

# THE WORD

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£1



Equality, Democracy, Truth and Courage [www.thewordmedia.co.uk](http://www.thewordmedia.co.uk)

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THE PETERLOO PROJECT

Starting in September of 2015 the project was put together on the Peter Loo Facebook page and then in the "Together against the Tories" Facebook group. The idea is to create a popular and entertaining socialist hub with the involvement of as many people as possible from the left of the socialist movement in Britain.

As the project has proceeded it has become increasingly clear that the media in the UK is run for and by big business and as such will always need to oppose socialist values to keep such a position. The project was then crowd-funded to raise the money to be able to print and distribute this newspaper as a prelude to a whole cross-platform media fight-back.

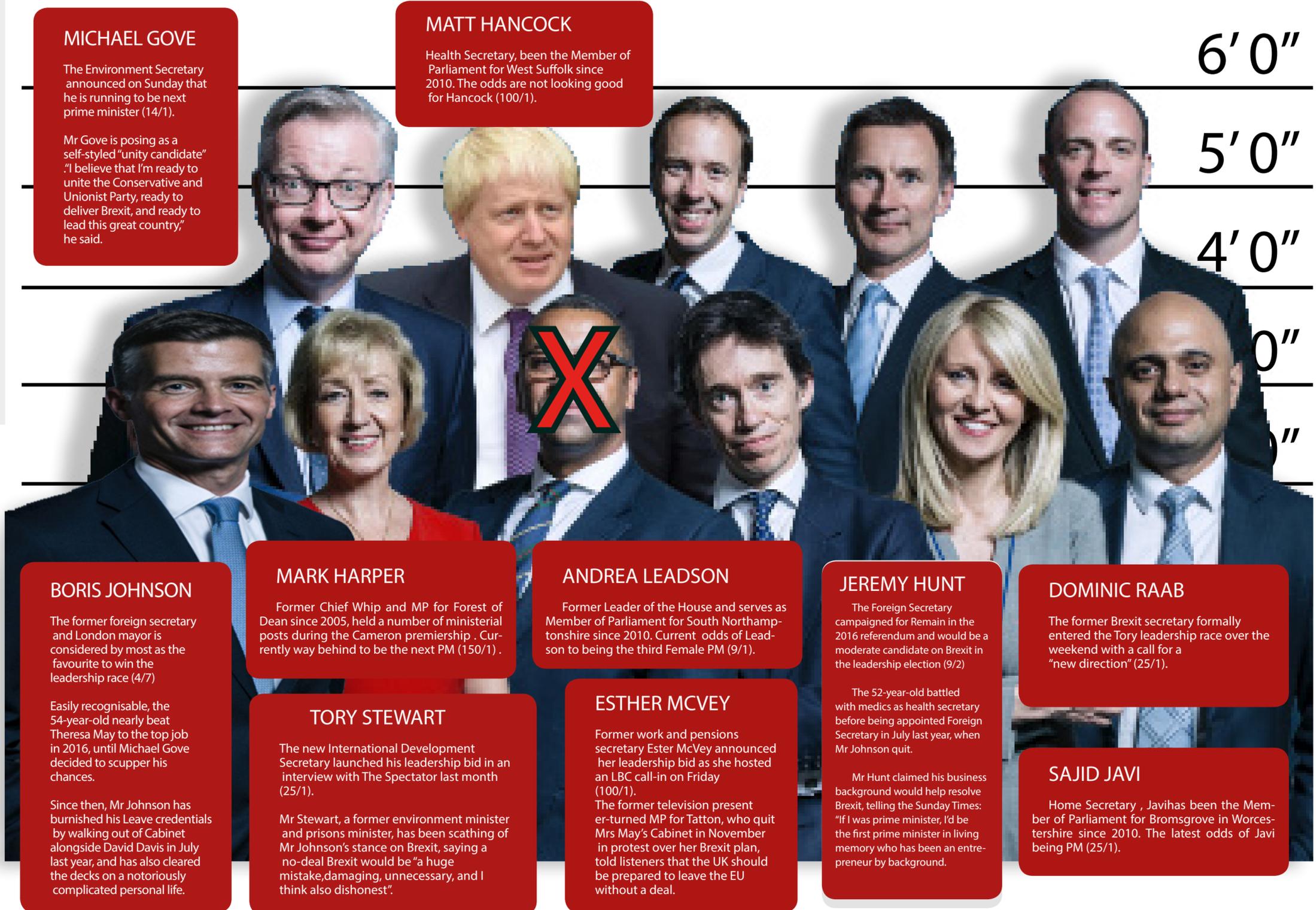
THE WORD

The Word Newspaper is produced by a non-profit making cooperative from across the UK. We used to print the names of our contributors but since we asked the question "which side are you on" we have had threats from many twitter and FB accounts telling us that they would "send Mossad round to get us." For the protection of our staff we have to take these threats seriously.

The question was asked about right wing careerist MP's within the Labour party, as well as people such as Blair; a member still but a Socialist never. Since that edition appeared two of the MP's mentioned have now left the Labour party. Only Margaret Hodge is still a member.

The witchhunt, however, continues. It almost seems that the Labour party compliance unit have got hold of an alphabetical list.. Walker, Wadsworth, Williamson, Willsman. They should have started with B for Blair. It seems that in the history of the party no one has ever been expelled for being too right wing. Even Oswald Moseley left of his own volition.

# MOST NOT WANTED



**MICHAEL GOVE**

The Environment Secretary announced on Sunday that he is running to be next prime minister (14/1).

Mr Gove is posing as a self-styled "unity candidate" "I believe that I'm ready to unite the Conservative and Unionist Party, ready to deliver Brexit, and ready to lead this great country," he said.

**MATT HANCOCK**

Health Secretary, been the Member of Parliament for West Suffolk since 2010. The odds are not looking good for Hancock (100/1).

**BORIS JOHNSON**

The former foreign secretary and London mayor is considered by most as the favourite to win the leadership race (4/7)

Easily recognisable, the 54-year-old nearly beat Theresa May to the top job in 2016, until Michael Gove decided to scupper his chances.

Since then, Mr Johnson has burnished his Leave credentials by walking out of Cabinet alongside David Davis in July last year, and has also cleared the decks on a notoriously complicated personal life.

**MARK HARPER**

Former Chief Whip and MP for Forest of Dean since 2005, held a number of ministerial posts during the Cameron premiership. Currently way behind to be the next PM (150/1).

**TORY STEWART**

The new International Development Secretary launched his leadership bid in an interview with The Spectator last month (25/1).

Mr Stewart, a former environment minister and prisons minister, has been scathing of Mr Johnson's stance on Brexit, saying a no-deal Brexit would be "a huge mistake, damaging, unnecessary, and I think also dishonest".

**ANDREA LEADSON**

Former Leader of the House and serves as Member of Parliament for South Northamptonshire since 2010. Current odds of Leadson to being the third Female PM (9/1).

**ESTHER MCVEY**

Former work and pensions secretary Ester McVey announced her leadership bid as she hosted an LBC call-in on Friday (100/1).

The former television presenter-turned MP for Tatton, who quit Mrs May's Cabinet in November in protest over her Brexit plan, told listeners that the UK should be prepared to leave the EU without a deal.

**JEREMY HUNT**

The Foreign Secretary campaigned for Remain in the 2016 referendum and would be a moderate candidate on Brexit in the leadership election (9/2)

The 52-year-old battled with medics as health secretary before being appointed Foreign Secretary in July last year, when Mr Johnson quit.

Mr Hunt claimed his business background would help resolve Brexit, telling the Sunday Times: "If I was prime minister, I'd be the first prime minister in living memory who has been an entrepreneur by background."

**DOMINIC RAAB**

The former Brexit secretary formally entered the Tory leadership race over the weekend with a call for a "new direction" (25/1).

**SAJID JAVI**

Home Secretary, Javihas been the Member of Parliament for Bromsgrove in Worcestershire since 2010. The latest odds of Javi being PM (25/1).

6'0"

5'0"

4'0"

3'0"

2'0"



## The Patients Eye the way it works

I am that patient; I see it all from my end of things. I can only report what I perceive to be the case.

The Health Secretary may tell you differently; his grinning head pops up on TV and he makes his eyes go REALLY HUGE and tells us about the amount of money he's personally giving to the National Health Service, but he's not been around when I've seen an oncologist, or my consultants, the radiologists, specialist nurses or the Macmillan team. When I've spoken to the Head of the Trust, hospital administrators, the ward sister and healthcare assistants, I've felt that I was with people who actually give a damn about the NHS and about me. I've not felt that one of them might go off to co-author a study saying that what we needed was a Big Version (or many small versions) of Private Health Insurance rather than the NHS.

For months, years even, I go to my GP to complain about symptoms in the lower abdomen; I am fobbed off. It says so repeatedly in my 80 pages of medical notes, bought from my local Health Centre.

"The patient was sent away and reassured," (fobbed off.) I find I cannot pass urine very well, and that despite antibiotics, it hurts when I do. The GP says to 'retrain my bladder.' Almost five months have been spent not really trying to find what's up with me. Five hours after I've seen a senior partner and been sent away again, I am admitted to A&E. I have cancer - inoperable, incurable and aggressive; I'm about two years too late to 'catch it in time.'

When GPs don't know what to do, they might be expected to 'refer' patients to someone who does - a specialist. Why they don't like referring to specialists could be because there is a cost implication to doing so, unless they 'Fast Track' the patient. At what point on my long and winding road they might have 'fast tracked' my case I don't know, possibly at some time in 2010 or 2011 when The Patient Was Sent Away and Reassured. But fast tracking earns the practice a sum of money; presumably to spend on referring other patients they have failed to fast track. Will someone tell me if I've got this wrong?

My neighbour, an NHS patient, is to have an operation very soon, at a private hospital working 'within the NHS.' Who pays them? Do they work at NHS rates, or do we pay them the same fees they'd get from treating Dud Fivers or Skanky Banknotes, the flash kids from further up the road who get 'Private Health Perks' with their jobs in money laundering, tax dodging, and currency speculation?

I believe, and you can tell me otherwise if you know better, that the cost of this farmed-out treatment comes from the funds you and I supply via taxation to the NHS, and which is then directed towards the possibly tax-avoiding Health Companies whose NHS trained staff provide the treatment, thus handing nice dividends to the companies' owners, including Tory cabinet ministers. Perhaps the grinning head with the REALLY HUGE EYES will tell us how much of OUR money he has decided to divert into the pockets of these people, his people.

Is this how it works? (First printed in 2016.)



That was a lost opportunity for our monarchy.

The royal family would have become more popular than at any time since the defeat of the Spanish Armada if only the Queen had covered him in milkshake.

At the very least, they could have insisted his car in the motorcade be driven by Prince Philip.

Maybe her advisors were against it, for the same reason he was invited on a state visit in the first place: that it doesn't matter what we think of the president, he's the leader of America so we have to deal with him.

This is a fair point, although you also have to deal with your energy supplier, and you don't invite them to stay in a four-poster bed in your mum's spare room.

The government seems keen to assure us the NHS won't really be part of a trade deal with Trump, and the president simply made a mistake. But two days prior to the visit, the US ambassador Woody Johnson made exactly the same mistake, saying "all things that are traded" (including the NHS) "will be on the table".

They were exactly the same words, but we should relax and accept it was a coincidence. They both lost concentration and said the same random thing, by mistake. They might have said "The Dartmouth steam railway will be on the table" or "The East Grinstead llama farm will be on the table", but out popped the words Trump is a threat – but privatisation is already destroying the NHS In any case, our healthcare will be more fun with Trump in charge. He'll probably do the surgery himself, assuring patients: "I'm fantastic at operations, I'm great with scissors, I took out my own kidneys, they look great."



Then he announced the tens of thousands of protestors against his visit were there to cheer him on, and finished his tour by standing in the prime spot for the D-Day commemoration. Because when you consider heroic selfless bravery for the greater good, "Donald Trump" is the first name to spring to mind.

So let us look at the history of Chump and see how he got to be where he is as leader of the FREE world. That is to say the man in charge of rolling out policies that enrich the unelected billionaires that back him. The chief stealer of oil and minerals from other peoples countries. The lying, cheating orderer in chief of the most pernicious and all consuming military budget in world history. The Lord pile on of debt and King consumer of other peoples wealth.

Mr Trump values his net worth at more than \$10bn (£7bn) though this has been disputed. However, exactly how much he is worth is unclear. Those organisations that have looked at his finances have come up with widely differing figures.

According to Forbes his net worth is \$4.5bn, Wealth-X says it is \$4.4bn, while Bloomberg Billionaire's index says it is just \$2.9bn.

Mr Trump dismisses all these lower figures, saying he's "worth much more". The main reason for these widely differing numbers is that so much of his business holdings are private.

His father, Fred Trump started a million dollar residential real estate business in Brooklyn and Queens. Mr Trump's first big project was the Commodore Hotel, which he partnered with the Hyatt Organization to buy in 1976 for an undisclosed price, and renamed the Grand Hyatt. At the time many buildings in Manhattan were facing foreclosure; the Commodore itself owed \$1.5m in debt and New York was not seen as the luxury vacation spot it is today. The investment was a big risk for the young developer. Using the negotiating skills he talks about so shamelessly on the campaign trail, Donald Trump convinced New York City to give the hotel a 40-year tax break that saved \$160m.

