

Re-Authoring the Political Landscape. How MICE Triadic Governance Resolves the Pathologies of Minor Party Politics

Dr Neville Buch and MICE, influenced by the thinking of Simon Cole¹



Abstract

This essay evaluates how Dr. Neville Buch's foundational text, "The New-Old MICE Ingredients: Vision and Operation" (Buch 2026b, pp. 1–12), provides structural, epistemological, and operational solutions to the systemic political pathologies identified in Simon Cole's critique, "Goodbye People First" (Cole 2026, pp. 1–5). Cole's treatise exposes the vulnerabilities of contemporary minor party politics—specifically the "intelligence trap," rhetorical "Gish Gallops," autocratic organizational communication, cultural agnosticism, and strategic paralysis (Cole 2026, pp. 3–5). In response, Buch's re-drafted MICE framework deploys a triadic motto—"Radical enough to shift the agenda, liberal enough to allow everyone a decent place in the social environment, and conservative enough to preserve the legacy of good value" (Buch 2026b, p. 2)—to reconstruct political agency. This essay demonstrates how Cole's insights can be

¹ Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) has been fairly used in the production of this work. The tool used is Google NotebookLM (recently rebranded as Gemini Notebook). It is an AI-powered virtual research assistant and thinking partner designed to help a person interact deeply with their own documents. Unlike general chatbots, it is source-grounded, meaning it only generates answers based on the specific PDFs, documents, or links uploaded. The A.I. process in the production of this work has been limited to the attached (prompts) on each of the questions in turn. This ensures an accurate reading of each source. The author then rearranged and re-edited the answers the A.I. provided. The human author publishes this work. A.I. is never an author when used properly. This assistance is not qualitatively different from a human research assistant when that assistance is deemed to have no authorial status but is acknowledged.

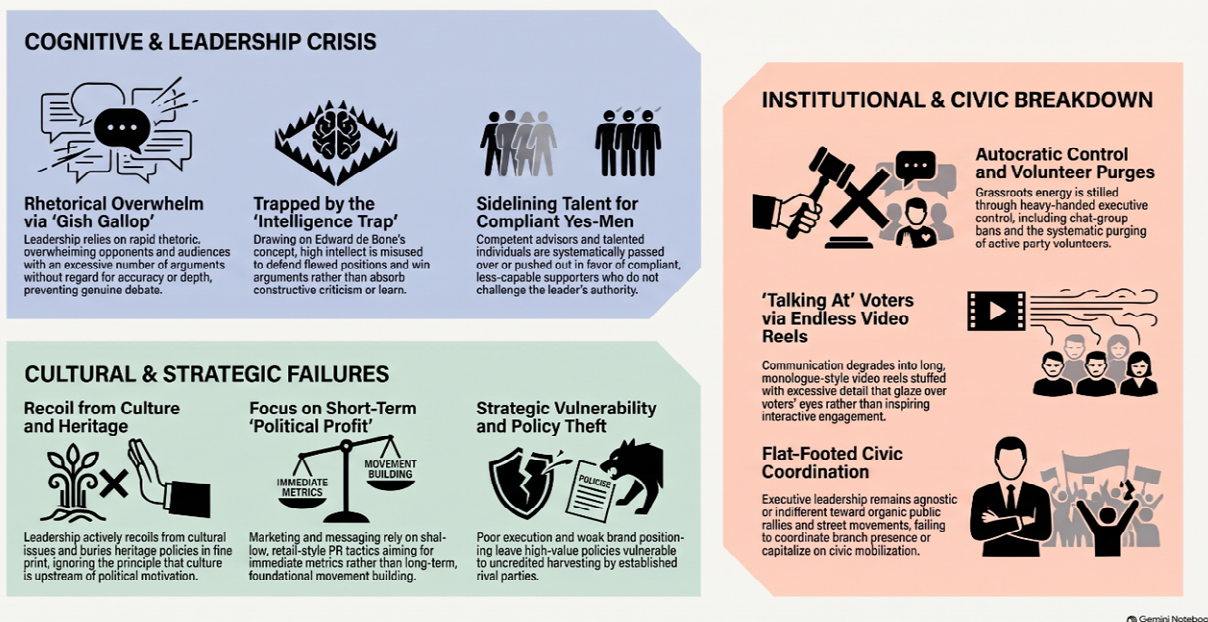
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operationalised across MICE's three ideological dimensions: (1) Conservative Thought, by transforming vague cultural patriotism into Spiral Historiography and thick ethical preservation; (2) Liberal Thought, by replacing autocratic chat-group bans and Gish Gallops with Universal Pragmatics and communicative “we-spaces”; and (3) Radical Thought, by applying the POLICE diagnostic model to unmask “retail politics,” overcome political proletarianisation, and replace short-term “Political Profit” with Aristotelian flourishing (eudaimonia).

