

Transcript

Exclusive interview with Ed Balls

Free movement of people

Alan Shipman:

Is there an extent to which European governments were too ready to promote the free movement of people, immigration, migration and weren't considering enough the impact that would have on settled local communities?

Ed Balls:

Well, I think first of all if you look at the populist reaction against governments in Britain, America and on the continent of Europe. If you look at the antagonism, there's a very strong dimension between people who live in the cities, who live in cosmopolitan, diverse, dynamic cities and people who live in towns, rural areas, people, where there is, there's probably more homogeneity but where people feel also more outside and they feel resentful. The sense is that the mainstream parties have not really stood up for us and been on our side. There is absolutely a dimension in that which is about migration. I don't think it's fundamentally in many parts of continental Europe about free movement. I mean, the campaigns of Salvini in Italy or the AFD in Germany, they're not about intra EU migration, they're not about Spaniards or Greeks or Italians. They're about people coming from the outside and that is actually about the management of external borders and about asylum and refugees. So that, I mean there's a big debate about how that happened, there's a big debate about the how Europe handle that, but you can't blame free movement for that.