

Elites

It is hard for even an engaged citizen to visualise the crisis that wasn't, the agonies that might have been.

The result is that otherwise smart people fall for the populist fork: elites are held to be omnipotent when things go wrong and irrelevant in normal times. The Crash? Their fault. The preceding boom? It fell from a tree. The Iraq war? Elite hubris. Decades on end of peace? Would have happened anyway. A pandemic? Dereliction in high office. No pandemic? The natural order of things. This is what happens when your best and most important work is largely invisible.

Janan Ganesh, Financial Times, July 29, 2022