

[Politicians turn nanny state into bully state](#) [1]

Written by [Booksmith](#) [2] | Monday 12 October 2009



The nanny state has given way to a bully state in which politicians coerce the public into submission.

A new book by controversial former MSP Brian Monteith argues that the nanny state is dead but has been replaced by a much more malevolent bully state where we are not just preached at, but forced to do what the politicians think we should.

[The Bully State: The End of Tolerance](#) [3] charts the movement from nannying health warnings about smoking, through compulsory motor cycle helmets and seat belts, to the bully times of today, when we can be fined for smoking in our own cars and Marmite is banned in schools.

Monteith warns: "We won't lose the freedoms that we cherish by a military coup or some great cataclysmic war engulfing us, but through the gradual invasion of our private lives by the very politicians we elect to protect us ? and all in the cause of looking after our health.

"Today's politicians think us mature enough to elect them, but too immature to decide what we should eat, smoke, drink or drive. So they give officials powers to snoop on us, enter our homes, fine householders without trial for using the wrong rubbish bins, and make shopkeepers hide the cigarettes under the counter.

"This is not just some left-wing campaign. It started when New Labour and Conservative politicians decided that information and choice weren't enough in their brave new target-setting world. Now politicians of all colours simply bully us into submission if we do things they don't approve of."

The book traces our evolution from nanny to the bully state, with its growing intervention into the realms of smoking, eating and drinking ? including some truly bizarre and absurd examples of politicians' latest bullying. An edifying and shocking read.

[The Bully State: The End of Tolerance](#) [3] is published by [The Free Society](#) [4], price £5.99, is launched on Wednesday in Westminster.

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