



The Labour right



Let us organise to overcome them

The election in June was a huge step forward for those of us who want to defeat austerity imposed by the Government for the rich.

It showed that a Corbyn Government is a real possibility. However left wing governments have been defeated in the past. Harold Wilson in 1974 was elected on a promise to "Bring about a fundamental and irreversible shift in the balance of power and wealth in favour of working people and their families".

That Government broke its promise and ended up imposing cuts.

This pamphlet aims to highlight obstacles to a Corbyn Government with a view to overcoming them.

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?

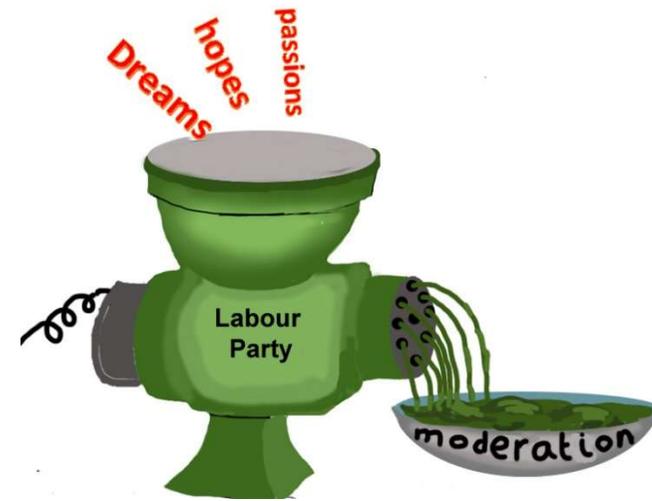


No we vote Labour.



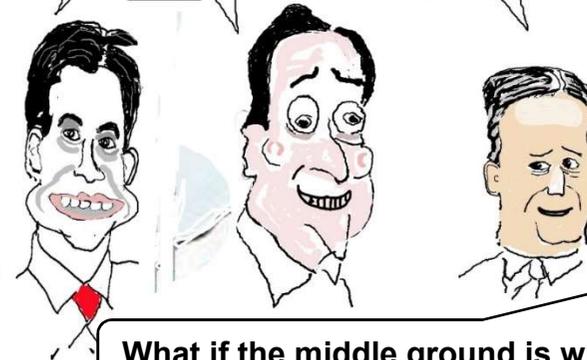
We cannot move forward together if we have different aims.

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....



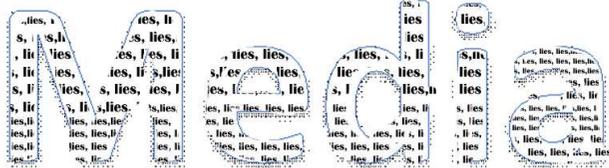
What if the middle ground is wrong?

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.



Obstacle two – The bosses' media

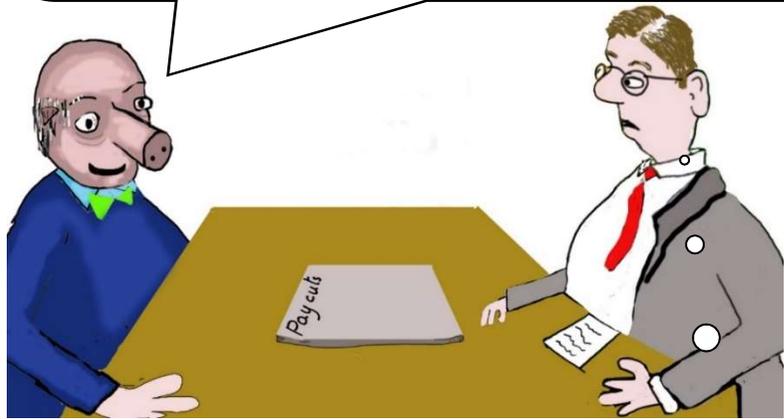


The problem is that the media is owned and controlled by the rich. They will defend their privileged position and oppose working people. The media is powerful, but it is not all powerful. After all they need us to buy into their message.



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...

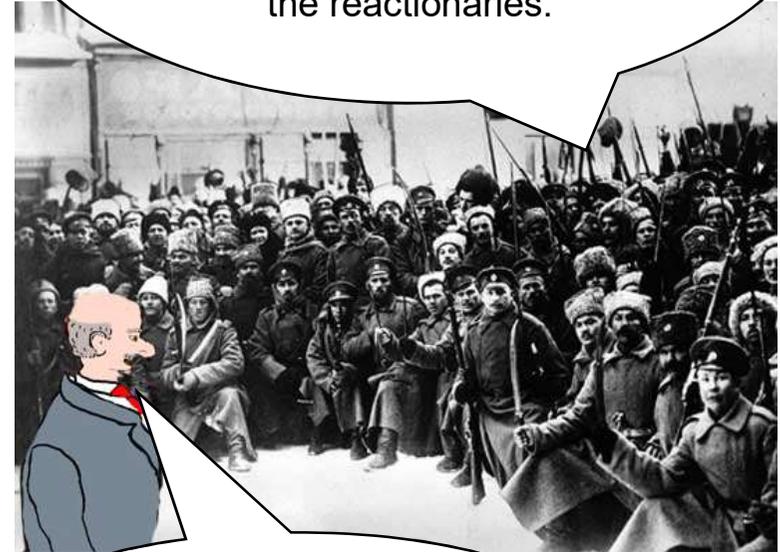


It could have been worse, it could have been my pay.

