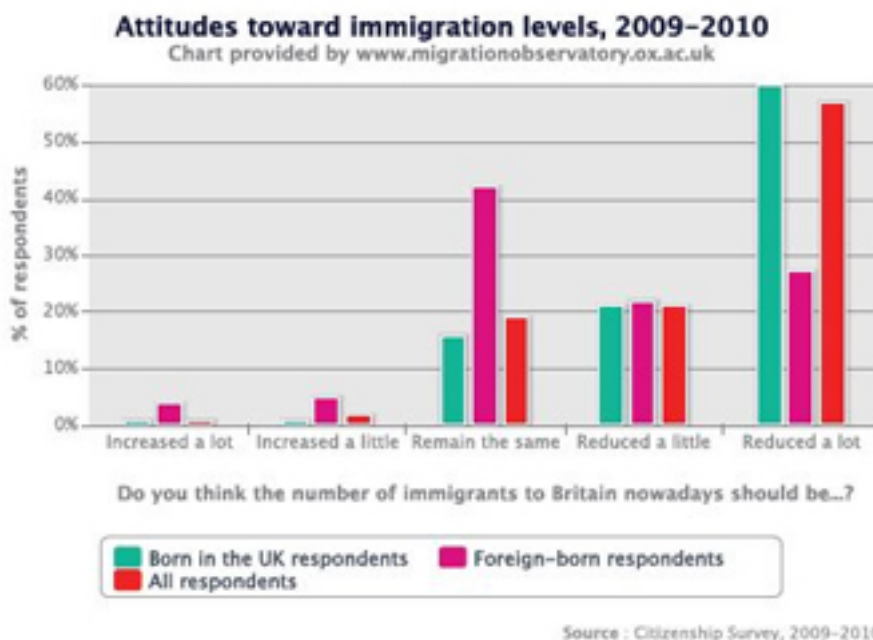


Concerns about immigration were often quickly conflated with racism by the Left up until very recently, and even now the Guardian/Observer often fails to report key data releases. Polling evidence shows that migration is a key concern of many voters, in fact there is often a harsher stance taken by second and third generation migrants. In 2010 Demos reported that,

“More than a third (36%) of voters that Labour lost at the last election agreed that ‘Britain should limit the number of people coming from other countries to live and work here because, on balance, they damage our economy and society’, compared with just over one in four (28%) voters who stayed loyal to Labour”.

The 2010 report of the Migration Observatory contained the following poll evidence:



The concerns about the extent of migration are now almost dominating the politics of Greece and creeping up the agenda in France. Countries like Spain and Italy are also experiencing real problems in controlling their borders and there have been many incidents of atrocious racist

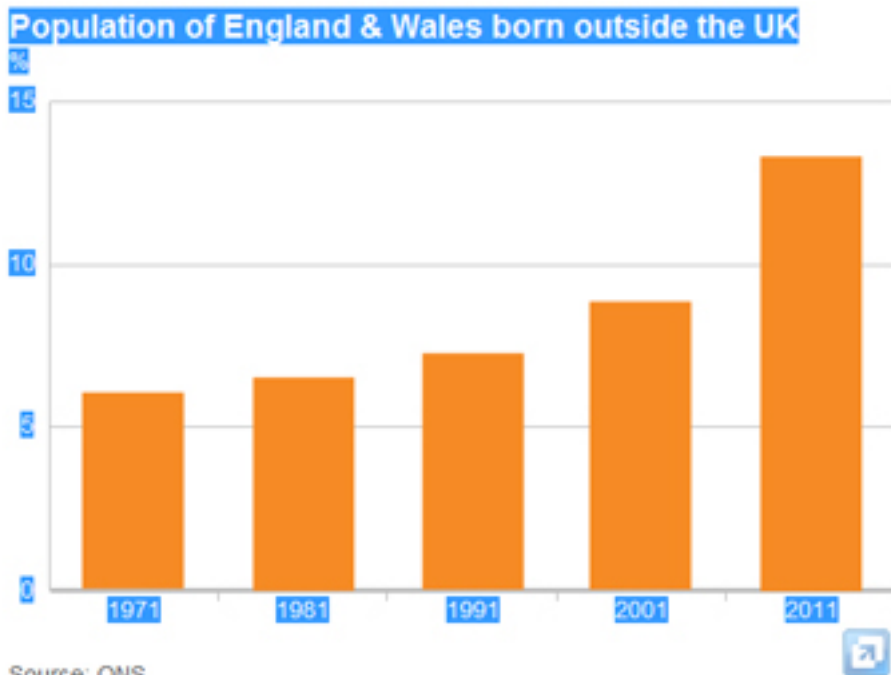
violence and indifference.

Left/Right opinion usually divides around an axis of the Left claiming that inward migration brings economic benefits through skills and diversity, that a rich country like the UK owes international obligations to other countries and that those who are uncomfortable with immigration are closet racists. They also argue that the ageing population requires inward migration to aid growth and prosperity. The Rightist arguments against immigration usually centre on the need to preserve our cultural identity, the need to prevent unsavoury people coming in, the economic costs of providing welfare services to migrants and the economic and social effects within the places where migrants are concentrated.

Getting to the facts around immigration is an enormous problem. There are a host of university departments, thinktanks, pressure groups and official bodies all ostensibly charged with identifying the reality. Even the trusted sources such as the Office For National Statistics struggle to count the right numbers.

- In terms of the scale of inward migration the ONS has recently published the following figures:
 - In 2011 the population of England, Wales and Northern Ireland was 57.8 million.
 - This was an increase of 3.7 million since the previous census.
 - The population grew by 7%, one of the fastest ever growth rates.
 - Since the 2001 census, the proportion of white British people has dropped from 87.5% to 80.5% of the population

The table below indicates the scale of the change:



Some background articles

[Rise of 'white flight'](#) , by Emma Reynolds, Daily Mail 27 January 2013

[Worried about immigration?](#) Then go and live in Romania, by Marie Dhumieres, Independent 31 January 2013