

forces far more powerful than they are: the market, the internet, the environment. So many things appear beyond the power of politicians to control. What role is left for politicians in the face of a globalised technological revolution? In the [second chapter](#) I explore the relationship between politics and technology, looking at how they impact on each other. Technology often appears to be in the lead, with politics playing catch-up. Technology is very difficult to control. But it is still true that the only people who can control it are politicians.

Third, if politics is what makes the difference, why do we tolerate such vast discrepancies between the world's most successful states and its least successful ones? Why don't we export what works to the places where nothing seems to work? Why don't we try harder to make Syria more like Denmark? There are practical difficulties, of course. But this isn't just a question of practicality. There is also a basic question of justice. Human beings aren't so different, in what they hope for, in what they can achieve and in what they need to help get them there. Yet the global gap between the richest and poorest is as big as it has ever been. Why can't politics do more to rescue the nearly 2 billion people who still have to live (and die) on less than \$2 a day? In the [third chapter](#) I look at the moral question we need to ask of our politics and of ourselves: why do we tolerate so much injustice? Politics is not the same as morality, but morality impinges on politics as much as it does on anything else we do. In the end, morality exposes the limits of politics. We can't have justice without politics. But politics still fails the demands of justice on the largest

scale.



The [first chapter](#) explains what politics is (at its best and at its worst). The [second chapter](#) explains why it still matters (even in the age of Google). The [third chapter](#) explains what its limits are (in the face of massive global inequality). Then, in the epilogue, I explore the risks that lie ahead. The world remains an intensely dangerous place, though in many places much less dangerous than it used to be. Some of the dangers we face are unprecedented. Is it realistic to think that politics will save us after all?