In 1996 he sold his half of the hotel to Hyatt for \$142m.

He has called it a smart business move to withhold payments on contracts when he does not like the work, forcing the other side to negotiate a lower rate. He told Reuters he renegotiates contracts 10% to 15% of the time. "I fight like hell to pay as little as possible," he said. Mr Trump's "fight like hell" style has led to several well publicised legal battles. He is facing a lawsuit over Trump University and has been sued in the past by a former employee and union pension funds. He has also used lawsuits as a tool. He sued a former Miss USA contestant for criticising the pageant he owned. He sued Deutsche Bank for refusing to give him a loan extension on a building project in Chicago. Trump doesn't deny that four of his businesses have filed for bankruptcy. He argues, however, that filing for bankruptcy is a common business decision, and he was smart to make the moves when he did. "Hundreds of companies" have filed for bankruptcy, Trump said earlier in the debate. "I used the law four times and made a tremendous thing. I'm in business. I did a very good job." Trump's four bankruptcies were Chapter 11 reorganizations (named for its location in federal bankruptcy code) which are designed to restructure businesses without shutting them down completely. The purpose is to "save" the business, as opposed to other forms of bankruptcy which would liquidate the company, said Michael Venditto, a partner at the ReedSmith law firm who has extensive experience with Chapter 11.



## TRUMPISMS

"Do you believe in punishment for abortion – yes or no – as a principle?"

"The answer is there has to be some form of punishment." "For the woman?"

"Yeah, there has to be some form."

"I will be phenomenal to the women. I mean, I want to help women."

"To be blunt, people would vote for me. They just would. Why? Maybe because I'm so good looking."

"If Hillary Clinton can't satisfy her husband what makes her think she can satisfy America?"

On Gay Marriage

"It's like in golf... A lot of people - I don't want this to sound trivial - but a lot of people are switching to these really long putters, very unattractive... it's weird. You see these great players with these really long putters, because they can't sink three-footers anymore. And, I hate it. I am a traditionalist. I have so many fabulous friends who happen to be gay, but I am a traditionalist."

"When you see the other side chopping off heads, waterboarding doesn't sound very severe."



## Former SNP MP Natalie McGarry jailed for 18 months over £25k fraud



Former SNP MP who represented Glasgow East for two years Natalie McGarry has been jailed for 18 months after admitting taking more than £25,600 including donations intended for a food bank - between April 2013 and November 2016.

This included £21,000 from Women for Independence (WFI), when she was treasurer of the organisation, and the SNP's Glasgow Regional Association.

The 37-year-old spent some of the money on a holiday to Spain with her husband and also used it to pay rent.

McGarry, from Clarkston in East Renfrewshire, pleaded guilty to two charges of embezzlement in April and on Thursday morning was sentenced at Glasgow Sheriff Court.

Sheriff Paul Crozier told McGarry: "This offence is of the most serious kind and you were in a position of trust and you abused this position."

"This was an organisation where you were a founding member and you used the funds for your own use. There is no alternative than a custodial sentence as you have shown no remorse."

McGarry was supposed to give £750 to Perth and Kinross food bank, which would have provided supplies for 30 families.

More than £4600 was taken from the Glasgow Regional Association of the SNP while she was treasurer, secretary and convener.

The court heard her husband councillor David Meikle, the former Conservative group leader at Glasgow City council, works two jobs and that McGarry was unemployed and on benefits.

Mr Macleod said: "The two jobs are unsociable hours and it will be difficult to arrange child care [for their 18-month-old daughter] if she is given a custodial sentence."

He also told the court that McGarry maintains her innocence, adding: "She is a person who cares passionately for other people."

McGarry was elected as an SNP member in 2015 but resigned the party whip following the emergence of fraud allegations - which she denied at the time - continuing in parliament as an independent.

She was charged by police in 2017 and didn't stand at that year's general election.

Women for Independence, one of the groups from which McGarry stole, expressed frustration at the lack of alternatives to prison available to the courts and vowed to continue campaigning on the issue.

## Conservative party turmoil will slam brakes on promise to end austerity, admits Liz Truss



Senior Treasury minister Liz Truss has admitted the fall of Theresa May will slam the brakes on her pledge to end austerity.

A three-year review of public spending promised for this autumn - the mechanism to end a near-decade of cuts - is now "unlikely to happen" on schedule, said Truss.

Putting Blame to the "goings-on within the Conservative Party", she said big decisions on spending would be taken by the new prime minister, postponing the launch of the review planned for July.

"I would suggest that is unlikely to happen given the current timetable for the Conservative leadership election," the chief secretary to the Treasury told a committee of peers. Instead, government departments would be given a year-long extension to their existing day-to-day spending plans.

Labour's shadow chancellor John McDonnell, seized on the admission, saying: "This is a government in absolute paralysis. Yet again, the Tories' promise to end austerity has come to nothing. This is no way to run a country."

The promise to end austerity came at last October's Conservative Party conference, when Ms May told her party it would come "at the spending review next year".

"A decade after the financial crash, people need to know that the austerity it led to is over," she pledged.

The Treasury was expected to set out the overall spending envelope for the three years from April 2020, with allocations for individual departments known this autumn.

Dawn Jackson, head of grants at poverty charity Turn2us, said: "The link between austerity and poverty is undeniable."

"Over the last decade we have seen poverty rise, along with food bank use and homelessness - it is no coincidence. The fact that we even see food banks as a normal part of society now is beyond shameful."

"Cut after cut after cut has decimated the support structures in our communities. Schemes like Sure Start centres were a lifeline for many families, but the ones that have survived can no longer afford to provide even a threadbare service."

The chancellor, Philip Hammond, pledged the spending review would be the moment the government would end austerity in the public sector when he delivered last autumn's Budget.

Although spending is rising by 1.2 per cent from this current financial year, he acknowledged the extra £20bn for the NHS was gobbling up all the extra cash.

All other departments will only "keep pace with inflation" at best, while spending on the police, the courts and benefits is still falling until 2020, the Budget book showed.

The Treasury had indicated austerity would continue if the UK failed to secure an orderly Brexit, saying: "If there's a good deal, there's an increase."

# 432 IS THE MAGIC NUMBER

Most of the world now uses 440 Hz as the standard pitch tuning.

However, this has been a relatively recent standard, and 432 Hz is making a comeback.

432 Hz. The magic number is said to be the natural frequency of the universe, to have cosmic healing powers and to attract masses of audience to our music. Just by tuning our music less than a semitone below our standard A=440Hz we are promised direct access to the universe's hidden treasures.

The music and audio industry currently uses the A = 440 Hz universal standard pitch tuning around the world. It wasn't always this way. In fact, 440 Hz has been the standard for less than a hundred years, a drop in the bucket in terms of music history. The tuning of A = 432 Hz, also used throughout music history, is making quite a comeback these days, especially in the field of sound healing and meditation. Researchers, scientists and musicians are leading a growing movement to prove this tuning is best for heart-centered, therapeutic sound work.

This article briefly explains the history of tuning and some key points that support 432 Hz as the scientific tuning, by relating it to mathematical relationships, harmonic ratios and frequencies found in nature.

Greek philosopher and mathematician, Pythagoras (570-495 BC), is often credited with identifying musical harmonic ratios related to scientific pitch and the birth of 432 Hz tuning with his instrument called the monochord. Many have discredited this as Pythagoras and anyone before 1834 could not have intentionally tuned their instrument to measure 432 Hz as this frequency scale simply did not exist at the time.

It is believed, however, that instruments built accordingly to harmonic ratios were used in Egypt and Greece well before this time. The earliest instruments were flutes and lyres, often used for therapeutic purposes.

Hundreds of years later during the classical periods of western music, it was documented that composers like Mozart and Verdi used the 432 Hz tuning. Verdi believed it was a much better tuning for Operatic voices. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, 432 Hz tuning was challenged by other countries like Germany, the US and Britain who all seemed to be using and experimenting with different tunings.

In the early 20th century, there was a need to make a universal pitch standard used by all for sake of instrument makers, composers and orchestras everywhere. Even though 432 Hz was fully supported by the French and Italian composers through most of the classical music periods, 440 Hz eventually became the universal pitch standard.

German Physicist Johann Heinrich Scheibler invented a device called the Tonometer and did the first experiments with 440 Hz tuning in the mid 1800s. The Tonometer consisted of 54 tuning forks with a range of 220 Hz to 440 Hz spaced at 4 Hz intervals. His work became widely recognized and a conversation began about a standardized tuning.

After much debate, the US adopted 440 Hz as the standard in 1936. Europe soon followed with its adoption many years after it was first proposed on both continents. Even today, musicians believe that music played in 432 Hz tuning has a better audience response, has a calming effect and sounds more integrated overall.



It is still not entirely clear why 440 Hz was chosen. It seems the scientific experiments by Scheibler had a lot of influence on this choice as opposed to what tuning may have been more in line with the harmonic ratios and relationships found in nature. I can't help but notice how the music of India and the rest of Asia were left out of this discussion entirely. It is a testament to their unique musical and healing traditions that are affecting us more and more today.

The Earth's vibration, which is the frequency measured from the earth's crust to the ionosphere fluctuates around 8 Hz. 8 Hz falls at the bottom end of where our calm, functioning brainwave state called Alpha is, and is almost in Theta (4-7 Hz), where we receive deep relaxation and healing during our sleep cycle or in deep meditation. Multiples of this frequency bring us to C = 64, 128 & 256 Hz (middle C), where the notes become audible to the human ear and then to our reference pitch A = 432 Hz.

Recently, astronomers at Stanford found the fundamental frequency of the sun to be 144 Hz. The 2nd Overtone or 3rd Harmonic of this fundamental pitch is 432 Hz. These are auspicious findings indeed and point to a system that is connected in many ways.

Music researchers have also tested traditional healing instruments, like Tibetan Bowls from Nepal, and found they are made in accordance with A = 432 Hz tuning.

Instruments made for sound therapy do not have to conform to a universal pitch standard and are becoming more popular in sound therapy centers around the world. We can learn a lot from cultural traditions of instrument making, linked to techniques being passed down through generations.

With so much of the musical world (acoustic and electronic) operating at 440 Hz standard tuning today, it's hard to imagine the shift to 432 Hz happening on a large scale quickly. But there is a growing movement underway fueled by the sound healing community, select ensembles, researchers and scientists that will keep bringing this issue to light and allow music makers and listeners to consider the power of this tuning and how it affects the mind, body and spirit.

# Lets discuss: Democratic Socialism

Democratic socialism is an idea that believes that parliamentary democracy should co exist alongside social ownership of the means and modes of production. Democratic Socialism in this context, can not be instantly, obtained by an overnight street revolution. However, democratic socialism may be achieved by a social and political process that works together and includes as many people as possible, in the parliamentary, representation and legislation system. Some thinkers offer that democratic socialism, is only achievable by the functioning of workers councils and unions alongside and within this process.

This article is not a history of the Labour Party, Independent Labour Party, Fabians, Socialists, Communist and Blairites, it's merely an outline of three 'modern' thinkers on how democratic socialism may appear and move forward and function for democratic socialist aims, in Europe and international collective efforts, today Modern writers like, Karl Marx and George Orwell advocate a form of democratic socialism but simultaneously offer a dystopian view of the extreme forms of this process. For example, Marx argues that democracy is a road to socialism; however he was not happy with the form of parliamentary democracy that was functioning in his time.

Karl Marx, believed that 19th century democracy was not based on universal suffrage of the proletariat, but in the self interest of a group of elite, the bourgeoisie. Marx, was undoubtedly a formidable thinker but no one is a true 'fortune teller' and he wisely added; "The philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways. The point, however, is to change it. Karl Marx, Eleven Theses on Feuerbach

George Orwell also stands out as popular thinker of his time. His : 'Animal Farm' and the iconic '1984' indicate to the reader that Orwell, was well aware of the dangers

Later, modern thinkers such as Henri Lefebvre, in his outstanding set of works 'The Critique of Everyday Life' argues that democratic socialism might be achieved through a theoretical notion of 'Autogestion'. Lefebvre's, 'Autogestion' takes the decision on resource production and planning away from the top down elite 'bourgeoisie' and becomes firmly secured in bottom up process worked through the ideas of workers communities and sharing skills.

This bottom up process de politicises elite, parliamentary power and politicises community unions. However it would be difficult to work out how self and reinforced belief in elitist group power and status will be radically diminished by implementation of 'Autogestion' overnight. This is in part due to individual prejudices and self- interest group mobilisation. Self group mobilisation happens when resources are scarce by the way...

Politicisation of work, labour, and who has money in the bank appears to be the state of play in UK socio- political decision making today. For example, how do ideas of democratic socialism relate to your life, as the reader of this article right now?

How much do you have in the bank? Theresa May,

Donald trump and Benjamin Netanyahu appear obsessed with pointing out how they are ' right' and care ' for you whilst simultaneously robbing you for their aims and objectives.

Certainly, the capitalist system appears to have taken many out of poverty, aren't we all more middle class in the UK now? However hasn't it also put hundreds of millions within and outside the UK into extreme poverty?

This writer argues that regardless of 'events' 'power bases' and corruption over and within parliamentary democracy in the UK the principles of

Democracy, Liberty, Equality – should be held on to: tight.