1. Introduction: The Crisis of Minor Party Politics and the Cole Diagnosis

In *Goodbye People First*, independent scholar and political volunteer Simon Cole provides a trenchant case study of the organizational, cognitive, and strategic breakdowns that afflict contemporary minor political parties in Australia (Cole 2026, pp. 1–5). Focusing on his exit from Senator Gerard Rennick’s People First Party, Cole identifies a series of structural flaws that undermine civic enthusiasm and render promising policy tapestries impotent (Cole 2026, pp. 3–4).

SIMON COLE’S DIAGNOSIS OF POLITICAL PATHOLOGY IN MINOR PARTY POLITICS



Cole’s critique highlights five core pathologies:

1. **The Intelligence Trap and the “Gish Gallop”**: Party leadership relying on rapid, overwhelming argument style (“Gish Gallop”) to win debates rather than seeking truth,

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resulting in Edward de Bono's "intelligence trap" where clever leaders become immune to external advice and descend into unreflective dogmatism (Cole 2026, p. 3).

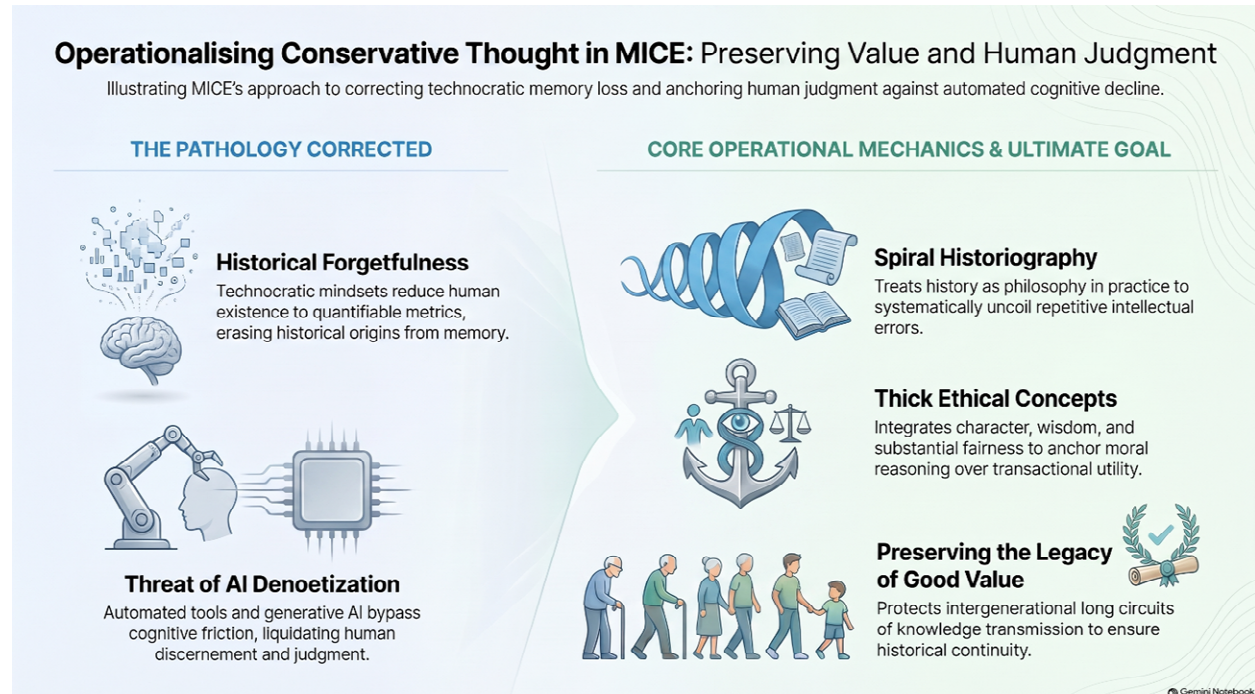
2. **Autocratic Communication and Disappearing Volunteers:** The sudden, unmoderated removal of active volunteers and financial donors from executive communication channels following constructive criticism ("That's how you lose people") (Cole 2026, p. 5).
3. **Cultural Agnosticism and Avoidance:** Leadership's recoil from cultural issues and national heritage—failing to recognize that "culture is upstream of everything" and that shared identity, patriotism, and moral history are what truly motivate civic action (Cole 2026, p. 4).
4. **Uninspiring Retail Marketing:** Reliance on endless, detail-heavy video reels where "people's eyes glaze over," treating political communication as one-way information dumping rather than inspiring engagement (Cole 2026, p. 4).
5. **Strategic Vulnerability and Policy Theft:** Crafting high-quality policies (such as eco-nationalism, steady-state economics, and population sustainability) that are easily harvested by rival political entities (e.g., One Nation) because the originating party lacks the strategic cohesion and public presence to defend its own authorship (Cole 2026, pp. 3–4).

