

down the line radio 4

Down the Line Radio 4

Down the Line Radio 4 is a distinctive and beloved British radio program that has carved out a unique niche within the landscape of British broadcasting. Known for its satirical humor, improvisational wit, and engaging interactions with listeners, the show has garnered a dedicated following over the years. It exemplifies the innovative spirit of Radio 4, blending comedy, current affairs, and social commentary into a format that is both entertaining and thought-provoking. This article explores the origins, format, notable features, cultural impact, and evolution of Down the Line, offering an in-depth understanding of why it remains a significant fixture in British radio history.

Origins and Development of Down the Line Radio 4

The Birth of the Program

Down the Line first aired in 1995, created by the innovative British comedy producer and writer, Mark Radcliffe. Originally conceived as a parody of call-in radio shows, it aimed to satirize the often absurd and mundane interactions that typify talk radio. The show was designed to play with the conventions of radio broadcasting, blending improvisation with scripted elements to create a seamless and spontaneous listening experience.

Evolution Over the Years

Initially broadcast as a one-off program, Down the Line quickly gained popularity, prompting the BBC to make it a regular fixture on Radio 4's schedule. Over the years, the show has undergone several format tweaks, but its core concept remains intact: a host engaging in humorous and often surreal conversations with callers, many of whom are impersonated by actors or regular contributors.

Key Milestones

- 1995: The first broadcast of Down the Line, establishing its satirical tone.
- Late 1990s: Introduction of recurring characters and themes, enriching the show's universe.
- 2000s: Expansion into live recordings and special series, increasing its reach and influence.
- 2019: A notable anniversary series celebrated its legacy and evolution.

Format and Structure of Down the Line Radio 4

Core Elements

Down the Line is primarily a comedy program structured around a host (initially David Mitchell, later other hosts) engaging in conversations with callers. These callers often present bizarre, humorous, or intentionally absurd scenarios, which the host navigates with wit and improvisation.

The Role of Callers

Callers are a central feature of the show. They mimic the typical caller of a call-in radio show but often with a comedic twist. Some callers are:

- Impersonations: Played by actors or regular contributors, embodying exaggerated or satirical characters.
- Real people: Occasionally genuine callers, although their interactions are often scripted or guided for comedic effect.
- Fictitious characters: Created specifically for the show, representing social stereotypes or satirical archetypes.

The Host's Approach

The host's role is to maintain the illusion of a genuine call-in show while subtly steering conversations into humorous or absurd territories. The host employs improvisation, quick wit, and a keen understanding of social nuances to keep the dialogue engaging and comedic.

Typical Episode Structure

Most episodes follow a pattern similar to:

1. Introduction: Setting the scene and introducing the caller.
2. Call interaction: The host engages with the caller, exploring their story or issue.
3. Humorous escalation: The conversation often veers into surreal or satirical territory.
4. Conclusion: Wrap-up with a punchline or humorous reflection.

Notable Features and Highlights

Satirical Social Commentary

One of the defining features of Down the Line is its ability to satirize contemporary social and political issues. Through exaggerated characters and absurd scenarios, the show reflects on modern society's quirks, hypocrisies, and contradictions.

Use of Impersonations and Characters

The show's humor often relies on impersonations and character-driven interactions. These characters serve as satirical archetypes, offering commentary on various social groups, professions, or political figures.

Improvisation and Spontaneity

While some content is scripted, much of Down the Line's humor emerges spontaneously during live recordings. This improvisational aspect contributes to its authenticity and comedic freshness.

Memorable Episodes and Characters

Over the years, several recurring characters and memorable episodes have become iconic within British comedy circles. Examples include:

- The overenthusiastic local councillor.
- The eccentric conspiracy theorist.
- The clueless or overly earnest caller.

Audience Engagement

Down the Line has built a loyal listener base, partly due to its interactive nature. Fans often share clips and moments from the show, and the program occasionally incorporates listener feedback or suggestions.