What do you think? If you still have your democratic vote? Do you exercise it?



by JULIE STEPHENS

by LAURA FLANDERS



# A Reporter in Spain

Eighty years ago Spain fell under a thirty-year dictatorship after Right beat Left in a brutal civil war. That history feels acutely alive to me today, and not just because, for the first time in my life, I'm in Spain.

General Franco's rebels, backed by Mussolini and Hitler and the religious extremists of the day, defeated the Republic and its cob bled-together army of anarchists, communists and internationalists over three years (1936-39). My grandfather, Claud Cockburn, was there with the fighting in Spain's central plains and in the city of Barcelona as it was hanging on, watching bombs hit the northern mountains that I've been looking at for days.

Today, Spain is holding steady. Prime minister Pedro Sanchez and his socialist party expanded power in regional and national elections and became the biggest social democrat block in the EU.

The nationalist populists did less well than they bragged they'd do in most of Europe, but the Left's parties generally did the same, and progressives are relying on the Spanish and Portuguese to hold the bigots at bay in Brussels while, from Brazil to Bethlehem and Bombay to DC's Beltway, the stink of fascism is in the air.

It was windy yesterday, and between rain showers, we talked about being buffeted by old tensions: nationalism vs internationalism, authoritarianism vs democracy, elitism vs cooperation, patriarchy and racism vs intersectionality and the common good.

"The story of resilience resonates," said Loren Harris, a program of ficer with the education-focused Kenneth Rainin Foundation in Oakland. History is part of what draws internationalists like Harris back to this region. Another is its experiment in solidarity.

"In the twentieth century, it was monarchy that was crashing. Today, it's the rule of capital," said the Democracy Collaborative's Marjorie Kelly,\* who, with Harris, was part of a delegation to study the area's co-operatives.

Claud described the co-ops and free clinics that helped Barcelonans survive under siege. For the past four years, Barcelona en Comu has been continuing that tradition, expanding public assets and public decision-making under the city's first female mayor, activist Ada Colau. Here in Basque country, which was occupied and punished by Franco, a liberation theologian preached job creation through cooperation and birthed the Mondragon Federation, now the biggest network of worker-owned cooperatives in the world. Recently, the OECD reported that this co-op rich community has one of the narrowest wealth gaps on the continent, which is to say, the rich extract less relative to the poor—or put another way, the place is more fair.

In Barcelona, Claud read from the wall posters: "We want prosperity for the whole people and we know this is possible within our democratic republic; that is why we defend the Republic, just as we defend the rightful liberties of Catalonia, the Basque country, Galicia and Morocco."

As ever, Spain's Left has fissures. This Sunday, a Catalan separatist edged out Ada Colau in the race for Mayor. Left voters are a majority, but their parties are divided here, and globally, as they've been before.

There's no war in these mountains—no Guernica being bombed tonight. Still, I recall Claud describing how stakes pile high slowly as the barometer moves to storm.

As one onlooker told Claud almost 80 years ago, "I suppose you and I think the rich are going to sit quiet and—what's the phrase—accept the verdict of the people? Like hell they are."

Which way is the barometer moving? Next stop for me is Barcelona.

## HELP! WE'RE IN SEMANTIC JAIL

by MARA LEVERKUHN

Hi. I am the resident "bloody foreigner". I am told I don't really fit the stereotypical view of a Romanian immigrant, in that I am too white, my linguistic skills too florid, and don't carry a rolled edition of the Big Issue under my arm. So, if that helps you absorb my message, please read these lines while picturing me with said paper and juxtapose your own Borat-esque accent to the following.

As an observer of British politics, and specifically, the left, what really gets me is the left's behaviour throughout the antisemitism crisis. You expect Brexit to go wrong (discussion for another time); you know the Tories will be Tories. And Blairites will Blair. But no one really expected the wonderful inspiring movement formed miraculously around Jeremy Corbyn since 2015 to turn so ..auto-cannibalistic. So soon, at the behest of the establishment.

Throughout the antisemitism crisis, we've seen a flood of investigations and expelling that disproportionately focus on the very solid left of the party. The standards used to determine guilt have been ranging from flimsy to downright insanely illogical. Things got so bad, that often times merely questioning if an accusation is in fact true is presented as evidence of anti semitism. The old idea that antisemitism is hatred of Jewish people BECAUSE they're Jewish has been binned in favour of the prolix and ambiguous entrapments (can't call them definitions) of the IHRA document that was accepted by the party last year.

As a bloody foreigner with a good education in the old European style, based on logic & reason, I have often times wondered throughout this crisis if I have in fact landed in Medieval Europe. The accusations often times founded on nothing more but uttering forbidden words (Rothschilds, Soros, Jewish, etc).

The Right has been driving much of this for obvious reasons; like we're supposed to believe the right wing of the party, that consistently votes for war and abstains on austerity, has any feelings to spare for any vulnerable people in the world? You really can imagine Tom Watson the enthusiastic careerist caring deeply for Jewish people that might suffer because of a word buried in someone's Facebook?

Another issue we need to look at is the dire loss of freedom of speech that we've witnessed. Will we ever get it back? Sometimes, more worryingly, it's been the left driving it. I can never pardon the left for basically getting rid of the best lefties and/or doing nothing about their marginalization: starting with Ken Livingstone, Tony Greenstein (who I now see engaged in similar), Marc Wardsworth, Jackie Walker, and ultimately and tragically, Chris Williamson. The left is getting rid of the best of people for slight paranoid interpretations of otherwise correct words coming from people we know wouldn't hurt a fly.

I've looked carefully at all the statements made by these people, and only a paranoid toddler could reach the conclusion they were antisemitic. It's a new ultra advanced level of prudish self policing the left is engaging in. It creates censorious precedent after precedent and forces people into further and deeper verbal obedience, deeming unacceptable bits of speech at a time until we're in full linguistic bondage. Like in 1984.

And it serves no real victim. No, it only serves our enemies for us to be gagged. And divided. Meanwhile Blair is enjoying his prime time TV slot advising people to vote for a different party and he's still in. the. party. And so is his entourage. Although, thank God they expelled Campbell. Joan Ryan caught fabricating accusations of antisemitism against a member, caught on video, and nothing happens to her.

Margaret Hodge saying awful things to Jeremy in Parliament, nothing happens.

So are we to get the message that mass murder (Blair), supporting other parties and constantly bashing Labour in the press is AOK if you're "the elite"; but the membership drop off like flies for nothing? The party rulebook only applies if you're a peasant?

The leadership is failing us.

It's a type of nasty appeasing self cannibalism of the left.

Who, eating its own leg to appease the masters\*, looks up and says "I did good?". And of course, it's not enough, it is then instructed to eat its pancreas too. \*for the ultra paranoid and antisemitism-obsessed antisemitism detectors, when I say the masters, I do not mean some jewish cabal. I mean the British establishment. And yes, I am also tragically aware that this disclaimer won't actually satisfy some of the more rabidly accusatory disposition who have left their critical thinking somewhere in ASDA on Saturday night.

I see a pattern on the left that saddens me. People like Ken Livingstone or Chris Williamson who everyone knows are decent socialists, have been time and time again excluded, smeared and suspended or expelled by a thinking which makes a great priority out of "saying the wrong thing". Regardless of their magnificent record as politicians of the people, who are so rare to come by. Their statements weren't even claimed to be antisemitic. Only through a perfidious distortion of the press they have been represented as such. At most, it could be said they are slightly insensitive, although I don't agree with this view. So, when honest politicians are so hard to come by, you get rid of two of them after one strike of "insensitivity"—when Blair killed a million people and is still in the party? In what world is that just? Or we don't care about justice anymore? Then what do we care about?

Suspending them for saying an insensitive word or two. Or as I like to call it, wrongspeak and wrongthink.

The standards used to determine guilt in these cases are appalling.

In my case, the word "entities" has been quoted as evidence of my antisemitism. Or my being Romanian! Take a moment to think of the irony of someone making that statement. Or making a joke about the atmosphere of thought police. Because who could I possibly be mocking in this paranoid atmosphere but .. the jews?? When in fact many jews were victims of this anti semitism witch-hunt and the actual propagators are more likely the British establishment. The pattern is that the left becomes overly sensitive and judgemental in its own internal censorship, in many cases throwing out the baby with the bathwater.

Complete disproportionate response which on the long term ends up dividing, demoralising and dwindling our ranks.

And the accusations are appalling in their illogic.

And every time we get rid of another socialist, we create an even stronger precedent. Paranoia gets normalized. Logic banished in a corner.

This is the logical conclusion of snowflake liberalism. It is bigotry in disguise. Intolerance which excludes and marginalizes dissonant views, instead of engaging with them. People who go around suspending and censoring people for having committed various -isms BEFORE THEY CHECK THE EVIDENCE (antisemitism is but one of the many crises), are in fact deeply intolerant and authoritarian. Suspending debate around a topic is not the way to avoid another Holocaust. Authoritarianism is not the way to protect from authoritarianism. Legitimate fears can cause illogic decisions. But let's not let them. Of course everyone but some appalling people agree that anti semitism is bad. But that's a really low bar to define your humanity by.

It's like expecting your humanitarian brownie points for saying "murder is bad".

Surely we must look deeper at the issues surrounding us, and the sane, healthy way for any society to discuss what is good and bad and how to prevent atrocities is .. to discuss. Blind obedience won't do. But that's where we are. Some on the left have come to bang their fist on the table authoritatively and claim that some subjects are taboo and severely punish those who disobey. Even when they disobey because, say, they're interested in stopping some of these holocausts currently happening—like Palestine, and Yemen.

We've come to the paranoid level where any topic involving a Jewish person simply cannot be debated anymore except in the most positive and laudatory terms towards everything Jewish related. This. is. not. sane.

This contributes to a deep problem in society that to me as a foreigner looks extremely distorted:

Protected identities are conferred magic status where debate involving a person of that identity is severely censored in order not to offend. Say, we cannot criticise Jess Philips because she's a woman and of course political accountability no longer applies; because the only reason we could possibly criticise her for is because she has ovaries and we are hateful bastards.

The same with trans.  
The same with LGBT.  
The same with Jewish MPs.

Doesn't anyone notice that in the process of warding off ANY CRITICISM or debate that might be unpalatable around these protected identities,

REAL ACCOUNTABILITY, AND FREEDOM OF SPEECH DIED?

Does no one on the left find this troubling?

Isn't it time we realised that in doing so, we're not defending anyone but our political enemy, the nasty, fascist, warmongering right wing, who is very happy to see us eating ourselves? Oh, and of course. Losing the working class. Who, put off by this prudish illogic concern with possibly maybe offensive words, are disgusted with the left and end up captured by the actual fascists on the right.



I said this a few months ago. Apart from the fact that May is going nothing has changed.

Three wonderful and utterly nonsensical notions are floating around on the social media and the main stream media.

They are born of frustration that Labour does not have a majority in Parliament and Jeremy Corbyn cannot wave a magic wand. People want to "do something" whether it is useful or even possible.

Some of it is born from failure to understand Jeremy Corbyn's strategy. Some of it comes from "Labour" people who do not wish a Labour Government led by Jeremy Corbyn anyway.

One proposal is that Labour should declare itself to be anti-Brexit on principle, before the final, final, final deal is put to Parliament. That supposedly will cause everyone who is against Brexit to come flocking to support us. People are literally dying in the streets. People who are not flocking to support Labour because of our opposition to austerity will flock to us because we are opposed to Brexit. Apparently.

Much of the Brexit vote in the marginal seats that we need to win in a General Election could vote Labour. That vote was driven by huge unhappiness with society. "Remain" was saying "no change" and Leave was saying "change". For the anti Corbyn "Labour" people there is no downside to upsetting former Leave voters. Corbyn is trying to appeal to both the 17 million who voted Brexit and the 16 million who did not (not to mention the millions who did not vote at all).

The second proposal is that we should have another Referendum. We cannot have a Referendum without winning many votes in Parliament. May and the "no deal" Brexiters will fight it tooth and nail. Or they may hijack it and have a choice between "no deal" and May's "new deal". There is not enough time for a Referendum. Given the chaos and dishonesty around the last Referendum does anyone trust that the result will be what we wish it to be?

The third proposal is for Labour to have a Special Conference to discuss Brexit. That will not add one MP to our number of MPs. It would cause paralysis in Labour's decision making process just when we need to be nimble. Jeremy Corbyn is working to have a General Election and a Labour Government. His team believe that it is possible to negotiate with the EU a deal that meets the six tests. If they can then many Remainers will be content with that result. And if the Corbyn team can't negotiate that deal then they tried. The logic then is to withdraw Article 50.

Why should the EU team give Corbyn the Brexit he seeks? If Britain stays in but is very unhappy Britain will be a continuing pain to deal with.

by CHARLES JAMES

Universal Credit has come under fire in parliament after the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) allegedly spent £23 million on newspaper advertising addressing criticisms of the benefit. The new all-in-one benefit system has been blasted as a cruel experiment that has driven some to try to take their own life, Birmingham Live has reported.

A study published in November 2018 found that Universal Credit had caused such distress that some had considered suicide. In that report, a claimant admitted:

"I got to a stage where I'd actually planned taking my life. It gets me upset when I talk about it..."

"I could've easily done something horrific because these people at the end of the phone... that anxiety I was put through drove me to a place where nobody should be."

