# Louis Theroux's The Settlers sparks debate amid surge in West Bank population



As the weekend beckons, readers are invited to explore an intriguing collection of contemporary narratives traversing diverse themes—ranging from scintillating personal experiences to critical societal reflections.

Louis Theroux's recent documentary, *The Settlers*, has captivated audiences online, igniting fervent discussions with its raw portrayal of Israeli settlers in the West Bank. In his article for the Guardian, Theroux reflects on his 14-year journey revisiting the region, revealing how the settler population has surged to over 700,000 amidst escalating violence and displacement of Palestinians, particularly following the tumultuous events post-2023 Hamas attacks. The documentary employs Theroux's signature interviewing style, engaging with contentious figures like Daniella Weiss, whose fervent support for the settlement project epitomises radical Zionism. However, it also attempts to present Palestinian perspectives, featuring voices such as activist Issa Amro, who articulates the struggles faced under military occupation. Critics have noted that while the film shines a light on extremist views, it may inadequately address broader political contexts, underlining a troubled narrative that includes both despair and the flickering hope of cooperation between Israeli peace activists and Palestinian farmers.

In stark contrast to the sociopolitical complexities explored by Theroux, the dynamics of financial management within relationships take centre stage in a light-hearted examination of Amal and George Clooney's apparently harmonious partnership. Contrary to the typical narrative of wealth disparity in relationships exacerbated by the current cost-of-living crisis, the Clooneys have reportedly maintained a conflict-free union. This resonated with Guardian readers who shared their own experiences, highlighting how financial control can often tilt towards one partner, particularly disadvantaging women. Such revelations resonate in a climate where financial equity remains a crucial topic, raising questions about the balance of power and its implications on personal relationships.

Meanwhile, for those seeking deeper self-understanding, the allure of "mindset-reset bootcamps" is explored through Katherine Rowland's candid experience. For a steep fee, participants embark on immersive weekends meant to recalibrate their lives. Rowland recounted an intense session where she found herself embodying raw emotions in a communal setting, a practice evoking both intrigue and scepticism. Critics of such intensive experiences debate whether they offer genuine transformation or merely exploit the vulnerability of participants under the guise of personal development.

Conversely, the technological realm features prominently in a retrospective of the iconic game *Tetris*, presented through the lens of its Dutch designer, Henk Rogers. With over 520 million copies sold, it is a phenomenon that transformed the gaming landscape. Rogers recounts his journey from clandestine negotiations to securing international rights amidst Cold War tensions, revealing a tale littered with adventure and challenges. Now residing in Hawaii, Rogers champions sustainable energy initiatives through his Blue Planet Foundation, further indicating that innovation can extend beyond entertainment into impactful environmental advocacy.

Lastly, the much-maligned Tesla Cybertruck stands as a controversial subject. Initially debuted with great fanfare by Elon Musk in 2019, it has since garnered a reputation as an unusual misfit in the automotive market. Andrew Lawrence's test drive reveals that despite being the top-selling electric vehicle in its category, consumer interest appears waning, characterised by a staggering discrepancy between reported reservations and actual sales—a mere 46,096 units sold compared to claims of over one million. The Cybertruck's polarising design has elicited public derision and unrest, especially given its association with contentious political sentiments. These ongoing concerns pose critical questions regarding its viability in a rapidly evolving automotive landscape.

This weekend’s selection presents engaging explorations of complex themes, from sociopolitical dynamics and personal empowerment to technological evolution and consumer behaviour. Each piece invites reflection on the multifaceted reality of contemporary life, ensuring that readers will find something resonant and thought-provoking.

