

**Daniel Pitt**

**Title:** A Principled Conservative Approach Towards the British Constitution

**Abstract:**

This paper articulates the debate about the nature of conservatism within the Anglo-Saxon tradition. Consequently, a position is subsequently taken; that is, a principled conservative approach towards the British constitution can be articulated based on seven principles. I argue that the key principles that influence and create a conservative view of the constitution are: (1) the organic nature of society; (2) scepticism of human's reasoning powers; (3) suspicion of grand political blueprints; (4) an historical empirical approach to decision making; (5) a commitment to the past and future generations; (6) the wisdom of generations, tradition and custom; and (7) a trustee model of representation. Thus, deriving from these principles, I will argue, there are seven 'goods', which I have coined 'conservative constitutional goods'. I argue that these key principles and the conservative constitutional goods can provide a theoretical framework to enable examination *exempli gratia* whether the Conservative Party have advocated these principles and/or goods. Moreover, this constitutional conservatism can also provide a loose intellectual framework to aid the policy maker or politician. It is not a Google Map; that is, once you type in your destination and your location it automatically pinpointed, you are then on the right track e.g., turn right onto Beaconsfield Street and walk straight for half a mile and then turn left onto Stanley Road and on your right is a perfect conservative constitution. Rather, it is more of a lightly sketched territorial map with some of the rivers, bogs, pathways, and bridges located upon it. The proprietor of this 'territorial map' will have to make decisions about the best way forward and when and how to reform. These decisions will have to be embedded in the particulars of the day and considerations of the constitutional weather. In other words, utilise prudence.

**Keywords:** Anglo-Saxon Conservatism, Constitution, Conservative Constitutional Goods, British Conservative Party, and British Politics.

**Bio:** Daniel Pitt is a teaching assistant at the University of Sheffield (UK) and a PhD candidate at the University of Hull (UK). His research interests are in the British Conservative Party's policies and ideology, conservative political thought and the British constitution. Daniel's most recent research paper was published in the French Journal of British Studies (The Revue Française de Civilisation Britannique) called 'Future Conservative Electoral Prospects: Time for Tory Socialism?'.