



FRANCE

Glossary

France	to continue	to embody
to be tradition-bound	to look to	to suffer
to trim back	to ease	to take to the streets
to introduce	to live for work	to work to live
to do well	to be used	to put
to move	unemployment rate	a bloated public sector
hard-line trade unions	social assistance	citizens
the state	the size	tax burden
consensus	conflict	the failure
a bid	olympics	dwindling influence
aerospace	genetics	agribusiness
telecoms	riches	potential
war memoirs	grandeur	decline
dependent	massive	unlike
it's not all doom and gloom	simply	to their full advantage endlessly

And now a dialogue between Wentworth and Sarah...

Wentworth: What can you say about France, Sarah?

Sarah: Well, plenty of things.

Wentworth: Like what?

Sarah: Like Paris continues to be the world's number one tourist destination, but it does not embody France as it once did. Today's France, with a high unemployment rate, a bloated public-sector and hard-line train unions, is tradition-bound.

Wentworth: Would you say that France is dependent on social assistance?

Sarah: Yes, definitely. French citizens are used to looking to the state for everything.

Wentworth: As a foreign worker in France, I see that France is suffering from its massive public expenditure, enormous bureaucracy, high taxes and crippling social charges. What France needs most is to trim back the size of the public sector and to ease the tax burden.

Sarah: The problem is that the French do not change things by consensus, but by conflict. They always say they want change and then take to the streets when their politicians try to introduce them.

Wentworth: Well unlike most British people who live to work, most French people work to live.



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- Sarah: The failure of Paris's bids for the 2012 Olympics may be seen as yet another sign of France's dwindling international influence.
- Wentworth: The situation is not all doom and gloom; France is doing well in aerospace transport, tourism, genetics, agribusiness, and telecoms. Simply, it has riches and a potential that are not being used to their full advantage.
- Sarah: As Charles de Gaulle put in his war memoirs, 'France moves endlessly from grandeur to decline and from decline to grandeur'.