In *The New-Old MICE Ingredients: Vision and Operation* (Buch 2026b, pp. 1–12), Dr. Neville Buch and the Management Institute for Contributory Economy (MICE) formulate an integrated, triadic operational engine designed precisely to correct these failures of "sufficient comprehension" in public decision-making (Buch 2026b, p. 2). By operationalising conservative, liberal, and radical thought into an "accurate centralism" (the Radical Centre), MICE offers a systematic methodology for re-authoring political agency (A Different Radical Centre 2026, p. 1; Buch 2026b, p. 2).

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2. Operationalising Conservative Thought: Preserving Cultural Memory and Thick Value

A central insight in Cole’s essay is his warning that party leadership “recoils from the culture wars” and buries cultural preservation policies in fine print (Cole 2026, p. 4). Cole insists that “culture is upstream of everything”—arguing that citizens are fundamentally motivated by shared heritage, national symbols, historical continuity, and patriotic identity rather than purely technical or administrative policy details (Cole 2026, p. 4).



MICE operationalises Cole’s conservative insight through its first moment: “Conservative enough to preserve the legacy of good value” (Buch 2026b, p. 4). MICE elevates Cole’s intuitive defence of culture above reactionary party posturing or superficial “flag-waving,” turning it into a disciplined epistemological practice:

A. Remediating “Historical Forgetfulness” via Spiral Historiography

MICE diagnoses the avoidance of cultural heritage as a symptom of “Historical Forgetfulness”—the technocratic erasure of historical origins, regional struggles, and civilisational memory from public consciousness (Buch 2024a, p. 2; Buch 2026b, p. 4). When political leaders treat culture as an inconvenient distraction, they reduce the social landscape to a flat administrative plane (Buch 2026a, p. 39; Buch 2026b, p. 4). MICE corrects this through Spiral Historiography, which treats history as “philosophy in practice” (Buch 2024a, p. 2; Buch 2026b, p. 4). By “uncoiling” historical memory, MICE grounds cultural identity in rigorous, self-critical historical understanding,

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providing the “historical a priori” necessary to prevent society from repeating past errors (Buch 2026a, p. 39; Buch 2026b, p. 4).

