

Budget proves we're far from being top dog



Although Britain "thinks it's the biggest dog in the financial park," said one US trader, "the world only hears a chihuahua barking"

Fredrik von Erichsen/EPA

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After hearing the Budget yesterday, one American trader looked towards our canine companions to formulate an opinion. "Britain thinks it's the biggest dog in the financial park," he said. "But the rest of the world only hears a chihuahua barking."

The Manhattan-based trader was eventually convinced to upgrade the UK to pug status having failed miserably to argue our rottweiler pedigree.

In the year 2000 the UK was the fourth-largest economy, slightly smaller than Germany and a fraction of the size of Japan and America. At the end of 2012, we had lost another two places, being outpaced by France and China. Over the next few months we will lose yet another position as Brazil continues to outperform and by 2015 India will likely surpass us as well.

Our Government pointed the finger for our anaemic growth on the problems dumped upon it by Labour and a Europe that has apparently been draining our economy.

The Europe excuse is particularly interesting, especially considering both France and Germany have bigger economies than our own and Italy is quickly gaining. Surely if they were the cause of our demise than they too would be losing ground?

As for the Labour excuse, many think that they left Britain in a shambles. That is why they were voted out. We wanted a Government that could turn things around, not one that could point fingers.

While this Government is guilty of doing the same things over and over again and somehow expecting a different outcome, it is not the only guilty party. Labour is failing as well — it takes every opportunity to throw a punch but lacks any substantive policy suggestions that the country can rally behind.

America refuses to stoop to our level. Their parties punch and counter punch but the Government continuously tries new things and the opposition parties are constantly suggesting alternatives. American parties criticise when necessary and support when they believe the country is improving.

Even countries that share our political system, such as Canada and Australia, lack a single unflinching solution regardless of changing economic circumstances and opposition parties are constantly contributing to the debate.

I'm convinced that we are losing our credibility because we voted for people that have a misguided perception of what it is to be

a politician and for some reason we are intent on letting them use our economy and our children’s future as chew toys.

Our nation is drowning in talent, we have the smartest people on the planet, the undisputed creative centre of the world, are of good character and solid moral values. We’ve earned the right to be the top dog in the park. Enough excuses. Get it done.