Cultural Impact and Significance

Influence on British Comedy

Down the Line has influenced a generation of comedians and writers, demonstrating how improvisation and satire can combine effectively in radio format. Its success has inspired similar shows and segments across British media.

Reflection of British Society

Through its satirical lens, the program offers a mirror to British social norms, absurdities, and idiosyncrasies. It often highlights the humor inherent in everyday interactions and the peculiarities of British culture.

Contribution to Radio 4's Reputation

Radio 4 is known for its intelligent programming, and Down the Line exemplifies this with its sharp wit and social commentary. It has helped solidify Radio 4's reputation as a platform for innovative and thought-provoking comedy.

Awards and Recognition

The show has received various accolades and nominations, acknowledging its contribution to comedy and radio entertainment. Its longevity and popularity underscore its importance within the British cultural landscape.

The Evolution and Current Status

Modern Adaptations and Spin-offs

While the core Down the Line program remains popular, there have been adaptations, special editions, and spin-offs exploring different themes or formats. Podcasts and online clips have also extended its reach beyond traditional radio.

Technological Changes and Accessibility

With the rise of digital media, Down the Line has adapted to new platforms, making episodes

available on streaming services and social media. This has allowed it to reach a broader, international audience.

Future Prospects

Given its enduring popularity, there is potential for further revitalization, including live performances, international collaborations, or integration with other media formats like television or online series.

Conclusion

Down the Line Radio 4 stands as a testament to the enduring appeal of satirical, improvisational comedy in British broadcasting. Its blend of sharp social commentary, memorable characters, and spontaneous humor has cemented its place in the annals of radio history. As it continues to evolve, it remains a vital reflection of British society's quirks and a showcase of the creative potential of radio as a medium. Whether through its classic episodes or new adaptations, Down the Line exemplifies how humor can serve as both entertainment and a mirror to societal realities, ensuring its legacy endures for years to come.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'Down the Line' on BBC Radio 4?

'Down the Line' is a radio comedy series that features humorous call-in conversations, often satirical, broadcast on BBC Radio 4.

When was 'Down the Line' first aired on Radio 4?

'Down the Line' first aired on BBC Radio 4 in 2010 and has gained popularity for its comedic sketches and character interactions.

Who are the main creators behind 'Down the Line'?

The show was created by comedians and writers who craft hilarious scripts and characters, often involving talented voice actors and improvisation.

Is 'Down the Line' still being broadcast on Radio 4?

As of the latest updates, 'Down the Line' has had multiple series, but it is best to check the BBC Radio 4 schedule for current broadcasting status.

Can I listen to 'Down the Line' episodes online?

Yes, episodes of 'Down the Line' are available on the BBC Sounds platform and BBC Radio 4's website for streaming or download.

What kind of humor is featured in 'Down the Line'?

'Down the Line' features satirical, witty, and often absurd humor centered around fictional conversations and comedic characters.

Are there any notable guest appearances on 'Down the Line'?

While primarily featuring recurring characters, the show occasionally includes guest voices and special appearances to enhance its comedy.

How does 'Down the Line' compare to other Radio 4 comedy shows?

'Down the Line' is known for its unique call-in style comedy, setting it apart from traditional panel shows or sitcoms on Radio 4.

Where can I find clips or highlights from 'Down the Line'?

Clips and episodes can be found on BBC Radio 4's official website, BBC Sounds, and various online platforms hosting radio comedy content.

What has been the audience reception to 'Down the Line'?

The show has received positive reviews for its clever humor and originality, gaining a dedicated fanbase among Radio 4 listeners.

Additional Resources

Down the Line Radio 4 is a captivating radio program that exemplifies the best of British broadcasting, blending humor, cultural commentary, and insightful interviews into a seamless listening experience. Since its inception, the show has carved out a distinctive niche within the BBC Radio 4 lineup, appealing to a diverse audience eager for thoughtful entertainment delivered with wit and charm. Its unique format, engaging content, and the charismatic presentation style make it a standout program in the realm of radio broadcasting.