In another case, a tenant left a sarcastic suicide note thanking Universal Credit bosses after he ran out of money. And now the welfare scheme has faced new criticism in parliament after the DWP's decision to pay for newspaper advertising attempting to 'debunk' criticisms of the benefit. The 'myth-busting' campaign in the Metro is already the subject of a complaint to the Advertising Standards Authority.

Labour MP Grahame Morris said the adverts were a mistake, and that the money could have been better spent addressing the problems with the system.

He said: "Does the minister think it is reasonable, in circumstances where people are facing such dreadful financial hardship, that the department spends over £23 million advertising Universal Credit in a single newspaper, in Metro?"

"I think it is an absolutely shocking waste of money."

Quora, anyone use or visit it? There are times when you see serious stuff on there but in my view it is dominated by Americans determined to make their fellow citizens look stupid. It is as though they have only just realised that there is a world beyond its shores.

These are people that believe the entire world except the U.K. drives on the right, that the NHS cannot possibly be a good idea and that the USA invented everything.

Sometimes that can be very funny and of course it reinforces the smug self-deception that Europeans are more sophisticated. That, as lawyers would say, is a rebuttable assumption.

But what I cannot stand is that the people operating Quora suppress seriousness. To express a carefully researched set of facts that do not fit within an approved narrative invites suppression. People are allowed to argue cogently but not if it is to make points that disturb, that discomfort, the minds of those that are happy with, for example, prejudicial ignorance about Palestine and Palestinians who, by the way, are Semitic. Advocate for truly Semitic people and you will be accused of anti-Semitism.

This is what has happened to Corbyn. It is a lethal nonsense and, because it follows the Nazi attempt to classify Jews as members of a race, it is anti Jewish. Can the traffic wardens of Quora not see this?

I know many Muslim and Christian Palestinians. I do not know one that is anti Jewish.

We use Facebook a lot. And yet Facebook does not always serve us well. The 'us' that seeks a humane world in partnership with our planet. It tolerates a bit of dissent but it imprisons us if we criticise Israel for example. Possibly Facebook is run by people with no knowledge of history or of the real meaning of words such as Semitic. It has nothing to do with being Jewish. Palestinians are Semitic. They are among vast numbers of people who are also Semitic. Few of them are Jews.

Anti Jewish I totally condemn. But please Facebook learn to distinguish the difference. Semitic signifies a family of languages. In 1879 in Germany began the belief that it was possible to identify Jews as a Semitic race. That was garbage but look how that ended. Today we are incited to identify Jews, as a race. Do we wish to endorse the Nazis for whom a religion was a race?

We are now expected to live inside a narrative in which to criticise Zionism means that we must bring down upon ourselves false and deeply stupidly nasty accusations of being anti Jewish. For me the accusers are themselves deeply anti Jewish but also nastily ignorant.

Please do not argue with me on my definitions. Go instead to the Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv or look at the pictures on the walls of the Jewish Museum in Camden Town.

Or consider, if you will, my mother's father, born in 1859 who regarded Catholics as a race.

I accept that a religion is also a culture that can feel like an ethnic identity; you might remember the play and film Once a Catholic. We can have fun telling each other Catholic and Jewish jokes. And more. But to identify such people racially is dangerous. I am sure that Trump believes that there is a place called Islamia.

In a book on Mental Health and Well-Being in the Learning and Teaching Environment I wrote that once a government manages to stick the label 'Abnormal' upon people whose views do not match their own the next step is their 'Exclusion' from the policy making process. That exclusion can extend beyond the people labelled unorthodox. After a while this exclusion creates a damaging distance between decision makers and the rest who become mere implementers of policy.

Blair and New Labour set us target after target. David Miliband was proud of the number of targets we were, in the words of Michael Barber, 'Instructed to deliver'. He was in charge of the Delivery Unit and boasts that he was nicknamed Mr. Deliverology. In this model of government it is the people that are accountable. Organisations such as Ofsted exist to ensure this. In my chapter, which was about the stress created by this kind of government, I concluded that it led to social fracture. Social fracking is my favourite term for this sort of thing but I thought the editors might prefer fracture.

I believe that all of this began in 1979 with Thatcher but has never stopped gaining pace. That referendum was unwise because Cameron, even in opposition, had only ever been an insider. He was one of THEM. When so many members of US got the chance they put the boot in. And now we have a fractured society. It is fractured in many ways, equality, health and wealth in particular but also in our attitude to people of other lands.

Our task is to make the process of policy making emerge from an inclusive discussion of and consensual arrival at social values.

by CLIFF JONES



A 61-year-old mum fears she may need to sell her home after being told an increase in her pensionable age from 60 to 66 means she will lose £45,000.

Mum-of-two Joy Scott, from Great Yarmouth, is among an estimated 3.8 million women born in the 1950s affected by the government's efforts to equalise men and women's state pension ages. Two women affected by the change took the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to a judicial review this week amid accusations that it breaches age and sex discrimination laws.

In 2011, Joy found out from a colleague that she would no longer be receiving her pension age 60 – but would have to wait further six years. "I had never received any letter to tell me that was going to happen," she said. "I asked [the DWP] for my pension forecast then I found out I had lost £45,000."

"I might have to even sell my house. I have worked hard to buy my own house." While currently surviving on her redundancy package, Joy fears she may soon have to sign up for controversial state benefit Universal Credit. "They have basically ripped us all off," she said. "I think it is criminal the way they have done it."

Thursday, Joy joined protest groups Norfolk Broads and BackTo60 in gathering outside the Royal Courts of Justice, in central London, to call on the government to restore their pensions.

A two-day High Court hearing took place this week to determine whether the department had acted unlawfully in its efforts to equalise pensions ages. The review was brought by claimants Julie Delve, 61, and Karen Glynn, 62, who were both due to receive their state pensions in 2018 and 2016 respectively but, following legislative changes, must now both wait until they are 66.

Their barristers argued the changes in law resulted in a "proportionately much greater drop" in women's income in relation to men; hit women born on or after 6 April 1950 hardest; and were introduced without adequate notice.

This, they argued, constitutes a breach of Article 14 of the Human Rights Convention, which guards against discrimination on the basis of age and sex, as well as being contrary to the general principles of EU law.

However the government's legal counsel argued that the pension age changes are exempt from EU law and the Human Rights Convention since they are not the cause of the "historic and economic" disadvantages women born in the 1950s face.

They added that the government did not have a duty of fairness to notify women that their pension age would increase, the changes being debated and ratified publicly in parliament.

A judgment will be handed down at an unspecified date.

# Julian Assange

I was in Kabul a decade ago when WikiLeaks released a massive tranche of US government documents about the conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq and Yemen. On the day of the release, I was arranging by phone to meet an American official for an unattributable briefing. I told him in the course of our conversation what I had just learned from the news wires. He was intensely interested and asked me what was known about the degree of classification of the files. When I told him, he said in a relieved tone: "No real secrets, then."

When we met later in my hotel I asked him why he was so dismissive of the revelations that were causing such uproar in the world.

He explained that the US government was not so naive that it did not realise that making these documents available to such a wide range of civilian and military officials meant that they were likely to leak. Any information really damaging to US security had been weeded out.

In any case, he said: "We are not going to learn the biggest secrets from WikiLeaks because these have already been leaked by the White House, Pentagon or State Department." I found his argument persuasive and later wrote a piece saying that the WikiLeaks secrets were not all that secret.

However, it was the friendly US official and I who were being naive, forgetting that the real purpose of state secrecy is to enable governments to establish their own self-interested and often mendacious version of the truth by the careful selection of "facts" to be passed on to the public.

They feel enraged by any revelation of what they really know, or by any alternative source of information. Such threats to their control of the news agenda must be suppressed where possible and, where not, those responsible must be pursued and punished.

We have had two good examples of the lengths to which a government – in this case that of the US – will go to protect its own tainted version of events. The first is the charging of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange under the Espionage Act for leaking 750,000 confidential military and diplomatic documents in 2010.

The second example has happened in the last few days. The international media may not have always covered itself in glory in the war in Yemen, but there are brave journalists and news organisations who have done just that. One of them is Yemeni reporter Maad al-Zikry who, along with Maggie Michael and Nariman El-Mofty, is part of an Associated Press (AP) team that won the international reporting Pulitzer prizethis year for superb on-the-ground coverage of the war in Yemen.

Their stories included revelations about the US drone strikes in Yemen and about the prisons maintained there by the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The US government clearly did not like this type of critical journalism. When the Pulitzer was awarded last Tuesday in New York, Zikry was not there because he had been denied a visa to enter the US. There is no longer a US embassy in the Yemeni capital Sanaa, but two months ago he made his way to the US embassy in Cairo where his visa application, though fully supported by AP and many other prestigious institutions, was rejected.

After AP had exerted further pressure, Zikry made a second application for a visa and this time he was seen by a counsellor at the embassy.

He reports himself as asking: "Does the US embassy think that a Yemeni investigative journalist doing reporting for AP is a terrorist?"

Are you saying I am a terrorist?"

The counsellor said that they would "work" on his visa or, in other words, ask the powers-that-be in Washington what to do.

"So, I waited and waited – and waited," he says. "And, until now I heard nothing from them."

Of course, Washington is fully capable of waiving any prohibition on the granting of a visa to a Yemeni in a case like this, but it chose not to.

Can what Assange and WikiLeaks did in 2010 be compared with what Zikry and AP did in 2019? Some commentators, to their shame, claim that the pursuit of Assange, and his current imprisonment pending possible extradition to the US or Sweden, has nothing to do with freedom of expression.

In fact, he was doing what every journalist ought to do and doing it very successfully.

Take Yemen as an example of this. It is a story of great current significance because in recent days senior US officials have denounced Iran for allegedly directing and arming the Houthi rebels who are fighting Saudi and UAE-backed forces. Action by these supposed Iranian proxies could be a *casus belli* in the confrontation between the US and Iran.

Mike Pompeo, the US secretary of state, says that Iran has provided the Houthis "with the missile system, the hardware, the military capability" that they have acquired. John Bolton, the national security adviser, said on Wednesday that Iran risked a "very strong response" from the US for, among other things, drone attacks by the Houthis on Saudi Arabia for which he holds the Iranians responsible.

These accusations by the US, Saudi Arabia and whoever is their Yemeni ally of the day that the Houthis are stooges of Iran armed with Iranian-supplied weapons have a long history.

But what do we know about what Washington really thinks of these allegations which have not changed much over the years?

This is where Wikileaks comes to the rescue.

The US embassy in Sanaa may be closed today, but it was open on 9 December 2009 when Stephen Seche, the US ambassador, sent a detailed report to the State Department titled: "Who are the Houthis? How are they fighting?" Citing numerous sources, it says that the Houthis "obtain their weapons from the Yemeni black market" and by corrupt deals with government military commanders. A senior Yemeni intelligence officer is quoted as saying: "The Iranians are not arming the Houthis. The weapons they use are Yemeni." Another senior official says that the anti-Houthi military "covers up its failures by saying that the weapons [of the Houthis] come from Iran."

Yemeni experts on the conflict say that Houthi arms acquisition today has likewise little to do with Iran. Yemen has always had a flourishing arms black market in which weapons, large and small, can be obtained in almost any quantity if the money is right.

Anti-Houthi forces, copiously supplied by Saudi Arabia and UAE, are happy to profit by selling on weapons to the Houthis or anybody else.

In an earlier period, the embassy study cites "sensitive reporting" – presumably the CIA or another intelligence organisation – as saying that extremists from Somalia, who wanted Katyusha rockets, had simply crossed the Red Sea and bought them in the Yemeni black market.

Revealing important information about the Yemen war – in which at least 70,000 people have been killed – is the reason why the US government is persecuting both Assange and Zikry.

The defiant Yemeni journalist says that "one of the key reasons why this land is so impoverished in that tragic condition it has reached today is the US administration's mass punishment of Yemen". This is demonstrably true, but doubtless somebody in Washington considers it a secret.

The first track on our mixtape goes back to 1973 by Michael Viner's Incredible Bongo Band, Viner's was the executive at MGM Records and became an innovator in the audiobook field, In 1968 Viner's worked on Robert F. Kennedy's presidential campaign and was the producer of the inaugural ball for President Richard Nixon in 1973.

In 1970 He produced a record called The Best of Marcel Marceau, a joke album produced for under \$50 and consisting of nineteen minutes of silence followed by one minute of applause on each side of the record, purportedly recording performances by the famous mime artist Marcel Marceau.

The first Incredible Bongo Band album included a cover of "Apache" written by English composer Jerry Lordan, and made famous by the British group the Shadows. Viner's version of "Apache" was not a hit upon release, and languished in relative obscurity until the late 1970s when it was adopted by early hip-hop artists, including pioneering deejay Kool Herc, for the uncommonly long percussion break in the middle of the song.

In 2012 A documentary entitled "Sample this" revealed how a forgotten record by the Incredible Bongo Band helped cement the foundation of hip hop, creating an anthem on the streets of the Bronx

Our next track goes back to 1968 by an American rock band called "The Turtles".

This track is taken from their album "The Battle Of The Bands". Unfortunately the group disbanded after only five years, however in that short time they produced classic hits such as "Happy Together".



The track we have chose has the bizarre name of "I'm Chief Kamanawanalea (We're the Royal Macadamia Nuts)". There is supposed to be a secret hidden message within the title of the song, can you work it out ?.

