

# Why our side lost the election



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Monbiot has produced a powerful film that puts the defeat of Labour in an international context..  
<https://www.facebook.com/DoubleDownNews/videos/vb.1232692743483053/2505562666430699/?type=2&theater>

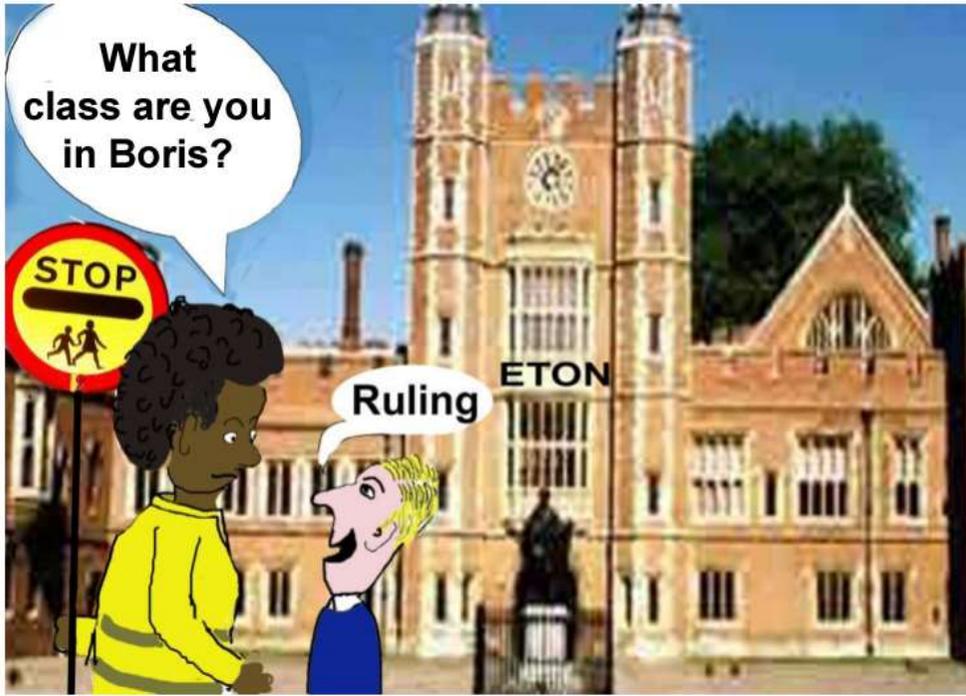
### Introduction

The choice was clear. Boris Johnson is a liar, an old Etonian, a member of the Bullingdon boys, filthy rich, pro austerity card carrying Tory MP.

In contrast Jeremy Corbyn is a principled anti racist with a record of supporting the poor including consistent opposition to austerity that few can match.

Yet Johnson won. I was gutted with the election result and needed to get my head around the result. This pamphlet is devoted to all those who had a similar feelings.





He is rich. £250,000 for my second job? Why that's chicken feed,  
 declares Boris Johnson the Daily Mail 14 July 2009



Lesson one What changed from 2017? In 2017 Corbyn was an anti anti establishment figure. He was for honouring the result of the referendum but wanted a close liaison with Europe in the interest of jobs.

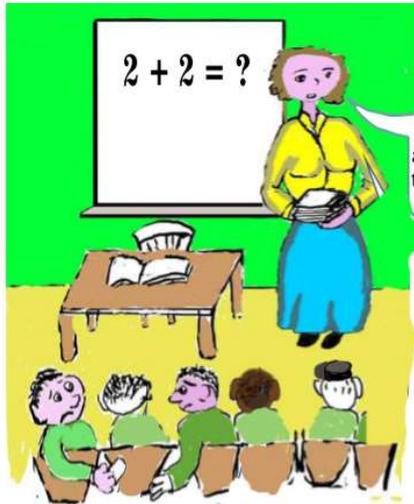


From a position of being 20% behind in the polls he did enough to prevent Theresa May from having a working majority.

In 2019 Boris Johnson old Etonian, card carrying member of the ruling class managed to portray himself as the anti Establishment figure. He claimed to be fighting the liberal establishment, the courts, the MPs who wanted to ignore the referendum result. The Labour right, like Blair, are indeed part of the establishment. The Labour right wingers pushed the Labour Party so that it could be portrayed as a pro remain party.



Lesson Two answer the question- Whether we like it or not the election was seen as the Brexit election.