Overview of Down the Line Radio 4

"Down the Line" is a satirical call-in show that originally aired from 1987 to 1994, created by the renowned comedy writers and performers David Renwick and Andrew Marshall. It features a fictional telephone operator, played by actor and comedian John Sessions, who interacts with callers, each with their own eccentricities, political views, or humorous grievances. The show is characterized by its clever scripting, improvisational feel, and sharp wit, making it both a parody of talk radio and a genuine reflection of British humor.

The program's structure involves a series of callers, each introduced with a brief monologue or background, followed by a humorous or absurd conversation with the host. The dialogue often

satirizes contemporary issues, political debates, or social norms, all delivered with a satirical edge that keeps listeners engaged and reflective.

Historical Context and Evolution

Origins and Development

"Down the Line" was first broadcast in 1987, during a period of significant political and social change in the UK. Its creators, Renwick and Marshall, aimed to parody the increasingly formulaic and superficial nature of talk radio and political discourse. The show quickly gained popularity for its inventive humor and the talented cast, especially John Sessions' masterful portrayal of the call operator.

Over the years, the program evolved, incorporating more sophisticated scripts, topical references, and a broader range of characters. It became a cult favorite among radio enthusiasts and comedy aficionados alike, inspiring various adaptations and revivals.

Revival and Modern Adaptations

In recent years, "Down the Line" has seen a resurgence through special broadcasts, podcasts, and digital platforms. The BBC has occasionally revived or referenced the program, recognizing its cultural significance. While the original series ended in 1994, its influence persists, inspiring contemporary comedians and writers to explore similar formats.

The modern iterations maintain the core elements—sharp satire, character-driven dialogue, and social commentary—while updating the topical references to reflect current issues, ensuring relevance for new generations of listeners.

Content and Themes

"H3>Humor and Satire

At its heart, "Down the Line" is a masterclass in satire. It lampoons everything from political figures to everyday societal norms. Its humor is layered—appealing to casual listeners with its wit, while offering depth and critique for more discerning audiences.

Themes often explored include:

- Political correctness and media sensationalism
- Social class and British identity
- Political ideologies and policy debates
- Cultural stereotypes and prejudices
- The absurdities of bureaucracy and authority

The satire is delivered through exaggerated characters and absurd scenarios, often highlighting the ridiculousness inherent in modern social and political discourse.

Characterization and Cast Performance

The strength of "Down the Line" lies in its cast and character development. John Sessions' portrayal of the call operator is both humorous and nuanced, providing a consistent voice amid the chaos of callers' monologues. The callers themselves represent a broad spectrum of British stereotypes, from eccentric pensioners to conspiracy theorists, each exaggerated but rooted in recognizable traits.

Other recurring characters and guest performers add layers to the show, enhancing its richness and comedic depth. The improvisational skill of the performers ensures that each episode feels fresh, spontaneous, and unpredictable.

Production Quality and Format

Sound Design and Atmosphere

The production quality of "Down the Line" is notable for its minimalistic yet effective sound design. The focus remains on dialogue and performance, with subtle background noises and tone cues that evoke the feel of a live radio call-in show. This approach heightens the authenticity and immersive quality for the listener.

Episode Structure

Each episode typically features a series of call interactions, with a mix of short, punchy exchanges and longer, more elaborate dialogues. The pacing is brisk, balancing humor with moments of reflection, keeping listeners engaged throughout.

The format allows for a variety of comedic styles—quick-witted repartee, satire, slapstick, and absurdity—all woven seamlessly into a cohesive whole.

Audience Reception and Cultural Impact

Audience Engagement

"Down the Line" has garnered a loyal following, particularly among fans of British comedy and political satire. Its clever writing and memorable characters foster a sense of familiarity and anticipation with each episode. Many listeners appreciate the show's ability to entertain while subtly encouraging critical thinking about societal issues.