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.

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

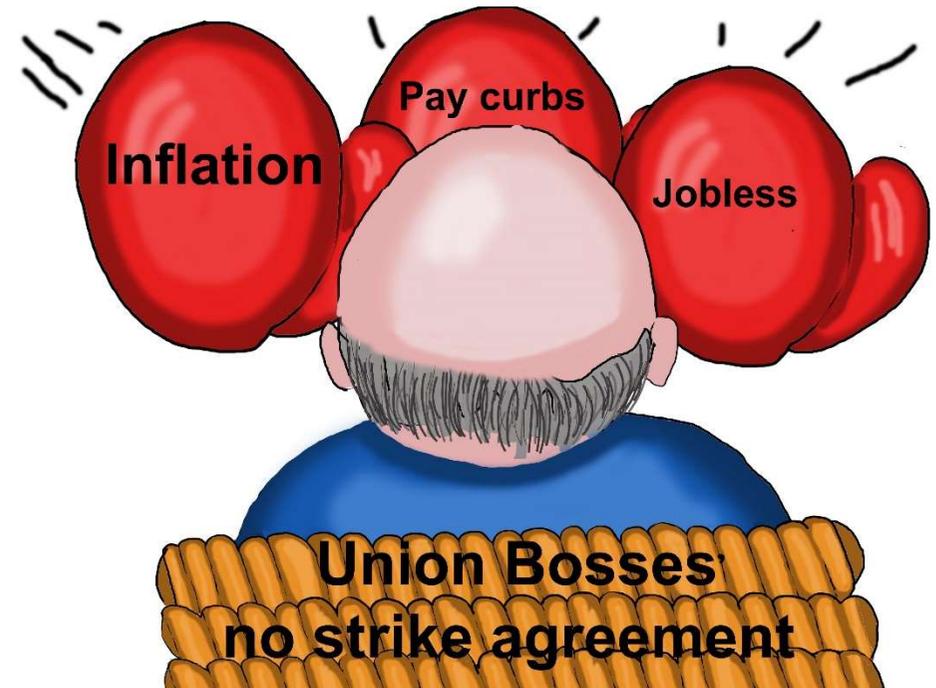


In 1974 the union bosses supported the introduction of an incomes policy. Not a single union objected.

“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. Dennis Healey introduced monetarism to the UK but did not use the term.



Thatcher denounced Labour’s high levels of unemployment and promptly tripled them as soon as she was elected.

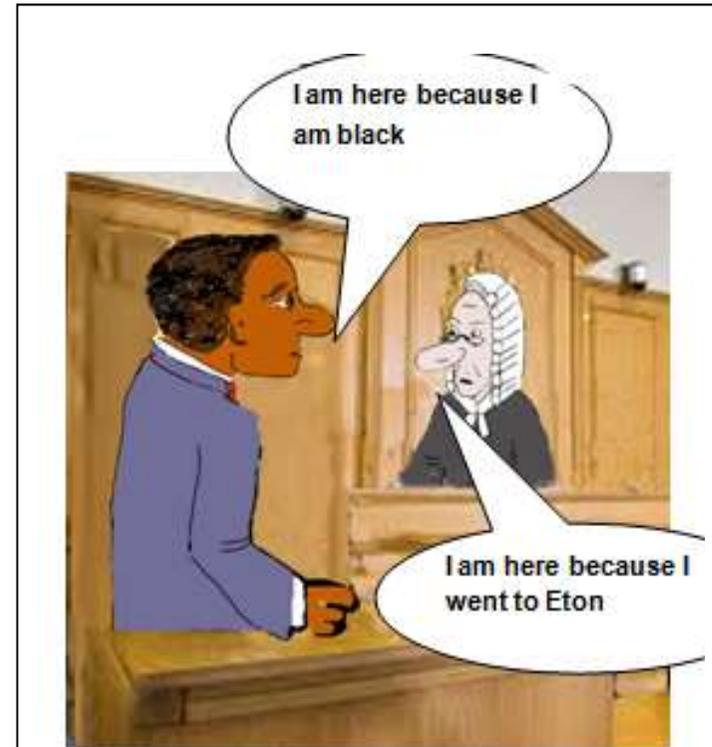
Obstacles 4 The rise of the racists & fascists



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.



