



Huge numbers have become inspired to get Corbyn elected and re-elected.

He and the movement he leads have broken the pro-austerity, pro-privatisation, pro-nuclear, anti-immigrant neoliberal consensus of the major parties. It is a huge step forward.

However the obstacles we face are too powerful to be overcome by simply putting a cross once every five years.

The problems we face are here and now. This is where we must fight. Let us organise to oppose the current wave of racism, support workers in struggle, and defend the weakest in society. Then we need to take on the rich.

Red 34



The Labour right



Let us organise to overcome them

Corbyn wants a better deal for workers. Harold Wilson was elected in 1974 on a Corbyn type left platform. Five years later The Government had imposed a pay curbs, service cuts and rising unemployment. All of the obstacles that prevented Wilson delivering a better world are there today.

The Heath Government had lost two strikes to the miners. There was a militancy not seen since 1919. In 1974 Ted Heath called an election on the issue of “who governs Britain?” and lost



We will “bring about a fundamental and irreversible shift in the balance of power and wealth in favour of working people and their families.” The Labour Party Manifesto 1974.

The Labour right wing, the media, the trade union bosses, a rise in racism, the state machine and most importantly the sheer economic power of the bosses weakened then broke the Labour Government from the mandate it was elected on. This booklet uses the lessons from the past in an attempt to see the obstacles that face us today. Only then can we organise to overcome them.



The Labour Government proved more committed to running the system than in shifting wealth and power to working people. It had been undermined by MI5 and MI6, the media and a run on the £. The Government did not mobilise people in its defence. The working class militancy had been blunted by the Trade Union bureaucrats. The Government that had promised an irreversible shift in wealth from the rich to the poor finished by cutting jobs, pay and services. It did what every Labour Government does when faced with a crisis, make workers pay for a crisis we did not cause. Unemployment rose. Dennis Healey introduced monetarism to the UK.

The pay curbs broke in 1978 with the Winter of Discontent.

A weakened and disunited working class could not prevent a Thatcher Government getting elected in 1979.

The Tories promptly implemented the Ridley Plan and, for a time, broke workers' power.

After the massive defeat of the Tories in 1974 a group of Tory MPs drew up plans to defeat the miners and other groups of workers. It was a very detailed plan including non union lorry drivers, large coal stocks at power stations, and dual fuel power stations. It was called the Ridley Plan. It was put into effect by Thatcher in the 1980s. It was published in the Economist in 1978.

Obstacle 1 The Labour right wing



How many days did it take you to start plotting against Corbyn?

Days? I used a stopwatch.



The right wing believe that in order to win an election Labour must win the middle ground

I stand for immigration controls, anti-union legislation, privatisation, and support for American wars. Will you vote for me?

No we vote Labour.

I am Labour



We cannot move forward together if we have different aims.

Campbell Adamson director General of the Confederation of British Industry recounted "I remember going through with the council at one meeting a whole list of actions that our side might have to take if Benn really got his way in a white paper...We certainly discussed an investment strike...but we also discussed various things about not paying various taxes, and a list-I don't know that I want to be very specific-but a list of things which in themselves would not have been legal."





The Labour Governments of 1929, 1945, 1964, 1974 and 1997, each faced a run on the £ or a major economic crisis.

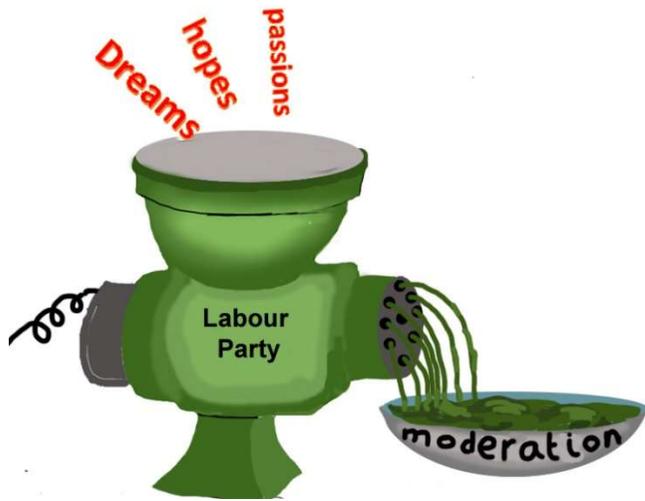
Each time the Labour Government became committed to pay cuts and spending cuts.

Beatrice Webb a Fabian and wife of Sidney Webb wrote "So it is the financiers, British and American, who will settle the personnel and the policy of the British Government." on the MacDonald administration.