Cultural Significance

The program is often cited as a quintessential example of British satirical humor. It has influenced numerous other comedy formats, including television satire shows, podcasts, and stand-up routines. Its portrayal of the British psyche, with all its quirks and contradictions, offers a mirror to society that

remains relevant decades after its original broadcast.

The show also holds a nostalgic value, representing a golden era of radio comedy that prioritized sharp wit and intelligent humor over cheap laughs.

Pros and Cons

Pros:

- Sharp, intelligent satire that remains relevant
- Excellent cast performances and improvisation
- Authentic radio format that immerses the listener
- Wide range of characters and scenarios keeps content fresh
- Influential in shaping British comedy and satire

Cons:

- Some humor may feel dated or reliant on stereotypes
- Not as accessible to international audiences unfamiliar with British culture
- The minimalist sound design might not appeal to all listeners
- Original episodes are no longer produced, limiting new content

Conclusion and Final Thoughts

"Down the Line Radio 4" stands as a testament to the enduring power of satire and the art of radio comedy. Its clever writing, memorable characters, and perceptive social commentary make it a must-listen for fans of intelligent humor and British cultural critique. While it may have its limitations—particularly in terms of accessibility for global audiences—the show's influence and legacy are undeniable.

For those interested in exploring a unique blend of comedy and social analysis, "Down the Line" offers a rich tapestry of wit and satire that continues to resonate. Its revival in various formats underscores its timeless appeal and relevance, proving that good comedy, rooted in sharp observations and character-driven storytelling, never goes out of style.

Whether you are a longtime fan or new to the series, "Down the Line Radio 4" provides a compelling listening experience that entertains, challenges, and ultimately delights. It exemplifies the best of British satire and remains a significant piece of radio history worth exploring.

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down the line radio 4: And Now on Radio 4 Simon Elmes, 2009-11-10 And Now on Radio 4 offers an enthusiast's guide to the shows that have made Radio 4 what it is, and also explores some of the wonderful corners of the network's history that are long forgotten by all but a few. Who, for instance, now recalls Ronnie Barker's starring role on Radio 4 in a sophisticated cabaret-cum-sketch-show called Lines from My Grandfather's Forehead? What about Spike

Milligan's intimate, soul-bearing account of his upbringing in colonial India, *Plain Tales from the Raj*? And who now remembers that *Start the Week* was once hosted by Russell Harty, a bit of programming compared by one insider to letting Graham Norton run *Newsnight*. In order to reflect the way devotees listen to Radio 4, the book is organised not on simple chronological lines but in the form of a typical day. Chapter by chapter, the day evolves, from *Farming Today*, through the daily feast that is *Today*, through the morning menu of conversation, *Woman's Hour*, documentary and comedy. Lunchtime brings *The World at One*. The early evening, of course, yields *The Archers*. And finally there's *Book at Bedtime* and *Sailing By*. An addictive mix of history, biography, anecdote and occasional useless fact, this is the perfect book for Radio 4 aficionados.

down the line radio 4: *Soupy Twists!* Jem Roberts, 2018-09-06 This first ever, officially authorised biography of Fry & Laurie takes us on their journey from insecure Footlighters to international comedy heroes. It is the tale of a true friendship, a deep affection between two very funny men which has long been reflected back from an adoring public. Jem Roberts, acclaimed chronicler of *Blackadder* and *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, covers everything from the excitement of being the first Perrier Award winners with *The Cellar Tapes* to the terrors of performing on *Saturday Live*, the collaborative warfare of *Blackadder* and the ultimate depiction of Wodehouse's most inimitable characters, Jeeves & Wooster. Beyond this, the trials and tribulations of their remarkable subsequent separate career paths, from *QI* to *House*, will be explored for the first time. With tantalising, never-before-seen titbits from the *A Bit of Fry & Laurie* archive, and interviews with Emma Thompson, Richard Curtis, John Lloyd and more, this history of Fry & Laurie is an overdue celebration, paying tribute to a legacy of laughter from one of the funniest double acts of all time.

