

UNBELIEVABLE! JOHNSON IS STILL PRIME MINISTER.

This is not about Johnson. It speaks to a fragile and split Conservative Party unable to act against its leader despite the fact that he has become a grotesque electoral liability. Seems Johnson is doing to the Tory Party what he did to the economy and democracy - wreck it.

The blue line in the Tory Party, which no Prime Minister can afford to cross, is their popularity with the electorate. Johnson has crossed that line with both feet and of course his mouth. His popularity with the electorate has crashed. Nearly two out of three Brits disapprove of him as Prime Minister. And yet he still stands in Parliament facing useless Starmer at Question Time, who also seems to have also caught the Tory disease, not difficult for him, by failing to call on Johnson to resign.

It was always said that the Conservative Party would forgive Johnson his many transgressions and stupidities provided he brought in the votes. This is no longer the case. Worse he has been caught out by the worst of emotional transgressions, unforgivably attending or sanctioning a Xmas Party in No. 10, while the rest of the country were separated from their loved ones by a stringent lockdown. Of all the issues that could burn a Prime Minister, this is the one. The Grandees in the Tory Party must have known such a situation was bound to arise, and they must be kicking themselves for allowing Johnson to remain in post long enough for something like this to explode across newspaper headlines.

It is unlikely that Johnson's groveling apology will carry any water nor will his Plan B. Especially when it seems he is willing to throw his underlings to the wolves in order to save his own skin. What the electorate hates more than being deceived is being deceived by a coward. Had Johnson come clean, something the entitled in society find excruciatingly difficult, he may have saved his skin, but to continue to claim he did not know about the party until the ITV video was released, shows his contempt for the British People who he has always treated as malleable fools. The Health Minister, the devious Javid should take note. Clearly, he understands that if Johnson falls so does the clique around him, which is why he echoes Johnson's claims that the Prime Minister did not know about a party that did not happen.

Johnson, the neo-liberals' choice of fools.

To understand Johnson it is necessary to understand the mind of the neo-liberal. The neo-liberal seeks to uncivilize society. They seek to create a small state, to crush regulations, to free markets and to imprison the working class. To free the market and give free reign to capital, society must be imprisoned. They are the antithesis of everything the working class has fought for and sometimes achieved. The welfare state, regulations to protect workers or the environment or the consumer, public-good investment and civil liberties, these are all the product of the class struggle, concessions hard fought for but easily lost.

Because neo-liberalism uncivilizes society it is fraught with contradictions. The longer it endures the more the welfare and health of society is imperiled and the more probable the incidence of tragedies. Neo-liberalism is the single biggest cause of failed societies. This is becoming clear with the Grenfell Enquiry, where the worst culprit was left to last. Now that the government is finally in the dock it is becoming clear what lay behind this avoidable tragedy; it was the deregulation and relaxation of building/fire standards by a willing government. All that "red tape" which was strangling business according to Cameron. Well Mr. Cameron, the absence of red tape burnt many people alive.

How to deal with the eventual train crash that is neo-liberalism? The cumulative attack on society by the neo-liberals leads to whole sections of society becoming desperately disenchanted. How to head them off and insulate them from socialist ideas? This is where populism comes in. Populism is based on two principles. Firstly the promise of restoration or renewal, and secondly, the holding up of targets for the masses to vent their growing anger on, hence the culture wars.

Put bluntly, whereas the left, using class politics, intends to direct anger **upwards** against all those who perpetrate and benefit from the misery of society, the mission of the populist right is to direct anger **sideways** against those suffering the same miseries - immigrants, foreigners and anyone with more Eumelanin in their skin. That is why the right will always be supported financially by the capitalists, even if they have to hold their noses to do so, because they know the right will divert anger and attention away from them. And they will always be helped by localism. The poverty of that section of workers preyed on by the populists narrows their horizons both materially and intellectually. The local community becomes their base of operations - schools, neighbourhoods, businesses, and any venue where people 'different' from them can be found.

This is what Brexit was all about. The cause of the desperation of sections of the working class was laid at the door of Brussels not the City of London, despite the cuts following the financial crash being orchestrated by Westminster on behalf of the British Banking System. And having apportioned blame, Brexit was cast as a project of national renewal, a new patriotic dawn.

Except that it has turned out to be an economic disaster. That is the problem with neo-liberalism, once they have played the populist card, they have nothing left. Populism is always short lived. Like a sparkler it burns brightly, furiously, and then goes out. It always over-promises and under-delivers. It is soon found out, as Johnson has been. After all slogans are mere words, its actions wot costs money.

In the end populism has only one support, the lack of opposition which allowed them to get into power in the first place. Not only has neo-liberalism given rise to populism, but it has also disorientated the left. It has forced the left to abandon class politics and to rummage around in personal politics. This is grist to the mill of the culture wars. The left can be portrayed as being more interested in gender politics, statues and the like and not about helping those the populists claim as their own.

The capitalist class is split.

It is clear that there is a generalized attempt to nail Johnson. No. 10 is leaking like a sieve. So much is coming out, they may as well place a microphone and camera in Downing Street linked directly to news outlets. The latest revelation is that No. 10 favoured the evacuation of cats and dogs before humans in Afghanistan something that Johnson has denied up to now.

