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John Sutherland

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John Sutherland : The War on The Old (Provocations) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The War on The Old (Provocations):

The war on the old has been declared. In the post-Brexit world, intergenerational conflict has become a visible phenomenon. There is an overwhelming sense of blame from younger generations: it was 'the wrinklies', the grey-haired plutocracy, who voted Leave; who are overburdening hospitals, shutting the youth out of the housing market and hoarding accumulated wealth. By 2020, we are told, one in five Britons will be pensioners, and living a longer retirement than ever before. 'A good thing', politicians add, through gritted teeth. The truth is that for them, 'the old' are a social, economic and political inconvenience. John Sutherland (age 78, and feeling keenly what he writes about) examines this intergenerational combat as a new kind of war in which institutional neglect and universal indifference to the old has reached aggressive, and routinely lethal, levels. This is a book which sets out to provoke but in the process tells some deep and inconvenient truths, revealing something British society would rather not think about.

About the Author John Sutherland is a British academic, newspaper columnist and author. Currently he is an Emeritus Lord Northcliffe Professor of Modern English Literature at University College London. He has published more books than he cares to count, including *Is Heathcliff a Murderer? Puzzles in Nineteenth-Century Fiction*, *The Boy Who Loved Books: A Memoir*, *Lives of the Novelists: A History of Fiction in 294 Lives* and, most recently, the first study of what it is like to read Orwell without a sense of smell - the first of Professor Sutherland's own senses to drop off.