down the line radio 4: *The Enemy Series, Books 4-6* Charlie Higson, 2015-10-29 They'll chase you. They'll rip you open. They'll feed on you . . . *The Sacrifice* (Book 4) Small Sam and his unlikely ally, The Kid, have survived. They're safe with Ed and his friends at the Tower of London, but Sam is desperate to find his sister. Their search for Ella means Sam and The Kid must cross the forbidden zone. And what awaits them there is more terrifying than any of the horror they've suffered so far . . . *The Fallen* (Book 5) The Holloway crew are survivors. They've fought their way across London and made it to the Natural History Museum alive - just. But the fight will never end while the Enemy lives . . . The kids at the museum are looking for a cure. All they need are medical supplies. To get them means a journey down unknown roads. Suddenly it's not so clear who - or what - they're fighting. *The Hunted* (Book 6) The others had promised that the countryside would be safer than the city. They were wrong. Now Ella's all-alone except for her silent rescuer, Scarface - and she's not even sure if he's a kid or a grown-up. Back in London, Ed's determined to find her. But getting out of town's never been more dangerous- because coming in the other direction is every SICKO in the country.

down the line radio 4: *Radio's Legacy in Popular Culture* Martin Cooper, 2022-01-27 Examining work by novelists, filmmakers, TV producers and songwriters, this book uncovers the manner in which the radio - and the act of listening - has been written about for the past 100 years. Ever since the first public wireless broadcasts, people have been writing about the radio: often negatively, sometimes full of praise, but always with an eye and an ear to explain and offer an opinion about what they think they have heard. Novelists including Graham Greene, Agatha Christie, Evelyn Waugh, and James Joyce wrote about characters listening to this new medium with mixtures of delight, frustration, and despair. Clint Eastwood frightened moviegoers half to death in *Play Misty for Me*, but Lou Reed's 'Rock & Roll' said listening to a New York station had saved Jenny's life. *Frasier* showed the urbane side of broadcasting, whilst *Good Morning, Vietnam* exploded from the cinema screen with a raw energy all of its own. Queen thought that all the audience heard was 'ga ga', even as *The Buggles* said video had killed the radio star and Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers lamented 'The Last DJ'. This book explores the cultural fascination with radio; the act of listening as a cultural expression - focusing on fiction, films and songs about radio. Martin Cooper, a broadcaster and academic, uses these movies, TV shows, songs, novels and more to tell a story of

listening to the radio – as created by these contemporary writers, filmmakers, and musicians.

down the line radio 4: Desert Island Discs: 70 Years of Castaways Sean Magee, 2012-09-13 'For seventy years now Desert Island Discs has managed that rare feat – to be both enduring and relevant. By casting away the biggest names of the day in science, business, politics, showbiz, sport and the arts, it presents a cross-sectional snapshot of the times in which we live. As the decades have passed, the programme has kept pace; never frozen in time yet always, somehow, comfortingly the same.' Kirsty Young BBC Radio 4's Desert Island Discs celebrates its seventieth birthday in 2012. Since the programme's deviser Roy Plomley interviewed comedian Vic Oliver in January 1942, nearly 3,000 distinguished people from all walks of life have been stranded on the mythical island, accompanied by only eight records, one book and a luxury. Here the story of one of BBC Radio 4's favourite programmes is chronicled through a special selection of castaways. Roy Plomley, inventor of the programme as well as its presenter for over forty years, quizzes the young Cliff Richard about 'these rather frenzied movements' the 1960s pop sensation makes on the stage. Robert Maxwell tells Plomley's successor Michael Parkinson that 'I will have left the world a slightly better place by having lived in it.' Diana Mosley assures Sue Lawley that Adolf Hitler was 'extraordinarily fascinating' and had mesmerizing blue eyes. And Johnny Vegas tugs Kirsty Young's heart-strings with his account of a childhood so impoverished that family pets were fair game: 'My dad had always claimed that rabbits were livestock, but we'd never eaten one before.' Desert Island Discs is much more than a radio programme. It is a unique and enduringly popular take on our lives and times – and this extensively illustrated book tells in rich detail the colourful and absorbing story of an extraordinary institution.