At school Corbyn had problems addressing the question he was asked.

Jeremy, I like the answer "a better world" the correct answer is "4"

60 years later he was asked "Do you want Brexit, yes or no?"

Then Corbyn learned to drive.



### Lesson three – Muzzle the right wing

Peter Mandelson: I try to undermine Jeremy Corbyn 'every single day'

In 2016, 172 Labour MPs passed a resolution of no confidence in Corbyn.

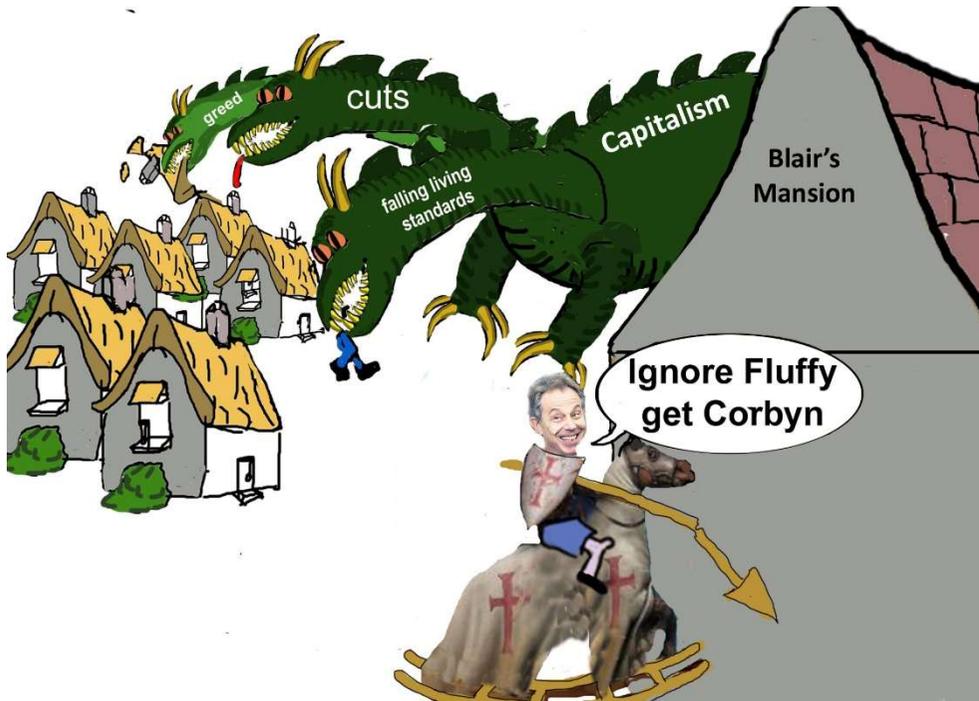
How many days did it take you to start plotting against Corbyn?

Days? I used a stopwatch.