B. Safeguarding “Thick Ethical Concepts” Against Retail Neglect

Modern political parties routinely rely on “thin concepts”—abstract, superficial slogans like “efficiency,” “tax cuts,” or “jobs” stripped of moral and cultural texture (Buch 2026a, p. 33; Buch 2026b, p. 5). MICE operationalises conservative thought by safeguarding “thick ethical concepts” (such as character, integrity, courage, and substantial fairness) embedded in local history and shared cultural traditions (Buch 2026a, p. 40; Buch 2026b, p. 5). This provides a stable moral foundation that prevents political movements from surrendering their cultural identity to short-term electoral marketing (Buch 2026b, p. 5).

C. Preserving Intergenerational “Long Circuits” of Knowledge

In an era dominated by automated social media loops and generative AI, culture faces denoetization—the mechanical liquidation of human memory and judgment (Stiegler 2018; Roe & Perkins 2026, p. 2; Buch 2026b, p. 5). MICE’s conservative operationalisation acts as an institutional shield, preserving the intergenerational “long circuits” of mentorship, cultural transmission, and civilisational wisdom (Buch 2026a, p. 11; Buch 2026b, p. 5). It ensures that national identity and moral values are actively cultivated across generations rather than buried in fine print (Cole 2026, p. 4; Buch 2026b, p. 5).