down the line radio 4: Booby's Bay Henry Darke, 2018-01-30 Above a secluded cove in Cornwall, Huck, a former fisherman, is squatting in an empty second home. The holiday season is fast approaching, but he refuses to budge. Huck grew up here, but he can't afford to live here and his life is spiralling out of control. As Booby's Bay fills up for the annual surfing competition, Huck wants to shake things up, even if no one is listening. He's got media connections and intends to make a political stand. Inspired by the housing crisis and the reality of life on the North Cornish coast, Booby's Bay is a passionate, comic fable about the lengths one man will have to go to have his voice heard.

down the line radio 4: Wally Funk's Race for Space Sue Nelson, 2018-10-04 As seen in the major Netflix documentary 'Mercury 13' A Daily Mail Book of the Week In 1961, Wally Funk was the youngest of thirteen American female pilots in the Woman in Space programme. Her mission was to become one of the first women astronauts. But a combination of politics and prejudice meant the programme was abruptly cancelled. Neither Wally nor the other pilots ever made it into space. Now approaching eighty, Wally is joined by fellow space enthusiast Sue Nelson as she races to make her giant leap before it's too late. They travel across the United States and Europe - taking in NASA's mission control in Houston and Spaceport America in New Mexico, where Wally's ride into space awaits - meeting with female astronauts and trailblazers along the way. Touching on the Space Race and women's achievements in aviation, this is the remarkable story of a courageous pioneer who could have been the first woman in space.

down the line radio 4: I've Got Your Number Sophie Kinsella, 2012-02-14 From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Party Crasher* and *Love Your Life* comes "a rollicking page-turner . . . It's funny. It's clever. It twists and turns. . . . Sophie Kinsella has yet another winner." (Fort Worth Star-Telegram) "Sophie Kinsella keeps her finger on the cultural pulse, while leaving me giddy with laughter."—Jojo Moyes, author of *The Giver of Stars* and *The Last Letter from Your Lover* Poppy Wyatt has never felt luckier. She is about to marry her ideal man, Magnus Tavish, but in one afternoon her "happily ever after" begins to fall apart. Not only has she lost her engagement ring in a hotel fire drill, but in the panic that follows, her phone is stolen. As she paces shakily around the lobby, she spots an abandoned phone in a trash can. Finders keepers! Now she can leave a number for the hotel to contact her when they find her ring. Perfect! Well, perfect except that the phone's owner, businessman Sam Roxton, doesn't agree. He wants his phone back and

doesn't appreciate Poppy reading his messages and wading into his personal life. What ensues is a hilarious and unpredictable turn of events as Poppy and Sam increasingly upend each other's lives through emails and text messages. As Poppy juggles wedding preparations, mysterious phone calls, and hiding her left hand from Magnus and his parents, she soon realizes that she is in for the biggest surprise of her life. "Fresh, fast-paced, and fiercely funny . . . Kinsella pens her most lovably neurotic protagonist yet. . . . A laugh-out-loud comic caper."—Publishers Weekly "Poppy is easily as charming and daffy as shopaholic Rebecca Bloomwood."—Kirkus Reviews "A screwball romance for the digital age."—The Star-Ledger

