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Summary/Abstract: Although English intellectual life frequently operates according to a story that stresses openness to ideals and thinkers from abroad, it is also the case...
that not all arrivals are equally welcomed. That was the fate that befell Zygmunt Bauman when he took up the Chair of Sociology at the University of Leeds in 1971. His first publication after his arrival was the English language translation of Klasa—ruch—elita: Studium socjologiczne dziejów angieskiego ruchu robotniczego, which had been originally published in Poland in 1960. The book was subjected to a hostile review by E. P. Thompson, and this paper seeks to understand the stakes of the attack. It is contended that Thompson's review, along with his Open Letter to Leszek Kołakowski, reflects quite how open English intellectual life can be. This essay consequently looks in two directions; it is a specific analysis of the early English reception of Bauman's work and also more generally a study of the parameters of the English intellectual idiom.
Idioms are one of the key things that make English a tricky language to learn. Here’s a list of the most interesting and what they mean. Much of this is likely to be Victorian fantasy, as this was a period when interest in the legend of King Arthur and the Court of Camelot was high. The earliest use of the expression was in a poem by Henry Pye in 1790, which referred to “No more the knight, in shining armour dress’d.” 13. Know the ropes.