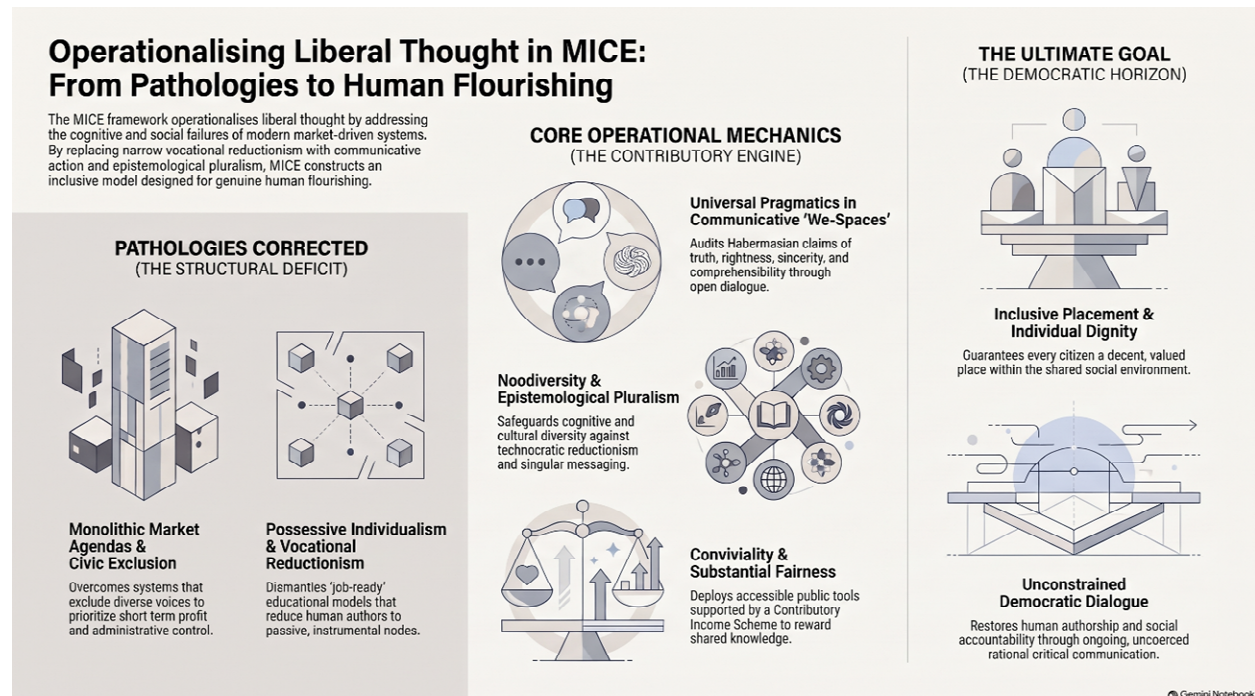


*Understanding history is
philosophy in practice*

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3. Operationalising Liberal Thought: Universal Pragmatics and Democratic We-Spaces

Cole's narrative outlines a severe internal breakdown of liberal democratic process within minor party structures. He details how leadership utilized the "Gish Gallop"—a rapid-fire rhetorical technique that floods discussions with excessive, unverified claims to overwhelm opponents—and fell into de Bono's "intelligence trap," becoming closed to external advice and passing over talented advisors (Cole 2026, p. 3). Furthermore, when volunteers expressed legitimate disappointment, leadership responded with summary, autocratic removal from executive chat groups without moderation or dialogue (Cole 2026, p. 5).



MICE addresses these organizational failures through its second pillar: "Liberal enough to allow everyone a decent place in the social environment" (Buch 2026b, p. 6):

A. Universal Pragmatics and Communicative "We-Spaces"

MICE operationalises liberal thought by adopting Jürgen Habermas's framework of Universal Pragmatics and communicative action (*Verständigung*) (Habermas 1979; Buch 2026a, p. 14; Buch 2026b, p. 6). Instead of allowing political discourse to devolve into one-way Gish Gallops or autocratic chat bans, MICE establishes open, democratic "we-spaces" where strategic manipulation is abolished (Buch 2026a, p. 30; Buch 2026b, p. 6). Within these spaces, every participant has the equal right to raise and dialogically redeem four universal validity claims:

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1. **Comprehensibility:** Expressing ideas in clear, accessible language, dismantling long, obfuscating video reels (Cole 2026, p. 4; Buch 2026b, p. 6).
2. **Truth:** Grounding arguments in factually verified reality rather than rapid-fire debate tricks (Cole 2026, p. 3; Buch 2026b, p. 6).
3. **Rightness:** Complying with transparent, legitimately established social and organizational norms (Buch 2026b, p. 6).
4. **Truthfulness (Sincerity):** Demonstrating genuine, honest intent, preventing executive backroom purges (Cole 2026, p. 5; Buch 2026b, p. 7).

B. Dismantling the “Intelligence Trap” via Noodiversity

To prevent leaders from falling into the “intelligence trap” or surrounding themselves with compliant yes-men (Cole 2026, p. 3), MICE champions noodiversity—the protection of epistemological pluralism and diverse forms of knowledge (Buch 2026a, p. 11; Buch 2026b, p. 7). MICE insists that truth is not the private property of a single “canny” orator, but the outcome of collaborative, intersubjective inquiry that welcomes talented advisors and critical feedback (Cole 2026, p. 3; Buch 2026b, p. 7).

C. Conviviality and Decent Social Placement

Drawing on Ivan Illich, MICE operationalises liberal social placement through conviviality—building institutional structures that function as accessible, non-coercive tools for autonomous human interaction (Illich 1973; Buch 2026a, p. 60; Buch 2026b, p. 8). Supported by Substantial Fairness, conviviality guarantees that every volunteer, scholar, and citizen is afforded a respected, permanent place in the civic environment, ensuring that constructive disagreement leads to deeper synthesis rather than arbitrary exclusion (Cole 2026, p. 5; Buch 2026b, p. 8).

