# Louis Theroux’s The Settlers reignites debate as Tesla Cybertruck faces market backlash



As the week winds down, a curated collection of intriguing reads emerges, each offering unique insights into contemporary issues. This selection traverses stark landscapes, varying from the divisive realities of political conflict to the seemingly absurd narratives spun around modern consumer culture.

Louis Theroux's latest documentary, *The Settlers*, has stirred considerable debate following its release, largely due to its unflinching portrayal of Israeli settlers in the West Bank. Revisiting the region 14 years after his earlier film, *The Ultra Zionists*, Theroux articulates a heightened sense of urgency about the ongoing conflict. With the Jewish settler population reportedly surpassing 700,000, the film sheds light on the escalation of violence and the systematic displacement of Palestinians, particularly in the sanctity of their homelands after recent military escalations. Theroux's trademark interviewing style is at its best as he engages with figures like Daniella Weiss, revealing a profound zealotry that starkly ignores the Palestinian narrative.

The documentary does not shy away from difficult truths; it includes voices like that of activist Issa Amro, which highlights the harsh realities faced by Palestinians under continued military occupation. Critics, however, note that while the film is impactful, it predominantly highlights fringe perspectives without fully capturing the complex political landscape that shapes these conflicts. Nevertheless, glimmers of hope emerge from the stories of Israeli peace activists who strive to support their Palestinian neighbours, suggesting that compassion can transcend borders, even amidst turmoil.

In a wholly different sphere, the discourse around financial dynamics in relationships takes centre stage with insights from Amal and George Clooney, who reportedly maintain a conflict-free partnership despite vast wealth disparities. Readers of The Guardian contributed their thoughts on navigating finances in a time where economic pressures significantly strain romantic relationships. The anecdotes reveal that issues of money can lead to imbalances and discomfort, particularly for women, as illustrated by one couple's decision to pool finances only after two decades of marriage.

Equally intriguing is the examination of new-age boot camps promising personal transformation. The response to a three-day psychic recalibration retreat in Los Angeles raises questions about the commodification of happiness and self-discovery. As Katherine Rowland recounts her experiences, from screaming therapy sessions to reflective moments of vulnerability, it becomes clear that participants are seeking more than just a superficial fix; they’re yearning for a deeper connection to self amid life’s chaos. Yet, such experiences raise ethical concerns about exploitation disguised as empowerment, igniting a debate about the nature of personal growth.

Meanwhile, the Tesla Cybertruck often elicits bewilderment and sometimes outright disdain from both consumers and critics alike. Launched to considerable fanfare and marketed as a revolution in electric vehicles, it faces a paradoxical existence as a symbol of failure amidst its status as the top-selling electric pickup in the U.S. Despite impressive stats—like an 11,000-pound towing capacity and innovative engineering—the Cybertruck has been fraught with issues including poor sales performance and a litany of design flaws. Its polarising aesthetic has made it a target for criticism, even vandalism, as it becomes inextricably linked with divisive figures and sentiments in contemporary politics.

Although some technological advancements proudly bear the Tesla logo, the vehicle's journey illustrates a broader commentary on the challenges faced by modern enterprises in navigating consumer expectations and political affiliations. A 13% drop in Tesla’s overall sales in early 2025 only accentuates these challenges, as market observers remain sceptical about whether the hype truly matches reality.

These diverse narratives, while widely different in content, reflect a common theme of questioning established norms—whether through the lens of geopolitics, personal finance, self-discovery, or revolutionary tech. Engaging with these stories inspires reflection about our own roles within these frameworks and how we might navigate the complex landscape of the modern world.

