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It is extraordinary that not one of your 'What we want' contributors, all in search of some kind of British exceptionalism, make any mention of the Britain's largest and most obvious exceptional position – as a member, by luck rather than merit or foresight, admittedly – of the enormous Commonwealth network, with its powerful connectivity which is meshing nations, societies, communities and interests together. This has got little or nothing to do with the past and everything to do with the communications revolution which is linking common interests - professions, education, science, research, sports, creative industries, business, legal structures, human rights, across the whole world-wide system as never before in history.

Britain is no longer of course at the centre of this network (networks have no centre anyway), so we can forget the old hub-and-spoke Anglo-centrist Commonwealth vision of the past. Instead we are fortunate enough to find ourselves embedded in international connections of a peculiarly modern kind which, despite being played down for half a century by London, give us vast opportunities both to transmit our soft power in new world conditions to the common good, and more self-centredly, to gain better access to all the markets and areas where the overwhelming part of growth is going to occur over the next two decades and where we have to succeed to survive.

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