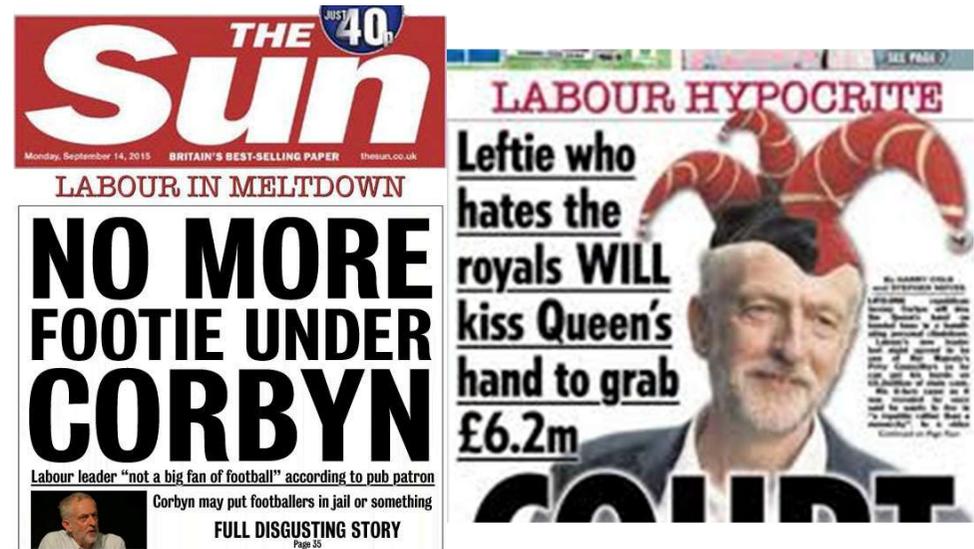
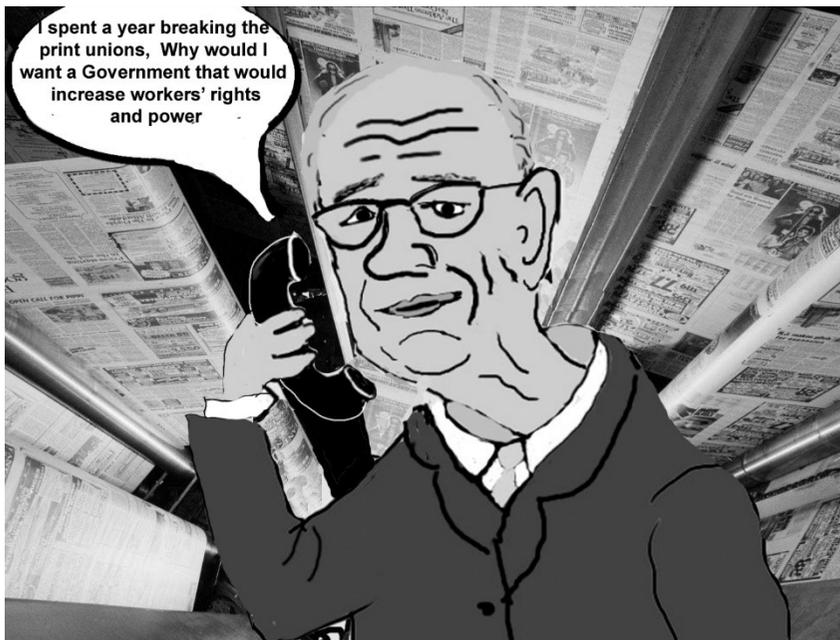


Oppose Labour Right Wing - They have spent three years attacking Corbyn. Then claim he is a poor leader.





Lesson four – break the power of the media



When the Tories published a claim that Labour's policies would cost £1.2 trillion the media repeated the statement as though it was true. This was even before the Labour manifesto was published.



The mass media decides what are the key issues of debate. Why was Brexit more important than the privatisation of the NHS? Why is the lack of cheap housing hardly raised? Why are bosses allowed to make profits here and live in tax free havens? Why is there no maximum wage? Why is there a revolving door between business and Government?

## Lesson five- Anti Semitism – Three forces - The Israeli Embassy –

Labour Right Wing – and the Mass media combined to form a very effective attack on Corbyn and Labour. Anti Semitism is real it has a deep history in Christianity and the west. Given the world wide rise in ethnic nationalism Anti Semitism is a rising force. It would be very surprising if there were no anti Semitism in the Labour Party. However three points need to be made.

1. Corbyn is one of the very few political leaders who has consistently fought all forms of racism including anti Semitism throuout his life. From 1977 when Corbyn organised to defend the Jewish community against the National Front. See <https://www.jewishvoiceforlabour.org.uk/article/fifty-times-jeremy-corbyn-stood-with-jewish-people/>

2. The Tories are more anti Semitic than Labour and Anti Semitism in the Labour Party has gone down under Corbyn. <https://evolvepolitics.com/yougov-polls-show-anti-semitism-in-labour-has-actually-reduced-dramatically-since-jeremy-corbyn-became-leader/>  
The media does not want facts to interfere with a good witch hunt.

3. There was a serious analysis on anti Semitism. It had important results. “levels of antisemitism in Great Britain are among the lowest in the world”. “Levels of antisemitism among those on the left-wing of the political spectrum, including the far-left, are indistinguishable from those found in the general population.” “levels of antisemitism in 2017 are significantly lower among the far-left than the far-right”. The report showed Islamophobia was far worse than anti Semitism. [https://www.jpr.org.uk/documents/JPR.2017.Antisemitism\\_in\\_contemporary\\_Great\\_Britain.pdf](https://www.jpr.org.uk/documents/JPR.2017.Antisemitism_in_contemporary_Great_Britain.pdf)Islamophobia is much more of a problem



**BBC**

I got rid of the film where Johnson was scruffy and laid the wreath upside down. I played a tape that was a few years old. I cut out the bit when people were laughing at Johnson when he was asked about lying. I spent half of the World at One program repeating the slur of Labour anti Semitism. So do I get a knighthood?



