



**Higher Education in the UK and the USA since Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan:  
Converging Models?**

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**Higher Education in the UK under Tony Blair as seen through the media**

Abstract:

This paper, through an analysis of the various articles related to education, published in *The Economist* and the *New Statesman* from 1997 to 2007, aims at pointing out the main issues at stake in higher education during the *New Labour* mandates. In this period where the objectives was to have 50% of students between 18 and 30 enter university and where the question of top-up fees gave rise to a vivid debate, the issue of financing both of the institution and, on an individual level, of studies, appeared as the central question described and commented by the media. The paper will thus try to sketch the image media discourse (both articles and letters to the editor) give of higher education.

It will see how the example of the U.S.A is repeatedly used in these magazines, most often as a model or to promote the *New Labour* policy.

Finally, the paper will focus on the way socio-economic and political magazines depict the new role of higher education which is to create riches and to be cost-effective in a new knowledge economy.