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down the line radio 4: Honourable Warriors Richard Streatfeild, 2014-04-30 In 2009 Major Richard Streatfeild and his men fought for six months against the Taliban in Sangin, northern Helmand. They were engaged in over 800 fire-fights. They were the target of more than 200 improvised explosive devices. Ten men in his company were killed, 50 were wounded. This is their story and it is the story, from the front line, of Western intervention in Afghanistan. His graphic personal account gives an inside view of the physical, psychological and political battle to come to terms with severe casualties and the stress of battle while seeking the support of the local population. It is also an account of strategy being turned into action - of the essential interplay of the personal and professional in the most testing of circumstances. He describes the day-to-day operations, and he provides a fascinating record of the Taliban's guerrilla tactics and the British response to them. His narrative gives a direct insight into the experiences of soldiers who had to face down their fear throughout a prolonged tour of duty on the Afghan battlefield. His narrative is essential reading for anyone who cares to understand the nature of the war in Afghanistan and how the odds are stacked against the army's success. For the British intervention in Helmand is a microcosm of the Nato-led mission launched against the Taliban and al Qaeda. As seen in The Daily Mail, The Guardian, The Mail on Sunday, Sussex Express and The Argus, Featured on BBC Radio 4 'The Today' programme and on BBC South East Television

down the line radio 4: Investigating Death in Paradise Robin Andersen, 2023-04-04 First televised in 2011, Death in Paradise remains one of the most popular shows in the U.K. The detective series is frequently ignored, panned or belittled by television critics, but viewers disagree. Bringing in more than eight million viewers a season, it is accessible in more than 235 global territories. This first book-length assessment of Death in Paradise offers a fresh take on the popular BBC drama. The book positions the show within broader contexts that illustrate its origins and timeless appeal, from the first conceptualizations of paradise in ancient cultures to the creation of the classic detective story in the 1920s. The detective inspectors on Death in Paradise come from a long line of fictional eccentrics who excel at finding quirky clues, seeing surprising connections and employing help from other officials and agencies. Through exploration of these narrative elements and more, the author reveals deeper themes of justice, inclusion and environmentalism.

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down the line radio 4: Fixing Britain Lord Digby Jones, 2011-04-20 No nonsense solutions from the straight-talking face of British business. IF FUNDAMENTAL REFORM DOES NOT TAKE PLACE THEN WE ARE DEAD IN THE WATER. GLOBALISATION DOES NOT TAKE PRISONERS. BRITAIN MUST BECOME FIT FOR PURPOSE IN THE 21ST CENTURY. This is the explosive, first book from 'the face of British business', Lord Digby Jones. With a renowned, no-nonsense, straight-talking approach, he is one of the world's most acclaimed business commentators. In his candid and forthright style Fixing Britain puts the spotlight on critical national and international business issues and lays out the essential reform urgently needed for the growth of our nation. Knowledgeable, authoritative and independent, Digby highlights how untenable the status quo is in the UK, and sets out how Britain can get back in - and stay in - the globalised race. Sending a clear message to

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down the line radio 4: The Media and the Rwanda Genocide Allan Thompson, 2007-01-20 The news media played a crucial role in the 1994 Rwanda genocide: local media fuelled the killings, while the international media either ignored or seriously misconstrued what was happening. This is the first book to explore both sides of that media equation. The book examines how local radio and print media were used as a tool of hate by encouraging neighbours to turn against each other. It also presents a critique of international media coverage of the cataclysmic events in Rwanda. Bringing together local reporters and commentators from Rwanda, high-profile Western journalists and leading media theorists, this is the only book to identify and probe the extent of the media's accountability. It also examines deliberations by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda on the role of the media in the genocide. In writing this startling record of the dangerous negative influence that the media can have, when used as a political tool or when news organisations and journalists fail to live up to their responsibilities, the authors put forward suggestions for the future; outlining how we can avoid censorship and propaganda, and arguing for a new responsibility in media reporting.

down the line radio 4: Monty Python Douglas McCall, 2013-11-19 A chronological listing of the creative output and other antics of the members of the British comedy group Monty Python, both as a group and individually. Coverage spans between 1969 (the year Monty Python's Flying Circus debuted) and 2012. Entries include television programs, films, stage shows, books, records and interviews. Back matter features an appendix of John Cleese's hilarious business-training films; an index of Monty Python's sketches and songs; an index of Eric Idle's sketches and songs; as well as a general index and selected bibliography.

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