Israel and the right wing want to confuse anti Semitism which is a crime with anti Zionism (and justice for the Palestinians.)

The IHRA definition of anti Semitism includes a clause which claims that stating that Israel is a racist state is evidence of anti Semitism.

The acceptance of this by the Labour Party was a massive retreat and encouraged the right wing forces for further attacks on the left.

The Israeli state directly intervenes in British politics as the al Jazeera under cover film "the Lobby" shows.

There are links between the Israeli Embassy and Labour Friends of Israel.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/investigations/thelobby/>

## Television etc

Labour is anti Semitic. The Labour program will cost £1.2 trillion, Farage is anti establishment, Boris is a jolly Japer, Corbyn is a rotten leader, we cannot believe Labour's program, the election is only about Brexit



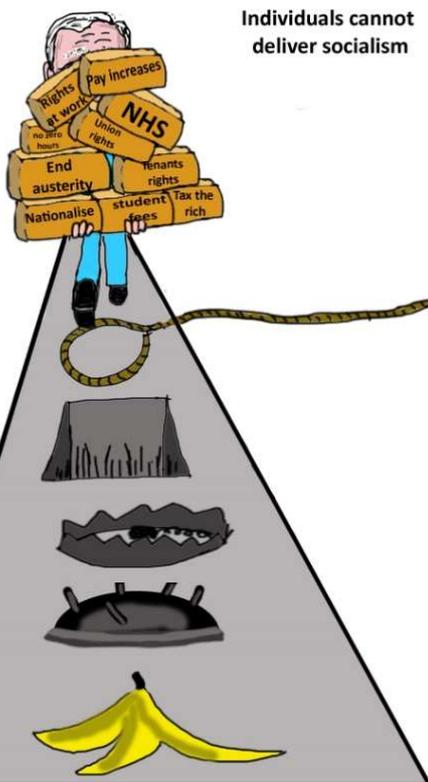
The media decides Which issues are important. Media states Immigration is a key issue. They do not focus on why British Governments have supported wars in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Libya, etc. These are the wars that lead to mass refugees. On top of that Britain is the world's second largest arms exporter.

One third of people believe Corbyn holds anti Semitic views

Guardian 2018/apr/08



**Lesson Six –Corbyn was too nice.** He was ill equipped to take on the battle that he faced. He was a boxer in the middle of a tank battle.



I have huge respect for Corbyn. He opposed austerity when the bulk of the Labour Party thought that it was necessary.

However there was the start of a cult of the individual.

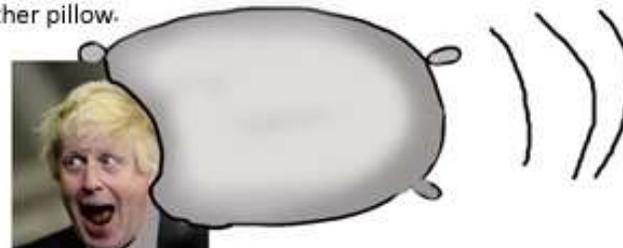
There were huge Corbyn rallies where the follow on speakers were ignored.

All individuals are vulnerable to accidents, illness, assassinations, attacks from the media and sections of the state, and so on. We need strategies that are stronger than any individual.

**Lesson Seven Fewer policies but better** - In the 104 page manifesto there were very good policies. For example giving more rights to the 11 million people who pay rent. There were so many promises and policies that each one distracted from the others. Sadly the Tory “Get Brexit Done” was clearer than the mass of policies of Labour.