"We had now reached the situation where a newly elected Government with a mandate from the people was being told...by international speculators that the policies on which we had fought the election could not be implemented." Wilson speaking about his 1964 administration.

People join the Labour Party to improve things. The politics of going for the middle ground robs members of their militancy.





Let's bomb Iraq

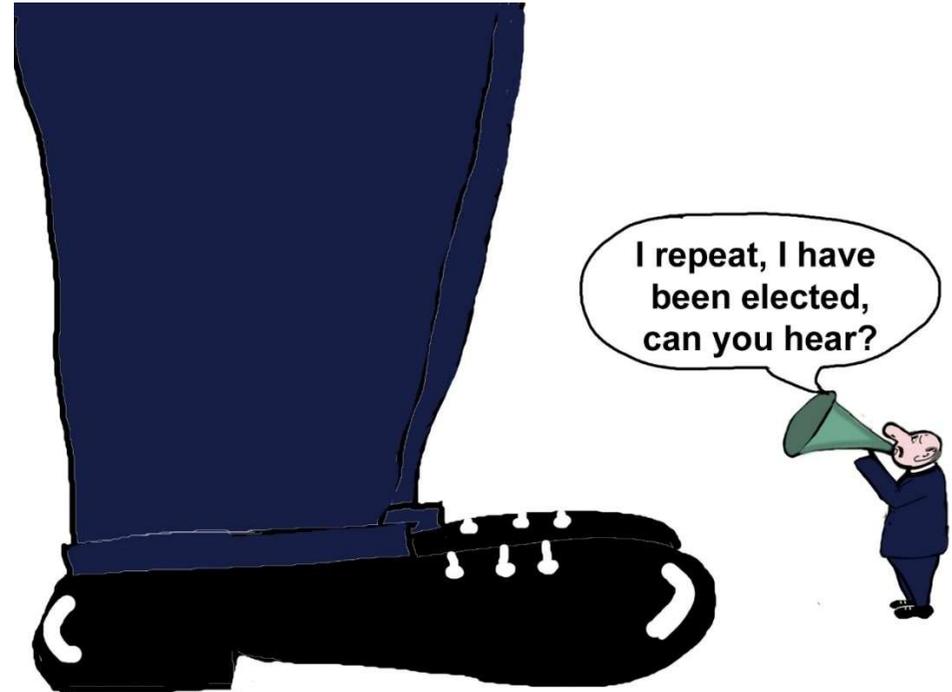
Austerity, cuts in living standards for workers, privatisation big bonuses, bailout for bankers no council house building mass unemployment, nuclear weapons....



What if the middle ground is wrong?

These policies led to two General Election defeats and the loss of Scotland to the more radical SNP.

It doesn't matter who you vote for the Government always wins.



I repeat, I have been elected, can you hear?

Rich people are not bound by mere Governments. They can move their money wherever they like. They can buy Islands in tax havens, and they can undermine Governments that don't do their bidding.

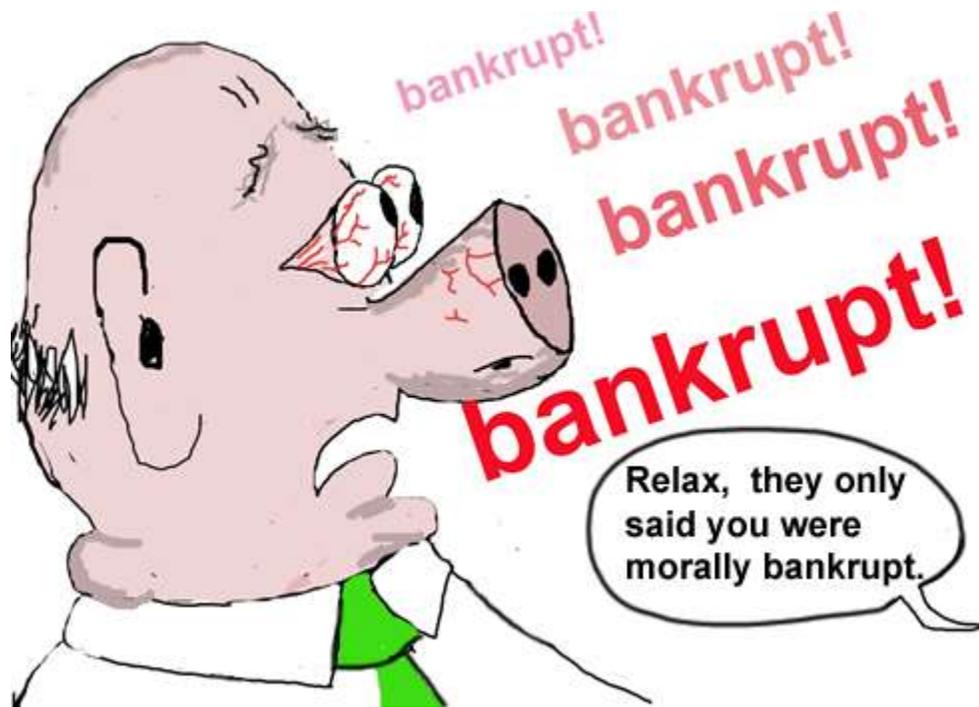
'There had been a run on the pound in 1975 and again in 1976. Chancellor Denis Healey was forced to go, cap in hand, to the International Monetary Fund for a rescue loan. The IMF coughed up, but at the price of public spending cuts.'
BBC 12 September 2000

