most Britons in a recent survey claimed to have no idea what the term actually means. In this week’s big story, the Observer’s Andrew Anthony delves into the culture wars and asks what exactly is behind them. Then, associate editor Julian Coman reflects on an intervention by England’s football manager on the question of multiculturalism and national pride, and asks what lessons the political left can learn from Gareth Southgate’s moving open letter to the nation.

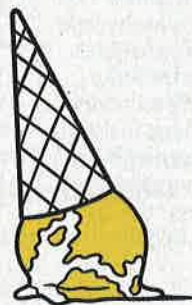
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G7 leaders converged on Cornwall last weekend for their first face-to-face meetings for many months. The summit offered a moment of opportunity after an often bleak year, but the leaders departed amid familiar criticisms that their pledges failed to go far enough. Our diplomatic editor Patrick Wintour reflects on what was said – and what will actually get done.

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England’s long-anticipated relaxing of all Covid restrictions was delayed by four weeks, a sobering reminder that even one of the world’s best vaccination programmes cannot fully repel the mutating threat posed by Covid-19. On pages 18-19, we look at how countries around the world are faring against the virus while, on pages 30-31, Laura Spinney asks why Covid’s long effects seem to afflict women the most.

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On the cover

Images of the Queen, the England footballer Jude Bellingham taking the knee, a Brexit supporter, Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex and Black Lives Matter protests reflect some of the issues encompassing Britain’s contentious but nebulous culture wars.

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