It is clear the establishment is split. That includes the capitalist class as well as their state and supporting institutions. The interest of the capitalist class is not uniform. There are differences in their ranks depending on where they draw their profits from. Whole sections of British capital, the more established sections, were integrated into the European market while the City of London, the worlds' then biggest financial center, also served Europe. Johnson represented the outsiders and the aspirant petty bourgeoisie together with the non-domiciled sections of international capital. The former saw opportunities arising from Brexit and further privatizations, while the latter saw Brexit as the means to weaken if not break up the EU interventionist super-state while protecting their own non-existent tax status.

With the failure of the Brexit economic project, it is the established domiciled capitalist class that is in the ascendancy. They are asserting themselves. Their biggest handicap is their traditional party of choice, the Conservative Party, and its inability to purge the populist wing from positions of power. A Tory party with an off-red wing and a blue wing was not only going to be unwieldy at the best of times, but fatally flawed in the worst. It is likely the capitalist class would not be averse to the dysfunctional Tory Party losing office to sort itself out especially now that Starmer has reshaped the Labour Party in their image. What is clear is that Johnson has damaged the economy to a greater extent than Jeremy Corbyn ever would have done.

Afghanistan.

The evacuation of British collaborators and others by the British and the US was always going to be stage managed by these imperialists. It was not a humanitarian exercise. Rather it was a political pledge to future collaborators that if you help 'us' with further invasions, we will look after and protect you. It was a just enough of an evacuation to underline this pledge.

This much has been made clear by a whistleblower to the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Select Committee investigating the withdrawal fiasco. Raphael Marshall wrote that only 5% of the applicants were evacuated. He also pointed out that both the Foreign Minister and the Civil Service Head of the Foreign Office were on holiday at the time. This was not out of character. It only is, if one assumes that Britain was serious about saving all those who wanted to leave. This was a military and political evacuation limited to those who directly served the military or its off-shoots in Afghanistan.

It was designed to minimize not maximize the number of escapees. Even then, once the spotlight on evacuations was turned off, the 'lucky' refugees became the forgotten people. Stuck in hotels, moved to remote areas, plagued by the lack of support networks, all of this has contributed to melancholy. But then that is to be expected from an imperialist country once 'your use' to them has ended.

Keep on closing down democracy.

The turmoil in the Tory Party has not stopped a raft of oppressive legislation being rammed through parliament by a party still enjoying a substantial majority. The attack on civil liberties goes unrecognized by many in society. A columnist in the Financial Times put it sharply, all those Tory MPs who cry freedom and personal liberty and whose benchmark is the freedom not to wear a mask, none of them have opposed any of this legislation. What their actions have instead highlighted, is the difference between individual and civil liberties, between liberties linked to responsibility and liberties free of responsibility. In a class based society, individual liberty, or libertarianism, is the freedom of the individual capitalist to invest, to hire and fire, to consume as they see fit (the fruits of their property as the Human Rights Act puts it), to shrug off any public restraint and to ignore any harm.

We must not allow the issues of personal conduct to obscure this attack on our civil and political liberties. These politicians are scurrilous. They will always use distraction to their advantage. Nor can we count on a future Starmer government to reverse many of these restrictions. As in all cases, freedoms are won in the street.

Conclusion.

Johnson is trying to repeat his two-card trick. He is going to "turbo-charge the booster" campaign with vaccination sites popping up like Xmas trees. He is actually taking a huge gamble and over-relying on

results from the makers of the vaccines who have an interest in promoting multiple vaccines and covering their arse because they have not updated their vaccines.

We are weeks away from knowing whether in real life these vaccines will work against the latest variant. By this is meant, whether or not three vaccinations will prevent serious illness and therefore hospitalizations. The reason being that the Omicron is a 'vaccine escape' variant. A real test is coming, not only for this impulsive government desperate to show it is doing something, but also for the credibility of Big Pharma, and finally whether or not mRNA vaccines are the savior they are made out to be.

It could be the case that the immunity they provide is too narrow and too episodic, good for Big Pharma and its production runs, bad for the rest of us. Why else would Pfizer be proposing a fourth jab. Like a one armed boxer it seems it is jab, jab, jab, but no right hook. It could be the case that real life infections contradict the so called laboratory results put out by the likes of Pfizer. It could be the case that we return to old style vaccinations using a combination of the denatured virus and specific mRNA, but not the mRNA jab on its own because this does not produce a comprehensive T cell response which requires the body of the virus to prime the immune system. (This is not the Astra Zeneca virus which uses an adeno virus not the actual covid virus.) Our immune system is millions of years old; mRNA vaccines are only a few years old.

While it is an open question whether or not immunity will hinder Omicron, it is a fact that British society is becoming immune to Johnson and his mutant crew. It was always the case that the days of Britain's worst P.M. would be numbered once the bad economic news started piling up burying his promises - no tax rises, no pension cuts, fixing social care and fully funding the NHS including 40 new hospitals – all this is dust.

The only thing that has saved him thus far is his party which is paralyzed from the neck up. But maybe not. Maybe they are waiting for the results of the next two by-elections. After all losing a prime minister in the face of the pandemic may not be the done thing except in extremis. We shall see, whatever the case, Johnson is a dead duck Prime Minister, though he is likely to be the last to note this.

Brian Green, 9th December 2021.