Born Eunice Kathleen Waymon in 1933, She changed her name to "Nina Simone" to disguise herself from family members, having chosen to play "the devil's music". During the early 1960's Nina addressed racial inequality in the United States in the song "Mississippi Goddam". This was Nina's response to the murder of Medgar Evers and the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama that killed four young black girls and partially blinded a fifth, this becoming one of many protest songs she written.

Nina Simone will be remembered for many classic songs, the one we have chose for the mixtape goes by the crazy title of "Funkier Than A Mosquito's Tweeter".

Rotary Connection was an American psychedelic soul band, formed in Chicago in 1966.

Rotary Connection is notable as the backing band for Muddy Waters on his psychedelic blues album "Electric Mud". The band's members included the legendary Minnie Riperton. In 1971 The Rotary Connection came back with a new sound and a new name. The New Rotary Connection (well not much of a name change), they released Hey Love which features our number four track "I Am The Black Gold Of The Sun".



Camille Yarbrough (born January 8, 1938) is an American musician, actress, poet, activist, television producer, and author. In the 1970's she combined all of her talents and began her writing career. Her published works have appeared in The New York Times, The Black Collegian Magazine, and The Journal of African Civilization. In 1975 Camille released Her only album "The Iron Pot Cooker", which featured our final track of this mixtape "Take Yo' Praise". The album was based on the 1971 stage dramatization of Yarbrough's one-woman, spoken word show, Tales and Tunes of an African American Griot. Camille is best known for "Take Yo' Praise", which Fatboy Slim sampled in his track "Praise You" in 1998.

## Jonathan Livingston Seagull: By Richard Bach

(In memory of Jonathon 'Johnny Bonkers' Morris)



"You have the freedom to be yourself, your true self, here and now, and nothing can stand in your way."

First published in 1970, Jonathan Livingston Seagull is a fable. This 'fable' was my first awakening to the structures and confines of society/societies. I found this fable in the form of a bounded book, at a jumble sale. I was 11, I think?

Anyway, age is neither here nor there because I was just rummaging through the hustle and bustle of a sweat laden jumble sale within the grey concrete walls, of a structured church hall. Through the stench of concrete and the mist and the sweat of pushing and shoving, I found this book. I smelt its pages, its ink, its print and I spotted its wings and I spotted its flight. The blurb, I think summarised:

Jonathon was a seagull and a seagull that was flying! Flying high above the spires and high above the earth, high above the sand and high above the sea and he was thinking:

"There must be more to life than fighting for fish heads"

And ...I quite liked flying things. So I picked up the book.

Jonathon Livingstone Seagull is a book about a seagull, just another seagull. YET! Jonathon is a seagull that flies high, far higher than other gulls. Jonathon is a dreamer and believes in something different, something better:

"He spoke of very simple things- that it is right for a gull to fly, that freedom is the very nature of his being, that whatever stands against that freedom must be set aside, be it ritual or superstition or limitation in any form.

Anyway: Jonathon took this thought back to the other gulls. The other gulls didn't like that message, not at all! The other gulls did squeak and the other gulls did squawk:

Ney, No, Not a chance on earth! No good can cometh from leaving the flock the other gulls spitted!" and Jonathan Livingston Seagull was BANISHED! For a while...

Yet! Jonathon believed in his dream and continued to live it.

Jonathon, kept on practicing his flight and after a while he went back to the earth and sea again but this time with an enhanced understanding of what freedom really is. Jonathon came back with an understanding of the limits of the: Ney Sayers and the 'No good can comeths' and their structures, societies and the limitations they place upon themselves because:

"For most gulls, it is not flying that matters, but eating. For this gull, though, it was not eating that mattered, but flight. More than anything, Jonathan Livingston Seagull loved to fly."

Jonathan refused to conform. He was Jonathon.

Jonathon met other seagulls and spent time talking with them and through that interaction Jonathon, continued to learn and he was able to master himself.

And Jonathon learned about love.

He told himself "If [I] had known there just a tenth, just a hundredth of what [I] know here, how much more life would have meant!"

What Jonathon taught us that life is ours, that freedom is ours once we learn how to fly. Fly high above the structures and systems and that are imposed upon us by ourselves and banish us by our selves ...because that is all they are...just structures and just systems.

Jonathan Livingstone Seagull asks just one Question:

What happens when you start to live as your true self?

Whatever age. Maybe you inspire others?

"The only true law is that which leads to freedom," Jonathan said. "There is no other."

What this 'fable' asks is :

"If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you, but make allowance for their doubting too...

" you can be free to love.



**Y**ouTube will delete thousands of accounts after banning “supremacists”, conspiracy theorists and other harmful accounts, it has claimed. The decision was made after an in-depth review of its rules on hateful content, YouTube said. While it has always banned hate content in general, the site has allowed some specific kinds of harmful videos – such as those promoting Nazi ideology or claiming 9/11 did not happen – to continue being hosted on the site. Those videos, as well as other kinds of “supremacist” content, will now be officially banned.

“Today, we’re taking another step in our hate speech policy by specifically prohibiting videos alleging that a group is superior in order to justify discrimination, segregation or exclusion based on qualities like age, gender, race, caste, religion, sexual orientation or veteran status,” it wrote in a blog post.

That is expected to lead to the removal of thousands of accounts as it goes into place, though that could take some time. “We will begin enforcing this updated policy today; however, it will take time for our systems to fully ramp up and we’ll be gradually expanding coverage over the next several months,” its announcement read. It noted that some of those accounts are useful to researchers, and said it would try and work on ways of making sure they stay available. It also said the change would not affect videos that are discussing “pending legislation, aim to condemn or expose hate, or provide analysis of current events”.

It will also alter its algorithm in an attempt to stop certain kinds of misleading and harmful videos, such as those promoting fake miracle cures or the flat Earth

hoax, will stop being recommended in YouTube’s “up next” sidebar. It will also encourage more authoritative videos to try and discourage people from being tricked by those stories. It has already trialled the system to do this in the US, and said it has found success. It will bring it to more countries by the end of the year, it said, as well as tuning the algorithm so that it is more efficient and can spot more content, it said. It also said it would work harder to stop YouTube users promoting harmful content from receiving ad money. Channels that “repeatedly brush up against” its hate speech policies will be suspended from the company’s partner programme.

“The openness of YouTube’s platform has helped creativity and access to information thrive,” its blog post concluded. “It’s our responsibility to protect that, and prevent our platform from being used to incite hatred, harassment, discrimination and violence. We are committed to taking the steps needed to live up to this responsibility today, tomorrow and in the years to come.” The change comes on the same day as the company said it would not remove videos in which one of its stars attacked another user over his sexuality, using a series of anti-gay slurs. Strangely, the company now explicitly bans videos that encourage discrimination or segregation based on sexuality, but made no reference to that high-profile case in its blog post, and did not say that it would change its position.

YouTube has been repeatedly criticised for its relatively lax approach towards various kinds of harmful content, including those on the far-right. That criticism became even more prominent in the wake of the Christchurch shooting, when it and other video sites failed to quickly remove

videos of the mass murder.

As such, the site has been repeatedly accused of not only permitting but also encouraging extremism, by playing host to often violent and niche accounts.

But right-wing channels also make up a significant part of YouTube’s channels and their viewers. Earlier this year, Bloomberg reported that far-right videos were one of the site’s most popular categories.

The decision also comes amid increasing scrutiny from conservative politicians about whether YouTube has a bias against right-wing creators. As with Twitter and Facebook, the company has been criticised for undermining free speech and being unfair towards its conservative users, despite the fact there is no evidence of those accounts being discriminated against.

Back in 2018 YouTube PERMENTLY BANNED the Richie Allen show Channel and deleted all of his 76,000 subscribers and 1,400 videos.

YouTube operates a three strikes and you are out policy. Content creators are told that if they violate community standards three times, their channel and all its content will be deleted. Two weeks ago The Richie Allen Show received a strike. Incredibly, I was informed that I had violated the bullying and harassment guidelines. The video in question was of an interview I conducted with Wolfgang Halbig over two years ago about The Sandy Hook school shooting. There was nothing harassing about it, there was certainly no bullying.

I repeatedly challenged Wolfgang in the interview and pressed him for evidence to support his theory. Nevertheless that was strike one. YouTube said that as punishment, I couldn’t live stream for three months. I don’t live stream anyway. But of course I was worried. I had been warned repeatedly, by commercial presenters, producers and former colleagues of mine, that the show would be targeted.

**YouTube**

Strike two came two weeks later. The offending video this time was an interview I did with Michael Rivero about the shooting of journalist Alison Parker and cameraman Adam Ward in Virginia in August 2015. Yes that’s right, YouTube has issued me with a community guideline strike for an interview I uploaded two and a half years ago. Get this, in the interview, Mike clearly states that he does not believe that the shooting was staged or a false flag. Mike talked about the background of the shooter Bryce Williams and what led him to murder the journalists. This morning, YouTube told me that the interview violated its guidelines on bullying and harassment. Again, there was no harassment or bullying. Mike went with the official story, as did I. Tough shit Paddy, that’s strike two. I was told today, that a third strike will see the channel deleted.

A third strike is inevitable, as there are 1,400 interviews on the channel which was created in 2014. Oh and the punishment for strike two? We have been banned from uploading content to YouTube for the next three weeks.

This is fascism, this is tyranny, this is terrifying and we knew that this was coming didn’t we? Yes, there are other platforms but Google/YouTube is the only game in town.

I could upload elsewhere, but those platforms don’t have the subscribers, it would be a waste of a lot of time for very little reward. The establishment knows this.

This is why these monopolies were allowed to develop, so that they could come after shows like The Richie Allen Show when they felt like it. Over the last eighteen months,

they have limited the reach of the channel by shadow banning it, in other words making it difficult for users to discover it. They even began demonetising the videos before they had even been published and then re-monetising them after they’d been watched over 5,000 times, meaning by the time the ads went on the vids, most people had watched them. I’ve talked about this and demonstrated it with photographic evidence. Now they’re about to delete the channel, the coup de grace.

Now I mentioned that colleagues of mine in commercial TV/Radio had warned me that our channel would be specifically targeted. I’ve been warned time and again, but I knew it was coming anyway. Why The RA show specifically? The reason is simple. There is no other show like it in the independent media. We hold ourselves to the highest professional standards, our production values are second to none and uniquely, we put politicians, academics and other journalists on the air and ask them questions that they would never be asked on mainstream media. That has seen the show become the most listened to independent news show in Europe, the most downloaded podcast in news/politics on Podomatic and has seen us listed on Spotify and iheartradio.

Of course beauty is in the eye of the beholder, ultimately the audience decides whether a show is any good or not, but there is overwhelming evidence here, that someone/something wants to make life very difficult for me, by removing our YouTube channel and deleting over 1,400 archived interviews. Google has served notice on The Richie Allen Show today, that there is no room for a professionally produced radio show, which asks uncomfortable questions and presents credible evidence that challenges the mainstream narrative.

By Richie Allen

The most high-profile removal came in August 2018, when YouTube deleted the channel of right-wing conspiracy theorist and InfoWars radio host Alex Jones.

Despite YouTube banning Jones in August 2018, Media Matters reported that Infowars operates its own YouTube channel titled “Resistance News,” which has been promoting conspiracy theories around the mass shootings in New Zealand. That account had more than 64,000 subscribers.

A statement from YouTube confirmed that the channel, Resistance News, was banned for aiding in Jones’ ban evasion. The channel carried reuploaded live streams from Jones’ deleted Infowars channel and included new conspiracy theory videos as well. YouTube will remove channels that are dedicated to live-streaming Infowars content or uploading videos of full Infowars live streams without additional context or commentary.

“All users agree to comply with our Terms of Service and Community Guidelines when they sign up to use YouTube. When users violate these policies repeatedly, like our policies against hate speech and harassment or our terms prohibiting circumvention of our enforcement measures, we terminate their

accounts,” a YouTube spokesperson emailed.

The existence of Resistance News was first reported by Media Matters earlier today. The channel was created in 2015, and it has amassed just over 64,000 subscribers. Like Infowars, many of the videos focus on conspiracy theories surrounding politics and major events. Two videos, in particular, refer to the recent mass shooting in New Zealand, in which 50 people were killed, as “false flag attacks.”

Jones has uploaded similar conspiracy theories in the past, including calling the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas high school in February 2018 a false flag attack. Jones’ personal channel was originally banned by YouTube in August 2018 for violating its community guidelines. The company cited “policies against hate speech and harassment or our terms prohibiting circumvention of our enforcement measures” as the reason for Jones’ ban.

Still, Jones does have a presence on the platform. He appeared on Joe Rogan’s popular podcast, which has been viewed more than 11 million times, making many of the same talking points that he did on his original channel.

YouTube removed 7.85 million videos and 1.67 million channels between July and September 2018, according to its latest YouTube Community Guidelines enforcement report. This is the fourth such report YouTube has published, but the first that includes information about removing channels, versus just individual videos. Because of the 1.67 million channels suspended, an additional 50.2 million videos disappeared too. YouTube will delete a channel entirely if it receives three strikes within three months or commits a single egregious violation, like child sexual exploitation.