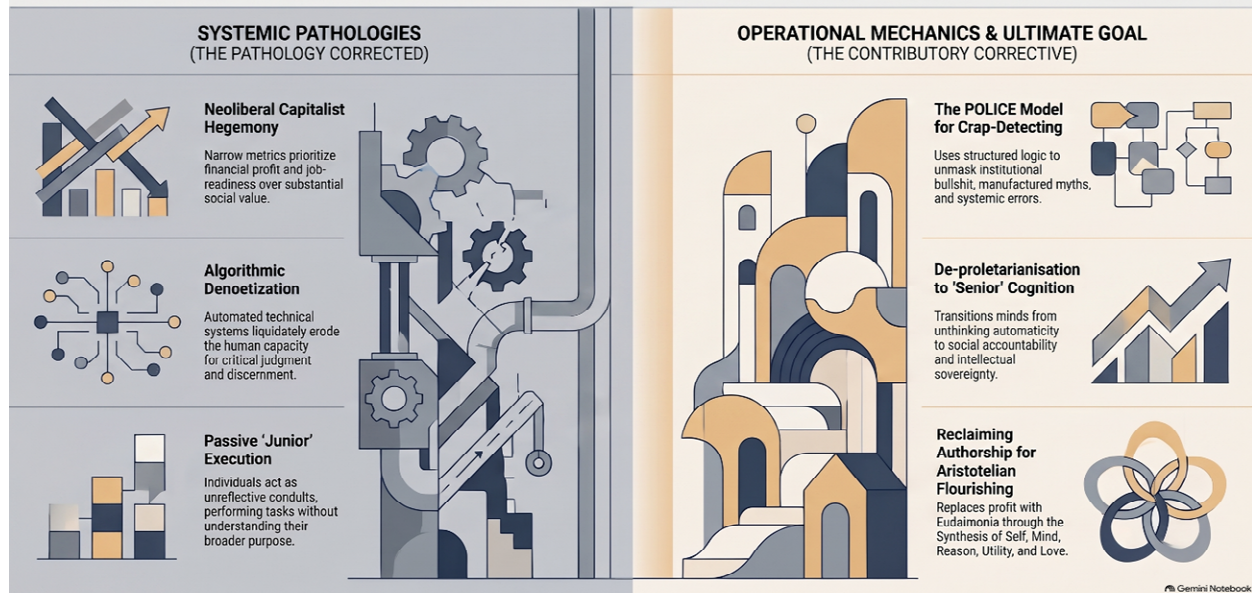
4. Operationalising Radical Thought: Shifting the Agenda and Reclaiming Authorship

Cole’s analysis underscores a profound strategic contradiction: while minor parties may generate “brilliant policies” (such as steady-state economics, eco-nationalism, and biophysical population limits), their uninspired marketing and flat-footed civic engagement cause them to lose control of their own agenda, allowing rival parties to harvest their ideas without credit (Cole 2026, pp. 3–5). Cole critiques leaders who treat political action as mere “retail marketing” while remaining “flat-footed” and agnostic toward real civic mobilizations like the Marches for Australia (Cole 2026, pp. 4–5).

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Operationalising Radical Thought in MICE: From Neoliberal Hegemony to Human Authorship

Modern institutional life suffers from automated, profit-driven mindsets that liquidate human judgment. Dr. Neville Buch's framework for the Management Institute for Contributory Economy (MICE) offers an intellectual immune system that confronts these pathologies, shifting society from passive, unreflective execution to active human authorship and holistic flourishing.



MICE executes its third operational pillar to resolve this strategic impotence: “Radical enough to shift the agenda” (Buch 2026b, p. 8):

A. “Crap Detecting” and Active Nihilism via the POLICE Model

MICE operationalises radical thought through its primary diagnostic tool: the POLICE model (Philosophically Ontology Logic Intersect Compatibility Education) (Buch & Peach 2024; Buch 2026a, p. 46; Buch 2026b, p. 8). POLICE trains citizens and scholars to practice Active Nihilism—the systematic testing, unmasking, and negation of “institutional bullshit,” political PR spin, and retail marketing tricks (Buch 2026a, p. 34; Buch 2026b, p. 8). By applying POLICE, a political movement stops relying on uninspiring video reels or “Gish Gallop” debates, exposing the structural contradictions of the ruling political class and establishing an unshakeable intellectual defence around its core policies (Cole 2026, pp. 3–4; Buch 2026b, p. 8).