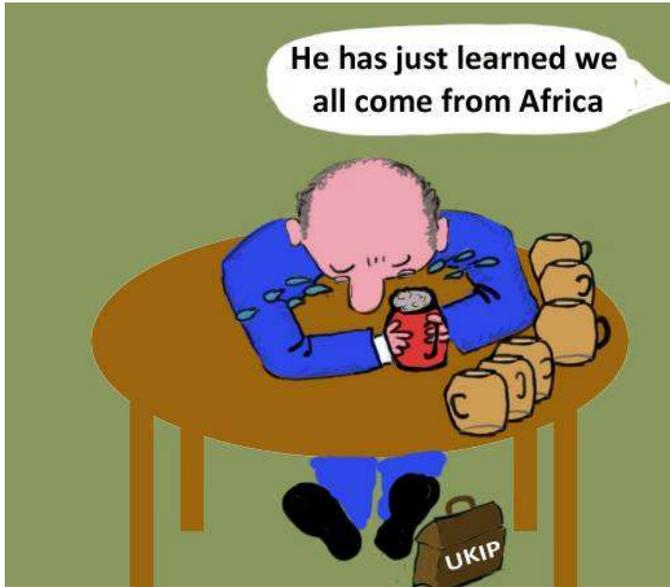
The law, in its majestic equality, forbids rich and poor to sleep under bridges, to beg in the streets, and to steal bread.

Anatole France

74% of top judges went to private school.

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.



Obstacles 5 The State



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



"[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.



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.

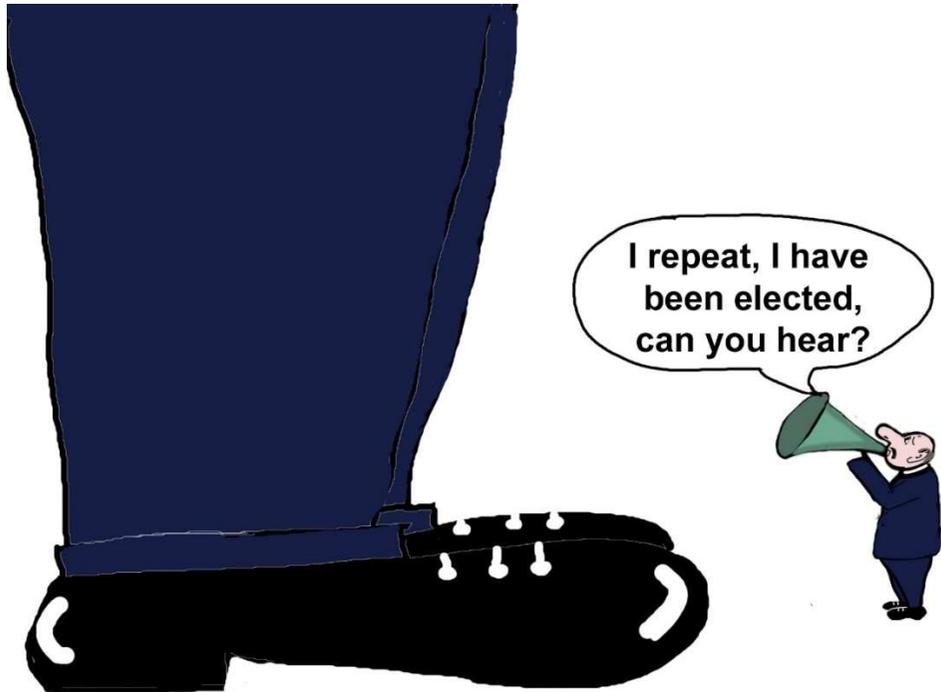
Obstacle 6 Economic power

The average pay of a CEO in the Financial Times 100 is now £5,000,000 (£5 million) a year. When the Tory Liberal Government cut income tax for the rich, these bosses received an average of about £250,000 pay increase 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.



Relax, they only said you were morally bankrupt.



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.



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 Governments 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

**"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.**

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 [Tony] 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.”

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.



At least I am not being whipped by the Tories.



The Labour Government had been undermined by MI5 and MI6, the media and runs on the £. 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. Unemployment rose. Dennis Healey introduced monetarism to the UK.

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

A weakened and disunited working class allowed the Thatcher Government to get elected in 1979.

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



Huge numbers have become inspired to get Corbyn elected and re-elected and do so well in the June election

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.

The hundreds of thousands that have turned up to the meetings or joined the Labour Party, and the millions who will vote for Corbyn in a general election need to be better organised and more active in fighting the issues that we face now. We need to fight the current wave of racism, to support workers in struggle, and defend the weakest in society. Then we need to take on the rich.