### Reference Map

* Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2025/may/17/five-great-reads-louis-theroux-musks-cybertruck-folly-and-inside-a-psychic-reset-bootcamp), [[2]](https://www.ft.com/content/a173319a-6e7d-4154-a59a-ef22c04dd518)
* Paragraph 2: [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2025/may/17/five-great-reads-louis-theroux-musks-cybertruck-folly-and-inside-a-psychic-reset-bootcamp), [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2025/may/17/five-great-reads-louis-theroux-musks-cybertruck-folly-and-inside-a-psychic-reset-bootcamp)
* Paragraph 3: [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2025/may/17/five-great-reads-louis-theroux-musks-cybertruck-folly-and-inside-a-psychic-reset-bootcamp)
* Paragraph 4: [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2025/may/17/five-great-reads-louis-theroux-musks-cybertruck-folly-and-inside-a-psychic-reset-bootcamp), [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2025/may/17/five-great-reads-louis-theroux-musks-cybertruck-folly-and-inside-a-psychic-reset-bootcamp)
* Paragraph 5: [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2025/may/17/five-great-reads-louis-theroux-musks-cybertruck-folly-and-inside-a-psychic-reset-bootcamp), [[4]](https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2025/03/cybertruck-washington-dc/682232/?utm_source=apple_news), [[5]](https://www.benzinga.com/news/25/03/44536773/demand-is-off-the-charts-elon-musk-claimed-tesla-had-over-1-million-cybertruck-reservations-just-46096-have-been-sold-in-14-months)

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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.theguardian.com/australia-news/2025/may/17/five-great-reads-louis-theroux-musks-cybertruck-folly-and-inside-a-psychic-reset-bootcamp> - This article from The Guardian's Australia edition highlights five notable reads, including Louis Theroux's documentary 'The Settlers,' which delves into the Israeli settler project in the West Bank. The piece also touches upon other topics such as the financial dynamics between Amal and George Clooney, the experience of a 'psychic reset' bootcamp, the global impact of Tetris, and the reception of Tesla's Cybertruck. Each segment provides insights into these diverse subjects, offering readers a comprehensive overview of current cultural and technological discussions.
4. <https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2025/03/cybertruck-washington-dc/682232/?utm_source=apple_news> - In this article from The Atlantic, the author recounts their experience driving a Tesla Cybertruck around Washington, D.C., a vehicle that has become a symbol of controversy and division. The piece details the public's hostile reactions, including insults and threats, highlighting the Cybertruck's polarizing design and its association with Elon Musk and political figures. Despite its technological advancements and environmental benefits, the Cybertruck's design and political affiliations have led to public disdain, vandalism, and protests, making it a contentious presence on the streets.
5. <https://www.benzinga.com/news/25/03/44536773/demand-is-off-the-charts-elon-musk-claimed-tesla-had-over-1-million-cybertruck-reservations-just-46096-have-been-sold-in-14-months> - This Benzinga article discusses the disparity between Tesla's initial claims and actual sales figures for the Cybertruck. Elon Musk had previously stated that Tesla had over 1 million reservations for the vehicle. However, data reveals that only 46,096 Cybertrucks have been sold since customer deliveries began in late 2023. This significant gap between projected and actual sales raises questions about the vehicle's market reception and the accuracy of initial forecasts.
6. <https://www.axios.com/newsletters/axios-san-antonio-1d7e32c0-ac47-11ef-acad-cd160e389cd1> - In this Axios newsletter, the author highlights the increasing presence of Tesla Cybertrucks in San Antonio, Texas. Registered Cybertruck numbers surged from five to 3,711 by October, with San Antonio recording 199 units. Despite its initial popularity, the vehicle has faced challenges such as recalls and towing issues, which have slightly dampened demand. The Cybertruck, priced starting at $79,990, is often used more as a showpiece than a typical pickup truck, reflecting its unique position in the market.
7. <https://www.businessinsider.com/elon-musk-tesla-cybertruck-annual-production-200000-joe-rogan-2023-11> - In this Business Insider article, Elon Musk discusses Tesla's production goals for the Cybertruck during an appearance on the 'Joe Rogan Experience' podcast. Musk reveals that Tesla aims to produce 200,000 Cybertrucks annually, indicating a significant ramp-up in production. This ambitious target reflects Tesla's confidence in the vehicle's potential and its strategic importance in the company's lineup.