Remember the golden rule. He who has the gold, rules.

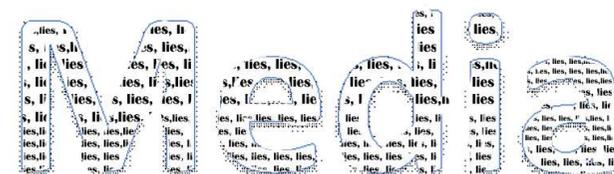
Obstacle 6 Economic power

The average pay of a CEO in the Financial Times 100 is now £5,000,000 (£5 million) a year. The Tory-Liberal Government cut income tax for the rich. That means that their bonuses went up by an average of £250,000 extra a year. The only visible skill they have is agreeing to each other's bloated salaries.

They have no morality. Their only clear commitment is to making money.



Obstacle 2 The bosses' media





Politics is too serious a matter to be left to politicians.

Len McCluskey: intelligence services using 'dark practices' against Corbyn
Guardian 22/July 2016

President Allende was democratically elected in Chile, which was known as the Britain of Latin America. The United States opposed the regime and supported a coup. In 1973 there was a coup led by General Pinochet. Thousands were tortured and killed.

'I don't see why we need to stand by and watch a country go communist due to the irresponsibility of its people. The issues are much too important for the Chilean voters to be left to decide for themselves'. Henry A. Kissinger, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

The rich and powerful send their children to private schools. Nearly two thirds (62%) of senior armed forces went to these schools. There, they learned loyalty to their class.



The problem is that the media is not wholeheartedly to the side of working people.
The media is powerful, but it is not all powerful. After all they need us to buy into their message.



In 1974 Labour proposed a fairer, freer press but did not act.

Obstacles 5 The State



MI5 is the only branch of Government that listens to you.

MI5 and MI6 undermined MacDonal in 1924, the Wilson Government in 1964, and the Wilson Government in 1974. Sections of the ruling class plotted a coup against Labour.

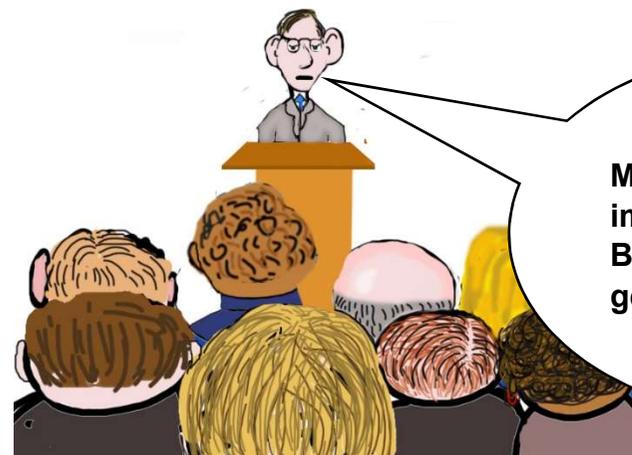
"[Cecil King Head of International Publishing Corporation] awaited the arrival of Sir Solly and then at once expounded his views on the gravity of the national situation, the urgency for action, and then embarked upon a shopping list of the Prime Minister's shortcomings...He explained that in the crisis he foresaw as being just around the corner, the Government would disintegrate, there would be bloodshed in the streets and the armed forces would be involved. The people would be looking to somebody like Lord Mountbatten as the titular head of a new administration, somebody renowned as a leader of men, who would be capable, backed by the best brains and administrators in the land, to restore public confidence. He ended with a question to Mountbatten-would he agree to be the titular head of a new administration in such circumstances?"Hugh Cudlipp.