YouTube says that most of the videos it removed — 79.6 percent — violated its policies on spam, misleading content or scams, while 12.6 percent were removed for nudity or sexual content. Only about 1 percent of channels were removed for promotion of violence, violent extremism, harassment or hateful or abusive content, although videos of that nature have attracted the most scrutiny in the past year.



Chris Williamson MP



Jackie Walker



George Galloway

The Word Newspaper Presents.

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Domestic Abuse Bill introduced with the first statutory definition of domestic abuse to include economic abuse as well as controlling and manipulative non-physical abuse.

However how much support abuse victims get at the moment is a postcode lottery. The government announced it will be a legal duty for all councils to provide secure homes for victims.

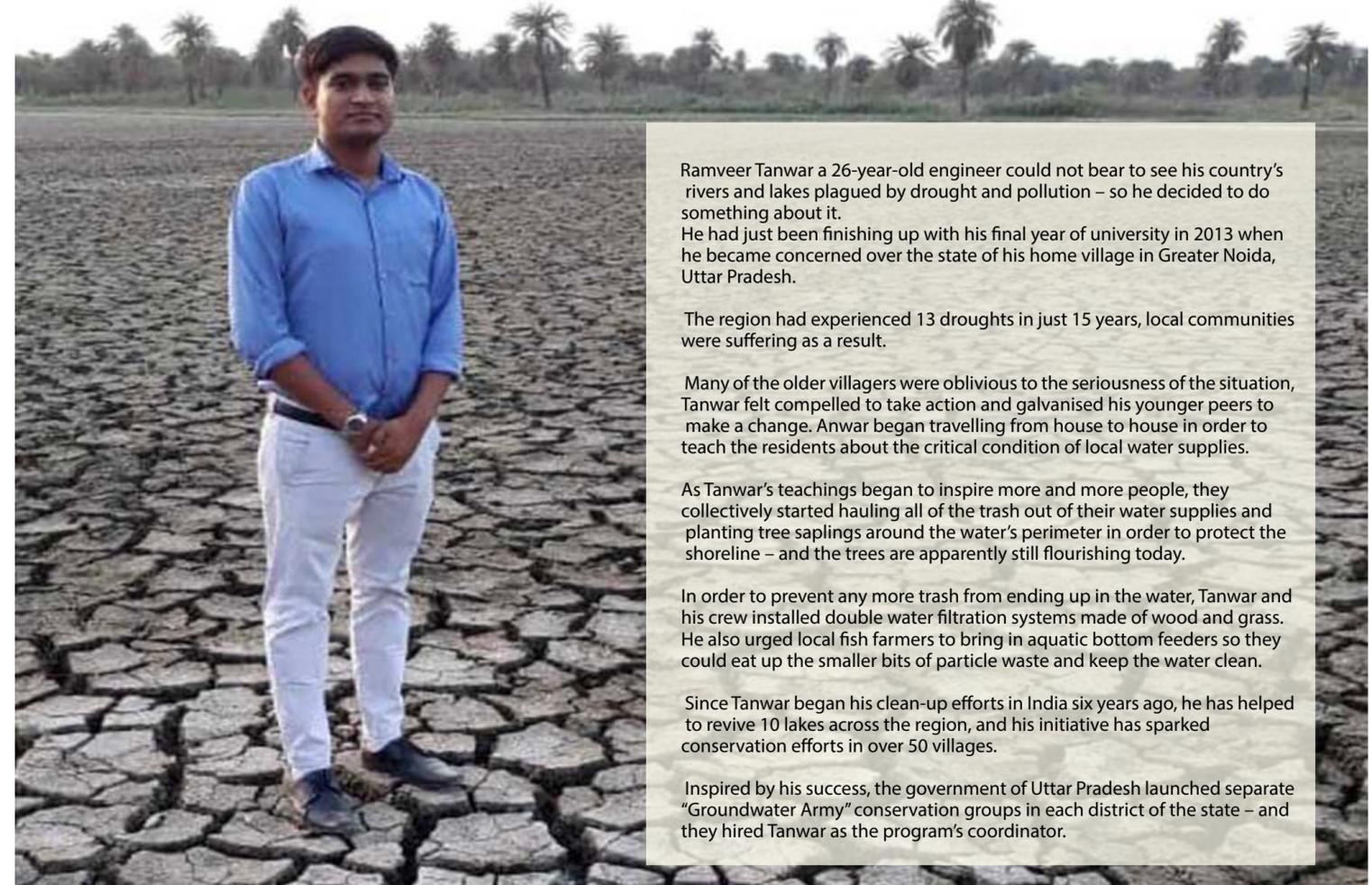
Does the bill go far enough?

No, argue Southall Black Sisters (SBS), along with over 80 organisations, individuals and MPs who have urged the Joint Committee on Human Rights, which is currently scrutinising the bill, to ensure it extends protection to everyone who is suffering from abuse across the UK.

The bill, at present, only applies to England and Wales excluding migrant women – as well as women in Northern Ireland. In our view (SBS), such exclusion amounts to discrimination and potentially breaches the UK's domestic and international human rights obligations.

What does he love about me?  
My 'cute little face'  
He is punching  
Above  
His weight  
When we're in bed  
It is hard  
Not to lose control  
He is so desperately keen  
For a lover  
Leaving racy messages  
In case I am  
Searching  
My phone  
He feasts his eyes on  
My every movement  
He knows  
Me  
Better than  
Anyone  
He now wishes that he'd married  
The moment we set eyes on each other  
We were so instantly in love

(Now read it from bottom to top)



Ramveer Tanwar a 26-year-old engineer could not bear to see his country's rivers and lakes plagued by drought and pollution – so he decided to do something about it. He had just been finishing up with his final year of university in 2013 when he became concerned over the state of his home village in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

The region had experienced 13 droughts in just 15 years, local communities were suffering as a result.

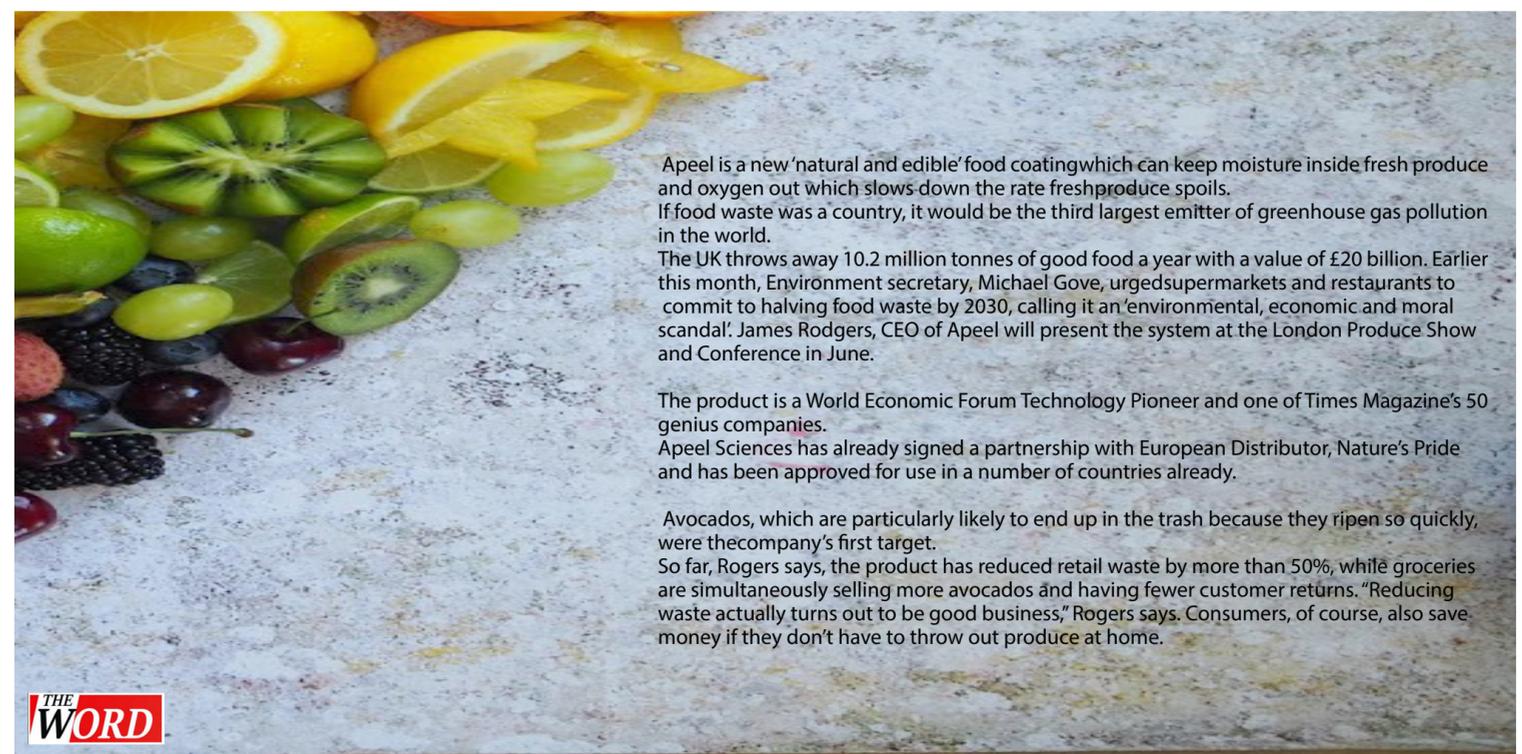
Many of the older villagers were oblivious to the seriousness of the situation, Tanwar felt compelled to take action and galvanised his younger peers to make a change. Anwar began travelling from house to house in order to teach the residents about the critical condition of local water supplies.

As Tanwar's teachings began to inspire more and more people, they collectively started hauling all of the trash out of their water supplies and planting tree saplings around the water's perimeter in order to protect the shoreline – and the trees are apparently still flourishing today.

In order to prevent any more trash from ending up in the water, Tanwar and his crew installed double water filtration systems made of wood and grass. He also urged local fish farmers to bring in aquatic bottom feeders so they could eat up the smaller bits of particle waste and keep the water clean.

Since Tanwar began his clean-up efforts in India six years ago, he has helped to revive 10 lakes across the region, and his initiative has sparked conservation efforts in over 50 villages.

Inspired by his success, the government of Uttar Pradesh launched separate "Groundwater Army" conservation groups in each district of the state – and they hired Tanwar as the program's coordinator.



Apeel is a new 'natural and edible' food coating which can keep moisture inside fresh produce and oxygen out which slows down the rate fresh produce spoils. If food waste was a country, it would be the third largest emitter of greenhouse gas pollution in the world.

The UK throws away 10.2 million tonnes of good food a year with a value of £20 billion. Earlier this month, Environment secretary, Michael Gove, urged supermarkets and restaurants to commit to halving food waste by 2030, calling it an 'environmental, economic and moral scandal'. James Rodgers, CEO of Apeel will present the system at the London Produce Show and Conference in June.

The product is a World Economic Forum Technology Pioneer and one of Times Magazine's 50 genius companies. Apeel Sciences has already signed a partnership with European Distributor, Nature's Pride and has been approved for use in a number of countries already.

Avocados, which are particularly likely to end up in the trash because they ripen so quickly, were the company's first target. So far, Rodgers says, the product has reduced retail waste by more than 50%, while groceries are simultaneously selling more avocados and having fewer customer returns. "Reducing waste actually turns out to be good business," Rodgers says. Consumers, of course, also save money if they don't have to throw out produce at home.

# Three people dead after eating contaminated sandwiches

Why is it a Whole Lotta Good?



Three people have died after eating hospital sandwiches contaminated with listeria, Public Health England has said.

A further three hospital patients have contracted the infection and a probe has been launched into how the outbreak occurred.

Listeria is a bug that can cause an illness like the flu. It can be dangerous for a number of groups including pregnant women, unborn babies and new babies and people with a compromised immune systems,

The deaths occurred at Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust and Aintree University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

Officials said that the health risk to the general public was low, as listeria infection in healthy people can pass either unnoticed or with a "very mild illness." "Individuals should only seek medical attention if they develop symptoms," a Public Health England spokesperson said.

Listeriosis symptoms include diarrhoea, nausea, abdominal pain, severe headaches, fevers, and stiffness. All six of the identified listeriosis cases occurred in seriously ill hospital patients.

The strain has been linked to pre-packaged sandwiches and salads supplied by The Good Food Chain, which has voluntarily ceased production while a health probe into the outbreak continues.

The company used meat in its products from North Country Cooked Meats. Public Health England said the meat provided by the business had since tested positive for listeria. North Country Cooked Meats and North Country Quality Foods, its distributor, have also voluntarily ceased production. All affected products have been withdrawn from hospitals following the outbreak.

The Good Food Chain supplies universities, businesses and sporting venues with sandwiches. On their website, they state: "We're proud to be revolutionising sandwiches for healthcare patients.

"Giving you more for less - making them fresh, tasty, nutritious, attractive and incredible value for money - is our mission.

"Our products are designed around today's patients - to give them a coffee shop style sandwich in bed."

Listeriosis cases are rare and in most people will produce, at worst, mild symptoms of gastroenteritis that usually last a short time without the need for treatment.

Public Health England and Health Protection Scotland have written to their respective NHS Trusts and Boards to ensure that they are following appropriate food storage and handling protocols, following the outbreak.