B. De-proletarianisation: From “Junior” Consumers to “Senior” Authors

Under contemporary retail politics, voters and party members are treated as “Junior” actors—passive consumers expected to watch reels, donate money, and execute instructions without understanding the overarching strategy (Cole 2026, p. 4; Buch 2026a, p. 37; Buch 2026b, p. 9). MICE operationalises radical thought by driving a developmental ascent to “Senior Cognition”—a state of conscious competence, intellectual sovereignty, and social accountability (Buch 2026a, p. 29; Buch 2026b, p. 9). Through de-proletarianisation, party members and volunteers transform

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into proactive **human authors** who co-create policy, coordinate branches, and actively lead civic movements (Cole 2026, p. 5; Buch 2026b, p. 9).

C. Shifting the Measure of Value: From “Political Profit” to Eudaimonia

The most radical agenda shift executed by MICE is replacing the narrow pursuit of short-term “Political Profit” (poll numbers, media mentions, opportunistic policy harvesting) with Aristotelian Flourishing (Eudaimonia) as the sole metric of political success (Aristotle c. 350 BC; Buch 2026a, p. 28; Buch 2026b, p. 9). MICE operationalises this through the Synthesis of Being (The Five Intentions), reintegrating:

1. **Self:** Internal agency and personal authorship (Buch 2026b, p. 10).
 2. **Mind:** Synoptic judgment resisting algorithmic and media manipulation (Buch 2026b, p. 10).
 3. **Reason:** Procedural logic functioning as a cognitive regulator against intelligence traps (Cole 2026, p. 3; Buch 2026b, p. 10).
 4. **Utility:** Socialized action promoting biophysical sustainability and eco-national stability (Cole 2026, p. 4; Buch 2026b, p. 10).
 5. **Love / Panzer :** Thinking as caring—a procedural shield protecting human dignity within civic movements (Noddings 1984; Stiegler 2018; Buch 2026b, p. 10).
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5. Comparative Synthesis: Mapping Cole's Pathologies to MICE Solutions

To summarize how MICE triadic governance resolves the problems identified in *Goodbye People First*, the following matrix outlines the direct alignment between Cole's observations and Buch's operational correctives:

Dimension of Political Pathology	Problem Identified in Cole (2026)	MICE Triadic Moment (Buch 2026b)	Operational Corrective & Governance Tool	Ultimate Outcome
Cultural & Historical Vacuum	Leadership recoils from culture wars; buries national heritage, flag, and identity in fine print (Cole 2026, p. 4).	Conservative Moment <i>"Preserve the legacy of good value"</i> (Buch 2026b, p. 4).	• Spiral Historiography (history as philosophy in practice) • Thick Ethical Concepts (character, courage, wisdom)	Anchors political motivation in genuine historical memory and enduring cultural value.
Rhetorical & Cognitive Trap	Reliance on "Gish Gallop" debate tricks; de Bono's "intelligence trap"; closed to external advice (Cole 2026, p. 3).	Liberal Moment <i>"Allow everyone a decent place"</i> (Buch 2026b, p. 6).	• Universal Pragmatics (auditing truth, rightness, sincerity, comprehensibility) • Noodiversity (epistemic pluralism)	Replaces debate tricks with dialogic truth-seeking and welcomes diverse intellectual talent.
Autocratic Organization	Summary removal of active volunteers from executive chats without moderation or discussion (Cole 2026, p. 5).	Liberal Moment <i>"Allow everyone a decent place"</i> (Buch 2026b, p. 6).	• Communicative We-Spaces • Conviviality & Substantial Fairness (Illich 1973)	Guarantees inclusive, non-coercive civic placement and respectful organizational dialogue.