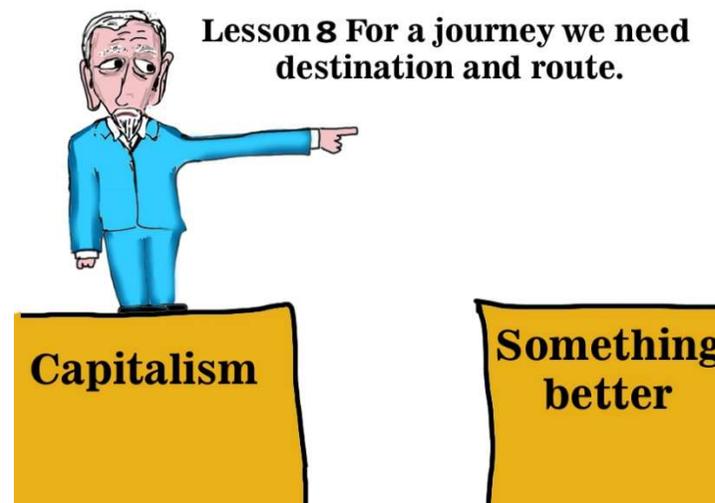


For a rapier the pressure is force/area  
 You need maximum force and minimum area.  
 The Labour Party produced a hundred pages of densely packed promises. Each extra promise increased the area where Labour hoped to strike a blow.  
 There were so many promises that the impact was that of a feather pillow.



**Lesson Eight Economic clarity** – There was a gap between the policies and the means to their achievement.

**Lesson 8 For a journey we need destination and route.**





I do not believe that the financial institutions will lend a Labour Government the means to take power from them.



**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**

**Remember the golden rule – He who has the gold rules**

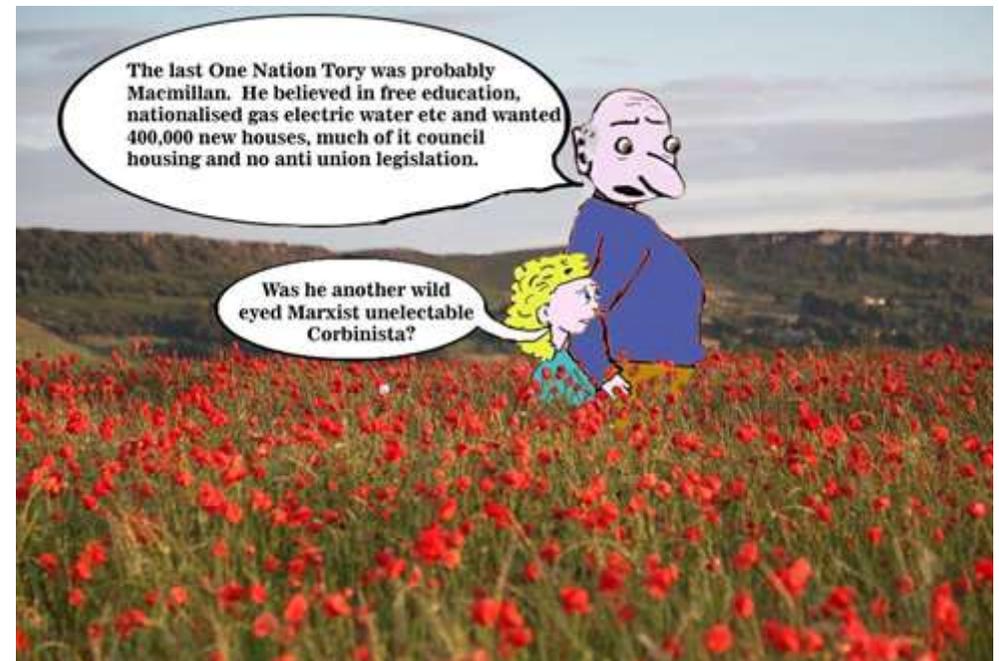
All Labour Governments have had to deal with a run on the pound. The class with the money imposes its will when its interests are threatened.

“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.

## Lesson Nine What do we do about the defeat?

Corbyn has made anti austerity the norm. Johnson has had to portray himself as a one nation Tory. This will be a problem for him.

There will be struggles over environment Scottish independence, trade deals, investment in infrastructure, pay, NHS underfunding, the drift to war, and much more.



**Do not listen to the Labour right** – After systematically attacking Corbyn and feeding anti Labour propaganda to the millionaire press they then say it was the fact that Labour had moved to the left that caused the defeat. It was Labour under Milliband that allowed Labour to lose Scotland (ousted by the apparently more radical SNP). Labour sister party in Greece went from winning office in 2009 with 43% to 5% in 2015 (beaten by the more radical Syriza). Labour’s sister party in France went from winning the presidency in 2011 with 56% to 6% in the last presidential election. The once mighty German sister party to Labour was at 20% in 2017. This makes Corbyn’s 32% look good by comparison.