## Labour is facing calls to suspend its new MP amid a row over anti-semitism just hours after she was elected.



Lisa Forbes saw off the Brexit Party by 683 votes to hold the seat, which was vacated when voters triggered a by-election against Fiona Onasanya.

Onasanya became the first parliamentarian to be removed from office after a recall petition, triggering the byelection in her Peterborough seat after being jailed for perverting the course of justice.

Ms Forbes received 10,484 votes, with the Brexit Party's Mike Greene on 9,801 and Tory Paul Bristow on 7,243.

But the new MP came under pressure during the campaign after it was revealed she liked a Facebook post saying Theresa May had a "Zionist Slave Masters agenda" alongside a video of children praying after the New Zealand terror attack.

In another comment she said she had "enjoyed reading" a thread that said Isis was created "by the CIA and Mossad".

It was also discovered that Ms Forbes signed a letter calling on Labour bosses to reject the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-semitism.

She later apologised for the comments, saying: "I apologise wholeheartedly for not calling out these posts. I liked a video of school children praying in solidarity with the Christchurch attacks, not the views expressed in the accompanying text. I am sorry."

It comes as the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) prepares to conduct an investigation into Labour over complaints of anti-semitism in the party.

Following her by-election victory, the Jewish Labour Movement said Ms Forbes needed to go "far further" in her apology and criticised party bosses for having "consistently failed to take a zero-tolerance approach to anti-Jewish hate."

A spokesperson added: "This has encouraged a culture to develop where not only is it acceptable for someone who has shared racist material and rejected the internationally accepted IHRA definition of anti-semitism to be a member, but they can advance politically and gain public office."

"Labour's newest MP is a perfect example of this. Ms Forbes will have to go far, far further than her statement at the weekend to demonstrate to our members and the Jewish community that she isn't racist against Jews.

## Michael Gove: Tory leadership hopeful says he 'deeply regrets' taking cocaine

Conservative leadership candidate Michael Gove has said he "deeply regrets" taking cocaine "on several occasions". The environment secretary said he took the drug at social gatherings when he was a young journalist. "I took drugs on several occasions at social events more than 20 years ago. At the time I was a young journalist. It was a mistake. I look back and think, 'I wish I hadn't done that.'" He added: "It was 20 years ago and, yes, it was a mistake. But I don't believe that past mistakes disqualify you," unless you are a teacher. The disclosure comes ahead of the release of a new biography of Mr Gove. The MP reportedly first admitted taking cocaine when he was quizzed by political strategists during the brief 2016 Tory leadership contest.

Gove is not the only leadership candidate to admit their previous drug use, the former Work and Pensions Secretary Esther McVey has become the latest Tory leadership candidate to admit to having taken drugs days after Rory Stewart apologised for previously taking opium at a wedding in Iran 15 years ago. Favourite to succeed Theresa May Boris Johnson admitted to GQ magazine that he tried cocaine and cannabis as a teenager and Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt told the Times he thought he tried a cannabis lassi whilst back in even Andrea Leadsom admitted to having smoked weed at university, but said she had "never smoked it again since". Dominic Raab, another contender for party leader, has previously admitted smoking cannabis as a student. He told the BBC he admired Gove's honesty.



## Theresa May has formally resigned as Conservative Party leader to allow the official start of the contest to replace her

Officials from the Tories' 1922 Committee confirmed in a statement that the prime minister had quit as leader.

Downing Street has been keen to make Mrs May's formal resignation as Tory leader a low-key event, with the prime minister likely to stay in office for many more weeks.

Sources suggested it was important that Mrs May remains PM in the public's mind. The 1922 Committee said it was now inviting nominations from Conservative MPs who wish to take over from Mrs May. They have until 5pm on Monday to formally apply.

Those vying to replace her include five members of her cabinet; Home Secretary Sajid Javid, Health Secretary Matt Hancock, Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt, International Development Secretary Rory Stewart and Environment Secretary Michael Gove. Her former ministers Boris Johnson, Dominic Raab, Andrea Leadsom, Esther McVey, and Sam Gyimah have also entered the race, along with David Cameron's former whip Mark Harper.

Mrs May's last appearance on the world stage as prime minister could be the G20 summit in Japan on 28-29 June.



## Rory Stewart, has promised to introduce "National Service" for all 16-year-olds, should he be elected Prime Minister.

In a video released on his Twitter page, Rory Stewart proudly announced that "On the day that I take over as Prime Minister, I will launch a National Citizen Service." Stewart then goes on to explain that his plan would involve all 16-year-olds being forced to spend four weeks "learning skills" and "giving back to the community".

The potential future Prime Minister claims that his plan would be "a fantastic way of bringing people together" and would instill a "sense of national pride" in youngsters. Unsurprisingly, The Conservative Party MP's plan to force youngsters into a form of National Service didn't exactly go down particularly well with many online. You can't afford a flat, you're

drowning in debt and the planet is burning - so here's the state forcing you into doing stuff you don't actually want to help with your "anxiety".

Why on earth are centrists/centre-right Tories so obsessed with National Service? Chuka Umunna wants to bring it back too. Forcing young people to do labour for the state is the OPPOSITE of liberalism.

Young people: "we'll never get on the housing ladder, scrapping student grants has punished poorer students, tuition fees mean more debt, the NHS is on its knees and we are part of a generation which will be worse off than the last"

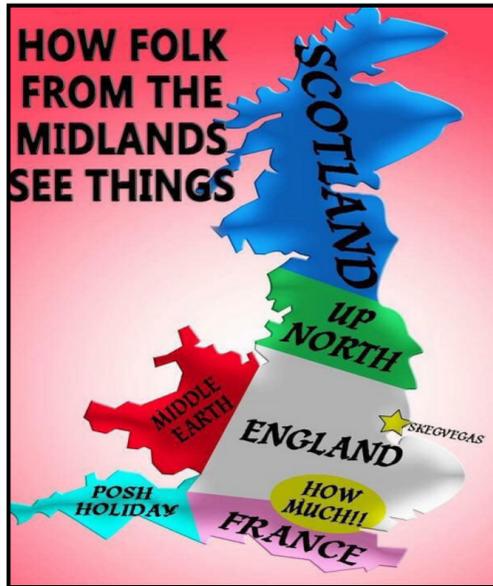
Yet this.

is what Rory Stewart prioritises?



# SATIRE

# QUIZZ



**William HILL**  
**TORY LEADERSHIP**  
**LATEST ODDS**

NAME	EVENES
BORIS JOHNSON	
JIMMY SAVILE	10/1
RUPERT MURDOCH	20/1
MARGARET THATCHER	40/1
ERNST STAVRO BLOFELD	50/1
HITLER	60/1
LORD VOLDEMORT	100/1
RAMSAY BOLTON	300/1
PROFESSOR MORIARTY	400/1
CAPTAIN JAMES HOOK	500/1
CTHULHU	600/1
COUNT DRACULA	700/1
CRUELLA DE VIL	900/1
SAURON	1000/1
IAIN DUNCAN SMITH	1000/1
SATAN	1000/1

**Conservatives**

Next Tory leader, latest odds:

- The one who lied on a bus 6-1
- The one who lied about impact assessments 8-1
- The one who lied to Parliament and resigned 10-1
- The one who lied and didn't resign 15-1
- The one who destroyed the NHS 20-1
- The one who didn't know we were an island 8-1

Stafford 4 JC

## Can You Spot the 10 Differences



## The Pub Quiz

1. Where can you find London bridge today?
2. What colour is Spock's blood?
3. Carl and the Passions changed band name to what?
4. What is Dick Grayson better known as?
5. How did Alfred Nobel make his money?
6. What's a group of owls called?
7. Who or what lives in a formicarium?
8. What is the literal translation of pot-pouri?
9. If you suffer from cynanthropy what do you think you are?
10. What was the first frozen food available in Britain in 1937?



## Where's Boris



## Picture Quiz Famous Faces



- Answers:
1. David Beckham
  2. Donald Trump
  3. Beach Boys
  4. Prince William
  5. Cristiano Ronaldo
  6. Hillary Clinton
  7. Ants
  8. Jennifer Lopez
  9. Vladimir Putin
  10. Madonna
  11. Justin Bieber
  12. Katy Perry



**W**ith the likes of John Bolton and Elliot Abrams directing US foreign policy, the US government has abandoned all pretense of “plausible denial” for its illegal regime-change initiatives. The “humanitarian” bombs may not be falling but, make no mistake, the US is waging a full-bore war against the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela. Back in 1998, Venezuela had had nearly a half a century of two-party rule. A duopoly, not unlike the Republican and Democratic parties in the US, alternated in power imposing a neoliberal order. Poor and working people experienced deteriorating conditions of austerity regardless of which party was in power.

Then third-party candidate Hugo Chávez was elected president. He initiated what has become known as the Bolivarian Revolution, which has inspired the peoples of the world while engendering the enmity of both the US imperialists and the Venezuelan elites. This article explores the contributions, shortcomings, and lessons of the Bolivarian Revolution’s two decades, in the context of the US regime-change efforts from its inception to current attempts by the US to install the unelected Juan Guaidó as Venezuela’s president.

Forging a new national identity based on a people’s history.

History, it is said, is written by the victors. The historical narrative typically reflects the class that enslaved the Africans, dispossessed the Indigenous, and exploited the workers. There are exceptions. In the US, we have the legacy of Howard Zinn’s *People’s History of the United States*.

In Venezuela, Chávez revised his country’s history and thereby wrought a sea change of national consciousness. Prior to Chávez, Venezuela was arguably the most sycophantically pro-US country in South America. Miami was looked to for cultural affirmation; baseball was the national pastime.

Chávez took special inspiration from the leader of the South American struggle against Spanish colonialism and named his project after Simón Bolívar, known as the “Liberator.” Bolívar was not merely a national leader, but a true internationalist. The Bolivarian project is about the integration of nations based on mutual respect and sovereignty. Bolívar presciently declared in 1829: “The United States appears to be destined by Providence to plague Latin America with misery in the name of liberty.”

This new Venezuelan national identity and consciousness, based on their history told from the bottom up, may prove to be the most lasting legacy of the Bolivarian Revolution.

Inclusive society.

Fundamental to the Bolivarian project has been the inclusion of the formerly dispossessed: especially women, people of color, and youth. As professor of Latin American history at NYU Greg Grandin observed, this inclusiveness has awakened “a deep fear of the primal hatred, racism, and fury of the opposition, which for now is directed at the agents of Maduro’s state but really springs from Chávez’s expansion of the public sphere to include Venezuela’s poor.”

For example, when an opposition demonstration came upon an Afro-descendant street peddler, he was presumed to be a chavista because he was dark-skinned and poor. The opposition demonstrators poured gasoline over him and set him on fire. Then the horrific image was posted on social media.

A less gruesome example occurred at the Venezuelan Embassy in Washington, DC. North American activists in solidarity with the Bolivarian government protected the embassy in accordance with international law from being usurped by representatives of US-backed Juan Guaidó for 36 days. Before the protectors were evicted by the US Secret Service on May 16, counter-protesting opposition expatriate Venezuelans would wave bananas at African American solidarity activists, chanting “go back to the zoo.” Such is the racist loathing that fuels the Venezuelan opposition.

Special option for poor and working people.

Why should a state of all the people have a special option for those who are poor and working? Because these are the people who most need the social welfare services of the state. Billionaires don’t need government schools, hospitals, and housing, but the masses of Venezuelan people do.

The Bolivarian project had halved poverty and cut extreme poverty by two-thirds, while providing free health care and education. On May 27, the United Nations cited Venezuela as one of the top countries for guaranteeing the right to housing, recognizing the over 2.5 million public housing units built.

Democracy promotion.

The role of a state aspiring to be socialist is not simply to provide social welfare, but to empower the people. The Bolivarian project has experimented in what is called “protagonistic democracy”: cooperatives, citizens councils, and communes. Some succeeded; others did not. One of the first priorities was to eradicate illiteracy. The Bolivarian state has promoted community radio stations, low-cost computers, internet cafés for senior citizens, and other venues for popular expression. Venezuela now has one of the highest rates of higher education attendance in the world. These are not the hallmarks of a dictatorship.

21st century socialism.

More than even Bernie Sanders, the Bolivarian Revolution put socialism on the agenda for the 21st century. For this we owe the Venezuelans a debt of gratitude, not for providing us with a playbook to be copied, but for demonstrating that the creation of a better world is principally a process.

This was not the primary transgression placing Venezuela in the crosshairs of US imperialism. Promoting socialism may be regarded as blasphemy, but the original sin is the following. Multi-polar world and regional integration.

The greatest challenge to the Empire, to the world’s sole superpower, is a multi-polar world based on regional integration. In 1999, Chávez helped strengthen OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries). In 2004, he helped initiate ALBA (Alliance for Our Peoples of America), followed by PetroCaribe in 2005, UNASUR (Union of South American Nations) in 2008, and CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) in 2011. Venezuela has consistently demonstrated solidarity with the Palestinian struggle and other oppressed peoples.

When the small fish organize, the big fish gets nasty. Above all, this is why the world’s hegemon has targeted Venezuela.

The traumatic transition from Chávez to Maduro

Chávez, suffering from cancer, died on March 5, 2013. The reaction in Venezuela was polarized. The elites danced in the street. The majority, composed mainly of poor and working people, were traumatized.