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Dimension of Political Pathology	Problem Identified in Cole (2026)	MICE Triadic Moment (Buch 2026b)	Operational Corrective & Governance Tool	Ultimate Outcome
Retail Marketing & Passivity	Long, uninspiring video reels where “eyes glaze over”; treating voters as passive consumers (Cole 2026, p. 4).	Radical Moment “ <i>Shift the agenda</i> ” (Buch 2026b, p. 8).	• POLICE Model (<i>crap-detecting & Active Nihilism</i>) • De-proletarianisation (<i>Junior → Senior Cognition</i>)	Unmasks PR marketing spin and transforms passive voters into proactive human authors.
Strategic Impotence & Policy Theft	High-quality policies harvested by rivals due to flat-footed civic presence and “Political Profit” focus (Cole 2026, pp. 3–5).	Radical Moment “ <i>Shift the agenda</i> ” (Buch 2026b, p. 8).	• Synthesis of Being (Self, Mind, Reason, Utility, Love/<i>Panser</i>) • Aristotelian Eudaimonia	Replaces short-term “Political Profit” with biophysical resilience, eco-national sustainability, and true flourishing.

6. Conclusion

Simon Cole’s *Goodbye People First* serves as a vital empirical diagnostic of why modern minor parties fail: when political movements rely on rhetorical debate tricks, autocratic chat bans, retail marketing reels, and cultural agnosticism, they alienate their core supporters and surrender their strategic agency (Cole 2026, pp. 3–5).

Dr. Neville Buch’s re-drafted monograph, *The New-Old MICE Ingredients: Vision and Operation*, demonstrates that political reform cannot be achieved through narrow, one-sided techniques (Buch 2026b, p. 2). By integrating conservative preservation of cultural memory, liberal guarantees of communicative inclusion, and radical agenda shifts toward human authorship, the MICE triadic framework provides a complete operational roadmap for democratic renewal (Buch 2026b, pp. 2–11).

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Ultimately, MICE transforms political governance from an autocratic, retail-driven marketplace into a collaborative “City of Intellect”—where citizens, scholars, and decision-makers exercise conscious moral agency, protect their cultural inheritance, and build a genuinely flourishing Contributory Economy (Buch 2026a, p. 45; Buch 2026b, p. 11).

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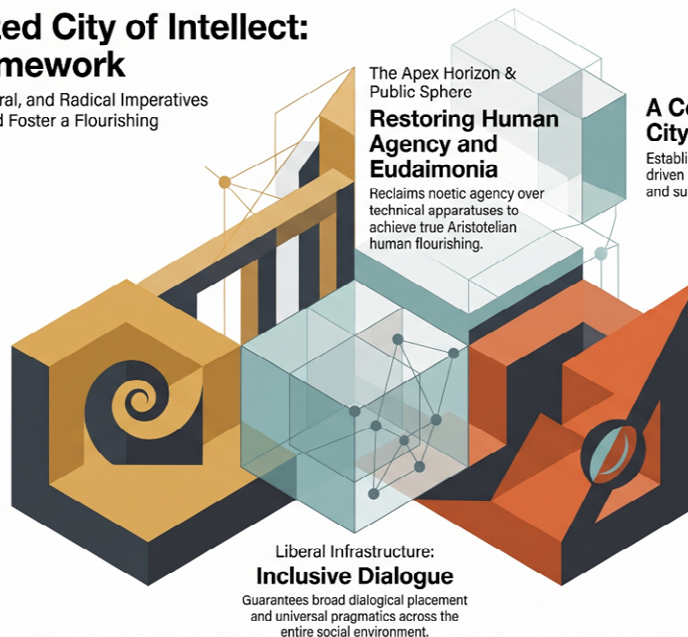
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