Obstacle 3 The trade Union Bureaucrats

We bosses need to impose a pay cut because of external competition, my bonus, market conditions, the need for new investments, the need to keep shareholders happy, there is a cloud in the sky...

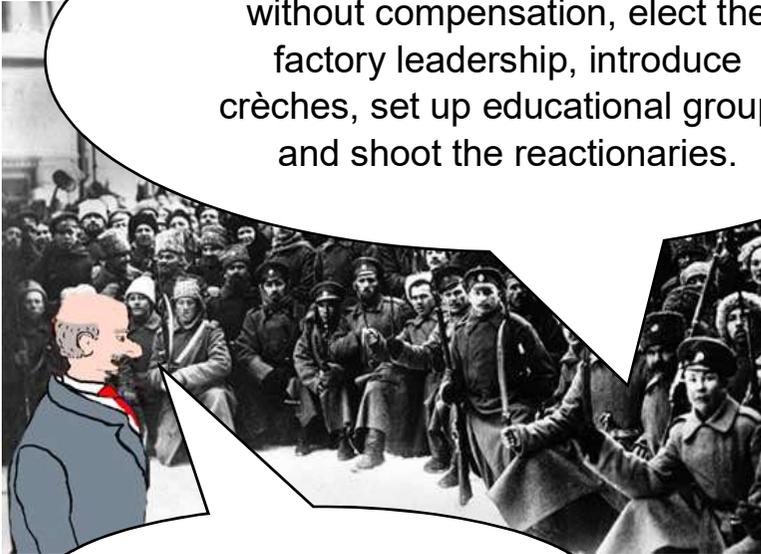


It could have been worse, it could have been my pay.



Management are imposing a pay cut. But I have managed get it back dated.

We want to take over the factories, without compensation, elect the factory leadership, introduce crèches, set up educational groups and shoot the reactionaries.



Management will never agree to that.

What are you Vic?

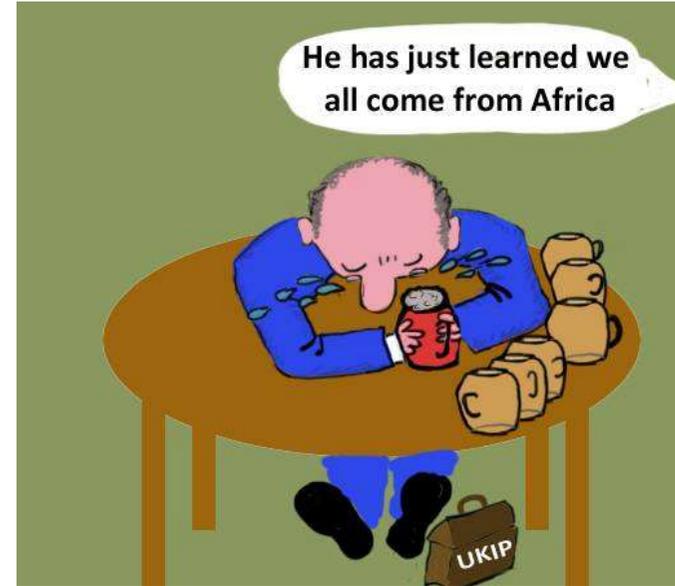
A skilled arbitrator

What sort of traitor?