The bully to the north, smelling blood, saw an opportunity. The US had conspired to overthrow the Bolivarian Revolution from the beginning, backing a short-lived coup in 2002 followed by a boss’s strike. With the passing of Chávez, the imperialist offensive doubled down.

A snap election was called according to the Venezuelan Constitution for April 14 to replace the deceased president. Chávez, anticipating his demise, had designated Nicolás Maduro as his successor. Although polls had shown Maduro with a 10% lead going into the election campaign, he won with a narrow 1.5% margin.

I was in Caracas as an election observer when Maduro won. My observation of the election was like that of former US President Jimmy Carter, who had declared a year before that of the 92 elections the Carter Center had observed, “The election process in Venezuela is the best in the world.” Within minutes of the announcement of Maduro’s victory, the main opposition candidate, Henrique Capriles, came on TV to denounce the election as fraudulent and call on the people to “show their rage.” Thus began the opposition’s violent offensive, the *guarimbas*, to

The opposition charges of fraud were investigated by Venezuela’s National Electoral Council (CNE) and found groundless, based on a 100% audit of the electronic vote backed up with paper receipts. Capriles still maintained the charge of fraud, and the US became the sole nation to refuse to recognize the Maduro presidency. The opposition violence continued, taking over 40 lives. Upon assuming the presidency, Maduro inherited existing problems of crime, inefficiency, corruption, inflation, and a dysfunctional currency exchange system.

These were problems that existed during the Chávez period and even prior to that. These problems persist in varying degrees to the present, despite concerted programs to address them. President Maduro has had his feet held to the fire by the imperialists from the get-go. Far from having a respite, shortly into his presidency, Venezuela was hit with petroleum prices plummeting from a high of nearly \$125/barrel to a low of close to \$25/barrel. Despite efforts to diversify the economy, Venezuela remains dependent on oil exports for most of its foreign exchange, which is used to fund the social programs.

US regime-change war intensifies The US regime-change war continues to intensify with increasingly harsh sanctions. These unilateral measures are illegal under the charters of the United Nations and the Organization of American States, because they constitute collective punishment. Trump’s security advisor, John Bolton, elucidates: “It’s like in Star Wars, when Darth Vader grips someone. That’s what we’re doing economically with the (Venezuelan) regime.”

In 2013, the US waited until after the presidential election in Venezuela to declare it fraudulent. Taking no chances, the US declared the 2018 election fraudulent four months before it was held. Joining Trump in this rush to pre-judgment were eleven Democratic senators including Bernie Sanders.

The charges of fraud were based on three issues: setting the date of the election, disqualifying opposition parties, and barring opposition candidates. Maduro had continually called for dialogue with the opposition to set the election date. But each time a date was mutually agreed upon, the opposition backed out after their US handlers intervened. As for the disqualified parties, they had lost their ballot status because they had boycotted past elections. They then refused to reapply for ballot status, because their intention was not to participate in the electoral process.

Opposition candidates, namely Leopoldo López and Henrique Capriles, were barred from running, because they had committed criminal acts that warranted their exclusion. López clearly incited violence that resulted in deaths and would have received far harsher treatment had he committed such acts in the US. Capriles was convicted of economic fraud, “administrative irregularities,” during his tenure as a state governor. While the courts found Capriles guilty, this action against a political opponent damaged the Maduro government’s international image.

Overall, the charges of fraud by the radical right opposition were mainly pretenses to delegitimize the upcoming election. However, several moderate opposition candidates did run, defying the US demand that the election be boycotted. Henri Falcón was the leading opposition candidate to run in 2018, championing a neoliberal platform of privatization, austerity for workers, and subservience to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The US, which would ordinarily gleefully embrace such a platform, instead threatened Falcón with sanctions for breaking the election boycott. The explanation for this seemingly anomalous behavior by the US government is that the stakes in Venezuela are much higher than just the presidency. The regime-change project is to exterminate the Bolivarian Revolution, reverse its social gains, and return Venezuela to a subservient client state where the world’s largest oil reserves would be freely exploited by US corporations.

Orwellian world of US foreign policy

As CEO of the capitalist world order (that is what is meant by exercising “American world leadership”), then US President Obama declared in 2015 that Venezuela constituted an imminent and extraordinary threat to US national security. He didn’t mean a military or even an economic threat. That would have been preposterous. What Obama was implicitly confirming is that Venezuela poses a “threat of a good example.” Venezuela is at the top of US imperialism’s hit list because of the good things, not for its faults.

President Trump has intensified Obama’s regime-change policies aimed at Venezuela. Condemning the Bolivarian Revolution, Trump opined: “Socialism is not about justice, it’s not about equality, it’s not about lifting up the poor.” Might he have been really thinking of capitalism? His national security advisor John Bolton tweeted that removing the democratically elected President Maduro by violent coup and installing the US-anointed and unelected Guaidó is protecting the Venezuelan constitution.

On the other side of the aisle, Senator Sanders accused Chávez of being a “dead communist dictator.” Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez described the US regime-change war as a contest of “authoritarian regime versus democracy,” with the questionable presumption that the US is the democracy.

In the Orwellian terminology of US politicians and corporate media, a fraudulent election is one where the people vote their choice. A dictator is the democratically elected choice of the people. And the so-called dictator is an authoritarian if he resists rather than surrenders to the bullying power.

Surrender does not appear to be on the agenda for the Bolivarian Revolution, with US asset Guaidó forced to negotiate in Norway after his failed coup attempts. Despite the suffocating sanctions and threats of military action, the poor and working people in Venezuela who are most adversely affected by the US war against them remain the strongest supporters of their elected government.



**USA**  
Justin Bieber has challenged Tom Cruise to a UFC-style cage fight and said the actor would "never live it down" if he turned down the match.

**Canada**  
Remains washed up on a Canadian beach belonged to shipwreck victims lost at sea while fleeing the Irish Famine, the Canadian government has confirmed.

**UK**  
The UK and South Korea have signed an outline free trade agreement (FTA) that seeks to maintain existing trade arrangements post-Brexit.

**Syria**  
Kurds in Syria hand over orphans of French Isis fighters to France Transfer of children, oldest of whom is 10, took place in Ain Issa on Sunday, says official

**Sudan**  
Millions of people in Sudan have joined a general strike called by pro-reform groups, shutting down the centre of cities across the country despite a wave of arrests and intimidation.  
The massive shutdown was called to take place on Sunday, the first day of the working week, and is aimed at relaunching an opposition movement battered by a brutal crackdown and forcing the country's new military leaders to resign.

**Hong Kong**  
Police in Hong Kong have used pepper spray to disperse protesters embroiled in violence outside the territory's parliament building.  
They were part of an earlier demonstration on Sunday calling for authorities to block a controversial extradition bill that is feared could be used by China to make critics "disappear".  
The bill, if passed into law, will allow suspected criminals in the territory to be sent to the mainland to face trial.

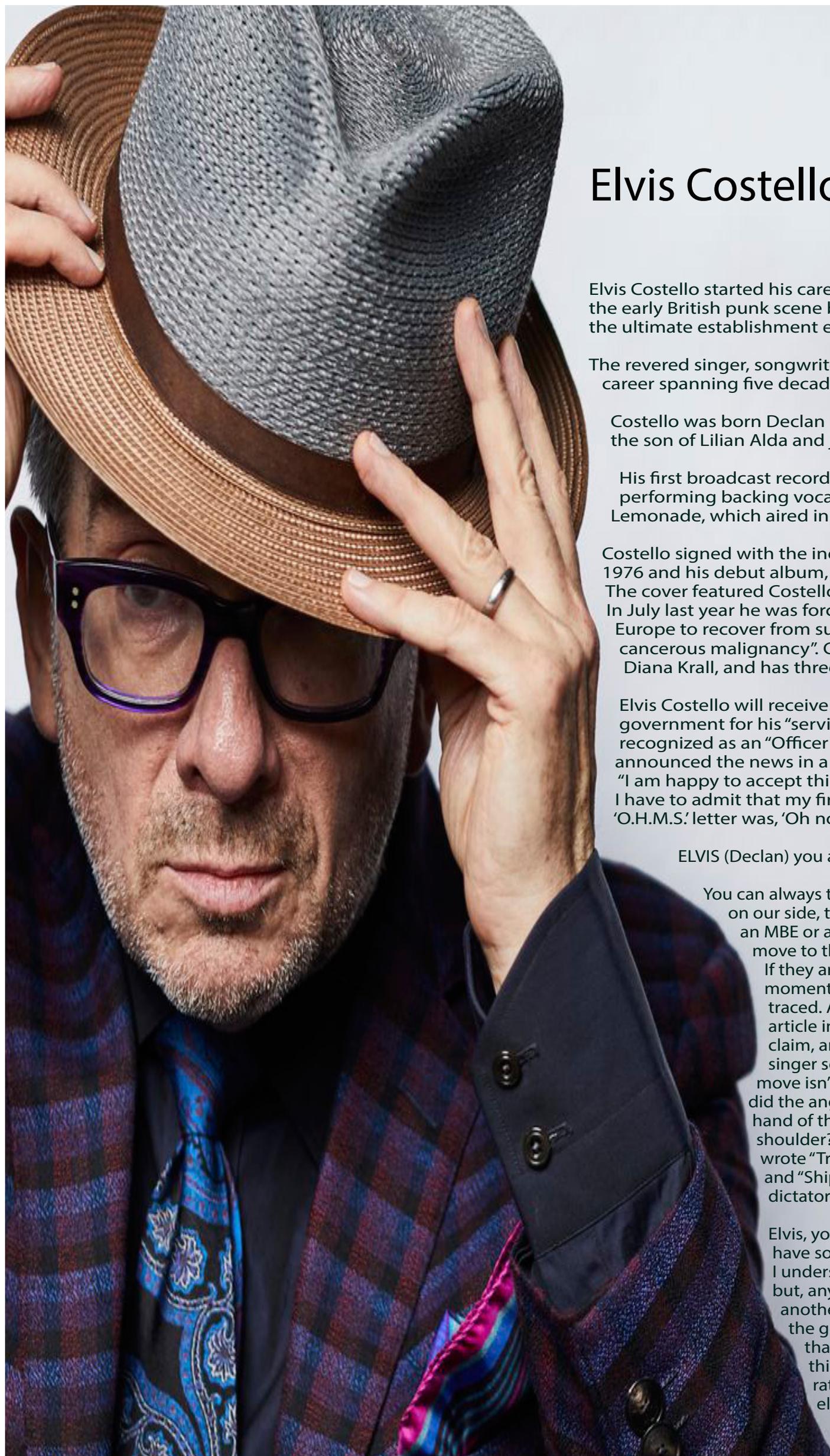
**USA**  
One person died when a helicopter crashed onto the roof of a Midtown Manhattan building

**USA**  
Dallas crane collapse kills one, injures six others.  
Search and rescue operations are still under way at the site in Dallas, one of several areas of Texas damaged by

**Brazil**  
Anglo-Australian miner BHP Billiton, is facing a \$7 billion damages claim for being "woefully negligent" leading up to the 2015 Brazil dam failure.

**Kenya**  
Wild crowds for Kenya's 'humane' bull-fights. A tradition of bull-fighting exists. Originally practised to mark important events such as funerals, the sport has evolved into a more competitive and at times profitable pursuit.

# INTERNATIONAL NEWS ROUNDUP



## Elvis Costello Goes Soft

Elvis Costello started his career being associated with the early British punk scene but has now received the ultimate establishment endorsement of a royal honour.

The revered singer, songwriter and producer is recognised for a career spanning five decades with an OBE for services to music.

Costello was born Declan Patrick MacManus in London in 1954, the son of Lilian Alda and jazz trumpeter Ross MacManus.

His first broadcast recording was alongside his father, performing backing vocals for an advert for R White's Lemonade, which aired in 1974.

Costello signed with the independent label Stiff Records in 1976 and his debut album, *My Aim Is True*, arrived a year later. The cover featured Costello in his trademark oversized glasses. In July last year he was forced to cancel six tour dates in Europe to recover from surgery for a "small but very aggressive cancerous malignancy". Costello is married to his third wife, Diana Krall, and has three children

Elvis Costello will receive his O.B.E. Award from the British government for his "services to music." Costello, who will be recognized as an "Officer of the Order of the British Empire." announced the news in a blog post on his website. "I am happy to accept this very surprising honour," I have to admit that my first reaction, upon receiving an 'O.H.M.S.' letter was, 'Oh no, they've finally tumbled me.'"

ELVIS (Declan) you are a sell out!

You can always tell when someone isn't on our side, they are a Sir, an OBE, an MBE or a Lord. They start there move to the right wing imperceptibly. If they are a politician then the very moment of their credibility can be traced. A vote for a war, an article in the Sun, an inflated expenses claim, an outside directorship... With a singer songwriter like Elvis Costello the move isn't always so easy to see. When did the angry young punk feel the dead hand of the inbred lizard people on his shoulder? How could the man who wrote "Trample the dirt" and "Shipbuilding" take the hereditary dictator's shilling?

Elvis, your aim is no longer true, you have sold out and gone to Chelsea. I understand that accidents will happen, but, any Kings shilling? Get yourself, another fool, you have joined, the goon squad. Hearing the news that Elvis Costello still thinks there is A British Empire, I would rather be anywhere else but here today.