## Lesson 10 We need to be organised

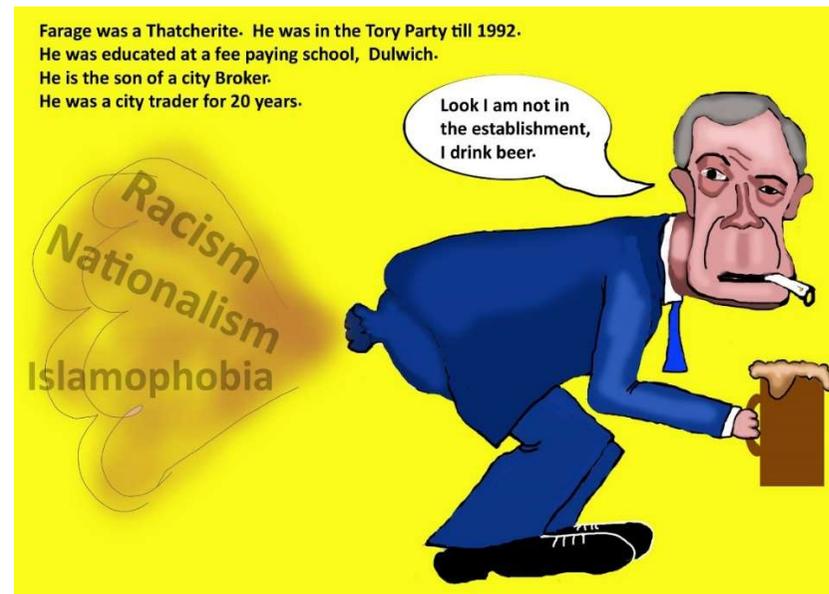
“Unless the masses are organized, the proletariat is nothing. Organized--it is everything”. – Lenin

**Why the working class** – In the workplace workers are brought together, they are collectively organised for production, and they are collectively exploited. Their daily experience shows the inequality between the people who produce the wealth and those who control it. They know where wealth comes from. In 1984 the Tories put into practice the Ridley Plan to smash the NUM. At that time most miners saw the reality of class war. The role of the press, the police, the state, become clearer in times of high conflict.



The Tories won. The pits were closed. The hollowed out towns and villages were betrayed by Blair and further hammered by austerity. In these areas a deep distrust in the establishment (which is good) has combined with a naïve belief that Farage is anti establishment (which is bad).

“Agencies in dock over mining villages ravaged by heroin” Inde. sept 18 2002



Belief that Farage is anti-establishment was the conveyor belt for many to become Tory voters.



Unemployed and the retired are exposed to ideas from the millionaire press.



The media says we have no power. If that were true and a few people get together they still have no power,  $0+0+\dots+0=0$ . The fact is that each of us has a small amount of power. Snowflakes and grains of sand have little power but get enough of them together and they can sweep all before them in avalanches and sandstorms. When we get together we are invincible.

Workers used to have a lot more power.