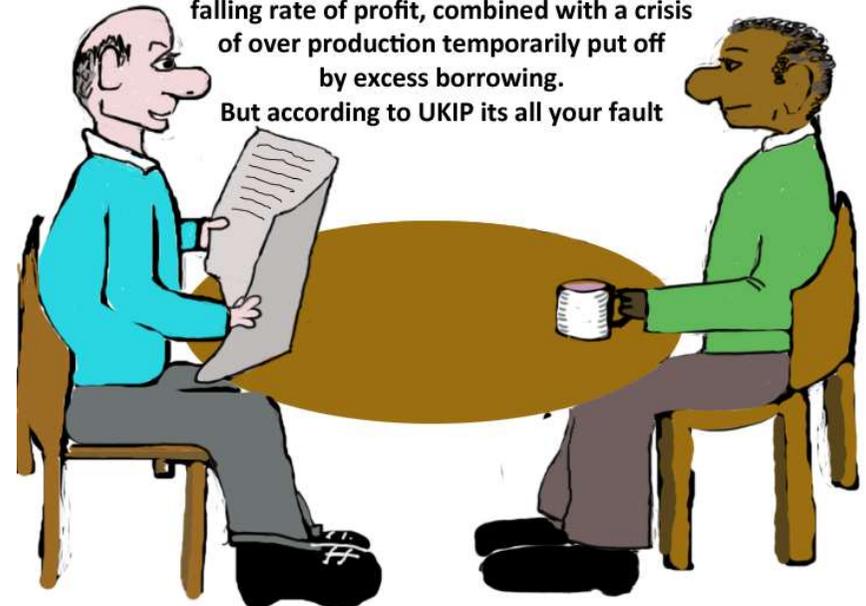


Vic Feather was the Leader of the TUC that negotiated the Social Contract.

He has just learned we all come from Africa



I used to believe that the crisis was caused by a falling rate of profit, combined with a crisis of over production temporarily put off by excess borrowing. But according to UKIP its all your fault





The law, in its majestic equality, forbids rich and poor to sleep under bridges, to beg in the streets, and to steal bread.

Anatole France

74% of top judges went to private schools.

Labour pandered to the racists. Labour chief whip Bob Mellish speaking about the Malawi Asians fleeing persecution in 1976 said “This nation has done all it should have done. Its record is one of great honour and integrity, but I say enough is enough.”

The call was echoed by Enoch Powell and the right wing press.

We have introduced the Social Contract. You can all go back to work. Trust the Labour Government.

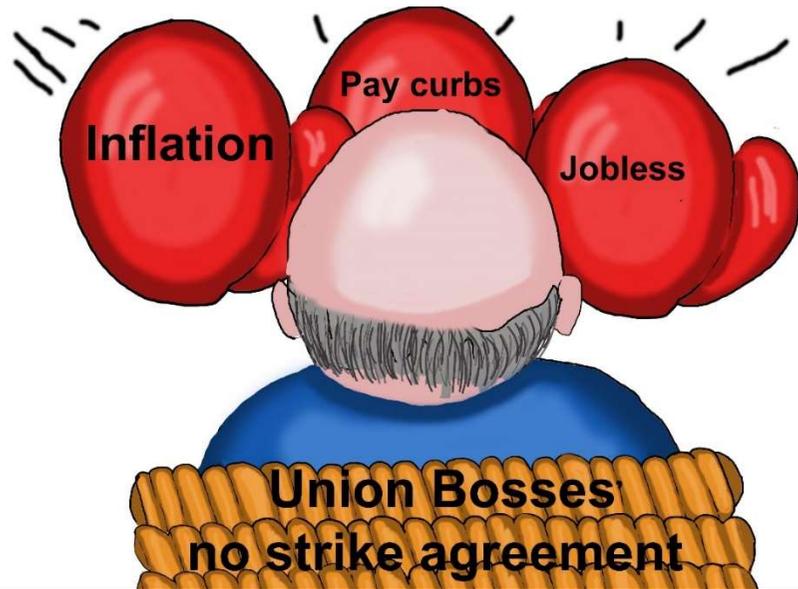


In 1974 the union bosses supported the introduction of an incomes policy. Not a single union objected.

“The most impressive thing has been the speed with which members of the General Council [of the TUC] have themselves reached a voluntary agreement to limit pay...which will mean some reduction in real take home pay for the majority. “ Denis Healey Chancellor of the Exchequer

Workers were allowed a £6 flat rate increase. This was about 10% of average wages. Inflation was 24.2%. The deal meant cuts in living standards.

The Observer commented “The last twelve months have almost certainly seen the sharpest fall in the real living standards of Britain’s working population in any year for at least a century” May 1st 1977



In 1976 Wilson resigned and James Callaghan became Prime Minister. He said

"We used to believe that we could spend our way out of a crisis, but I tell you ... it is no longer possible."

The result was huge cuts in public spending. Chancellor Dennis Healey introduced monetarism to the UK (but did not use the term).



Unemployment rose under the Wilson Callaghan Government.

Thatcher took it to nearly 12%

Obstacles 4 The rise of the racists & fascists



The rich do not want to be attacked for their greed or the economic failures of their system. They want to blame refugees and immigrants.

It was the same in the 1970s. Then the issue was a number of Asian refugees fleeing from racism in Africa. Racism was whipped up. In Deptford 1976 racists got 44% of the vote. Labour won because the racist vote was split.

A year later the National Front received 119,063 votes in London.

Sections of the bosses like to promote racism. If workers can be persuaded to hate fellow workers then the rich and their system will not be under threat.