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2025/may/17/five-great-reads-louis-theroux-musks-cybertruck-folly-and-inside-a-psychic-reset-bootcamp> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/a173319a-6e7d-4154-a59a-ef22c04dd518> - In 'The Settlers,' a new BBC documentary, Louis Theroux revisits the West Bank 14 years after his original film 'The Ultra Zionists.' Since his last visit, the Jewish settler population in the region has swelled to over 700,000, accompanied by escalating violence and displacement of Palestinians, particularly after the 2023 Hamas attacks and the subsequent Gaza war. The documentary highlights the growing influence of radical Zionist settlers supported by Israel’s far-right government and scrutinizes the worsening conditions for Palestinians under military occupation. Theroux brings his signature interviewing style to bear on controversial figures like Daniella Weiss, uncovering their zealotry and disregard for Palestinian rights. The film also includes rare Palestinian viewpoints, such as those from activist Issa Amro, detailing daily hardships faced under Israeli control. While impactful in shedding light on extremist ideologies and settler aggression, the documentary narrowly focuses on fringe individuals, missing broader political context and implications. Nonetheless, it remains a powerful exposé with faint glimmers of hope, such as Israeli peace activists aiding Palestinian farmers. It airs on April 27 on BBC2 and iPlayer.
3. <https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2025/03/cybertruck-washington-dc/682232/?utm_source=apple_news> - The author describes their experience driving a Tesla Cybertruck around Washington, D.C., a vehicle widely regarded as America’s most hated car. During this experiment, the author faced relentless hostility, receiving middle fingers, insults, and even threats from passersby. The Cybertruck has become a polarizing symbol associated with Elon Musk and Donald Trump's administration, attracting disdain from those who oppose them. Despite being a technically advanced and emissions-free vehicle, its controversial design and political associations have led to vandalism and protests against it. Sales have underperformed Musk’s predictions, and the car has faced numerous technical and quality issues. The author concludes that the Cybertruck, while innovative, has become a symbol of false promises and political division, making it unappealing for many potential buyers.
4. <https://time.com/7172441/wes-morrill/> - In 2023, pickups were the top three best-selling vehicles in America, despite their significant greenhouse gas emissions. The Cybertruck, launched last November, has quickly become the best-selling electric pickup in the U.S. Designed by Wes Morrill and his team at Tesla, the Cybertruck features innovative engineering to combine sports car-like handling with high utility. Key features include electronically adaptive air suspension, rear-wheel steering, and steer-by-wire technology. Despite some recalls, the Cybertruck’s popularity continues to grow, offering a towing capacity of 11,000 lbs. and a 6-ft. bed without sacrificing cab space. Tesla aims to encourage more drivers to switch from internal combustion vehicles to electric ones.
5. <https://cadenaser.com/nacional/2025/04/02/las-ventas-de-tesla-cayeron-un-13-en-los-tres-primeros-meses-del-ano-cadena-ser/> - Las ventas de Tesla disminuyeron un 13% interanual en el primer trimestre de 2025, con 336.681 vehículos vendidos. La compañía también redujo su producción en un 16,1% en comparación con el mismo periodo del año anterior, alcanzando 362.615 vehículos. Los analistas esperaban 370.000 ventas, lo cual provocó que las acciones cayeran un 4,61% en Wall Street, acumulando pérdidas del 32% en los últimos doce meses. La intervención política de Elon Musk, consejero de Trump, ha tenido un impacto negativo en la imagen de Tesla, generando protestas. Además, la caída de ventas en Europa, con un descenso del 45% en enero, ha empeorado la situación. También han influido problemas arancelarios en Estados Unidos y una llamada a revisión de casi todas las Cybertruck vendidas debido a un defecto en uno de sus paneles, lo cual representa un riesgo para la seguridad vial.
6. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_Theroux%3A_The_Settlers> - Louis Theroux: The Settlers is a 2025 BBC documentary film by Louis Theroux about illegal Israeli settlers in the West Bank and the movement for Israeli settlement of the Gaza Strip during the Gaza war. The film features interviews with Palestinians and Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank, including prominent far-right Zionist settler Daniella Weiss. The film is a part of Louis Theroux's BBC Two specials.
7. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Ultra_Zionists> - The Ultra Zionists is a British documentary by Louis Theroux released on 3 February 2011. In the film, Theroux investigates ultranationalist Jewish settlers in East Jerusalem, Hebron and Nablus within the Israeli occupied West Bank, Palestine. The documentary also follows Theroux as he tours the Muslim quarter of Jerusalem with Daniel Luria of Ateret Cohanim.