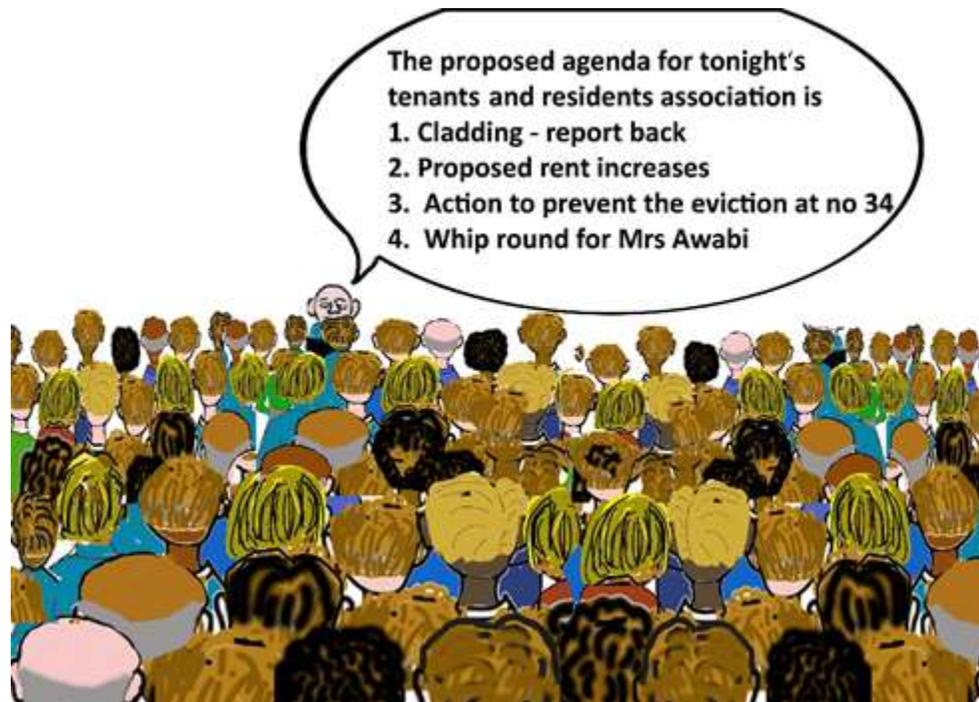


There is a dirty war against the NHS (See John Pilger's film). The NHS is being bled by PFI, management consultants, privatisation, people who run the internal market. Rich people and even not so rich people are paying for needed treatment. The very rich have little interest in the NHS, they just go private. There are four million people waiting for operations on the NHS. If they were organised and each waiting person won two people to support Corbyn his vote would have been 12 million, 2 million more than the Labour Party actually received.

People who rent :- The lack of mass house building [due in part to Margaret Thatcher's decision to make Council housing economically impossible] means that demand for houses is high, so are rents. "Overall, 40% of renters pay more than 50% of their incomes on rent, the report found" The Guardian reported 12June 2017. There are 4.5 million households who pay rent. Labour's election planned extra defence against eviction. The problem is that tenants are not organised..



Everyone can get organised. There are 11 million people who pay rent. If they were organised, they could fight evictions unsafe cladding, rent increases, and it wouldn't hurt if they had voted for Corbyn.



Transport Many of us use over-crowded privatised rail. When Virgin appointed 25 extra people to deal with complaints a rail union, TSSA, commented

'It's ridiculous that on a route Branson described as 'a licence to print money' Virgin are treating passengers so badly.

'The only way they are making money is by taking public subsidies. Let's cut out the Brian Souter and Richard Branson and bring the route into public control.'

Transport prices went up in Chile last year

"Responding to public outcry against the rising fare, then-Minister of Economy Juan Andres Fontaine announced that those upset with the price rise could wake up earlier and pay a lower rate.

"When the costs rise, there are not many options," he said at the time.

Outrage grew after the remarks, leading students to conduct a mass fare evasion by jumping over the metro turnstiles, and, in some instances, destroying them.

"Evade, and not pay, is another way of fighting," they chanted at the time. Aljazeera 30 Oct 2019



**Mental Health :** In the USA 36% of people in jail had a history of mental



illness. Their friends and relatives and others make the demand that treatment is better than jail.

**Racism**- The election of Trump, Johnson, Bolsonaro, Orban, Modi shows that Britain is not alone. The rich establishment have discovered a formula for getting poor people to elect representatives of the rich people. It involves showmanship, playing on nationalism, demonising the other, racism and lying on an industrial scale.



The Tory manifesto includes a racist attack on the Gypsy community. Johnson is Islamophobic. Our campaigns must support Stand Up To Racism.

**The environment** Most of the ethnic nationalists and their backers deny the urgency of action to needed to prevent damaging climate changes. All serious scientific opinions state that greenhouse gasses are having a damaging and potentially devastating effect on climate change. The non violent organisation Extinction Rebellion has been as an designated an extremist organisation. The Home secretary said "That is based on information from the police, and various intelligence that we will receive. That's the proper thing to do."



**Conclusion - We face huge threats.**

- 1 There is an environmental threat Scientific evidence is there action is needed now to prevent serious damage from Global warming.
- 2 There is a wave of extinction of animals and insects. Our soil is being depleted. (The Scientific American estimates that there "Only 60 Years of Farming Left If Soil Degradation Continues"
- 3 Economic crisis. The root causes of the economic crisis are still there. Trump's trade wars are feeding the world's economic stability.
- 4 The Price Waterhouse produced a report that an estimated 10 million workers will be replaced by robots within 15 years as the automation of routine tasks gathers pace in a new machine age.
- 5 The wave of ethnic nationalists will fail to solve the real problems we face, because they refuse to address them. The nationalism they stir up may lead to military conflict and war. (Just as the economic crisis in the 1930s led to a rise in ethnic nationalism and the second world war. )  
We can either watch passively as our society succumbs to one or more of its crises, or you can join us in the struggle for system change.