

## Why I support the Labour Party

### Simon Perry

I am voting Labour because I am conservative. This means, I want to conserve human wellbeing and reject belief in destructive utopias. The centrist *status quo* is a destructive utopia: unwitting and unquestioning belief in infinite economic growth (in a finite planet) is, by definition, utopian. It is destructive because once all avenues of growth have been exhausted, profiteers turn to plunder our public institutions and dry-roast our planet. Since any right-minded nation would not allow this, a new economic ideology has emerged in the last generation.

It has no respect for democracy – but must maintain democratic appearances<sup>i</sup>. It enables wealthy donors to control governmental decisions (lobbyism)<sup>ii</sup>. It sues democracies for protecting people against profiteers (Ttip)<sup>iii</sup>. It creates massive ideological apparatus to ensure the public remain oblivious (PR).<sup>iv</sup> It removes regulations designed to protect people from predatory capitalism (deregulation). It raises money not by taxing the powerful but by reducing support for society's weakest members (austerity). It seizes public assets from which it might profit (privatisation). It creates legitimate anger amongst the populace, and directs that anger away from those who caused this crisis, to society's weakest members (populism). Although it penetrates the psyche of every modern person, like a cancer it remains almost undetectable until it is too late.

It is called Neoliberalism.

No major political party had the courage to challenge it, until in 2015 the Labour Party elected a leader to do just that. No, he is not the Messiah. But for the first time in a generation there is a major political party standing in defiance of this global, demonic force. And inevitably, its leader has become the most demonised, maligned, misreported figure in the history of British politics<sup>v</sup>. Such is the fate of any major leader to take this stand<sup>vi</sup>.

Neoliberal forces are an ecocidal boa-constrictor slowly crushing the life out of humanity. Meanwhile, the Church is oblivious, the prophets are silent, and the evangelists are preoccupied clipping the toenails of humanity and calling it 'salvation'. In our generation the Church has failed to stand against the 'principalities and powers.' It is high time we started.

Under Blair (whom Thatcher described as her 'proudest achievement') Labour came to treasure Thatcher's beloved Neoliberalism.

The Brexit and Conservative Parties uphold Neoliberal policies.

The Lib Dems remain complicit in the Neoliberal programme (if we consult voting records).

Change UK have done nothing to change the Neoliberal stranglehold on our country, but quietly endorse it.

Greens, SNP and Plaid have never attracted major corporate funding and as such are often fiercely resistant to Neoliberalism.

But where is the Church? If God is characterised by Lovingkindness<sup>vii</sup>, then the Church cannot worship him whilst remaining ignorant of or silent about the abusive, oppressive, destructive forces of Neoliberal Capitalism. Voting to oppose the Neoliberal agenda is a first

step towards halting this all-encompassing evil before it is too late. More, of course, is required of Christians, but certainly not less.

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<sup>i</sup> E.g., in the EU, Varoufakis cites the outburst of the German Finance Minister at his first Eurogroup meeting: “elections cannot be allowed to change established economic policy.” Similarly in the US, the Democrat Nominee, Hillary Clinton, was recorded expressing her contempt for democracy: “I do not think we should have pushed for an election in the Palestinian territories. I think that was a big mistake. And if we were going to push for an election, then we should have made sure that we did something to determine who was going to win.”

<sup>ii</sup> See (2014) ‘The Truth About Lobbying: 10 Ways Big Business Controls Government’ in *The Guardian*.

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2014/mar/12/lobbying-10-ways-corporations-influence-government>

<sup>iii</sup> Provost and Kennard (2015) ‘The Obscure Legal System that lets Corporations sue States’ in *The Guardian*.

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/jun/10/obscure-legal-system-lets-corporations-sue-states-ttip-icsid>

<sup>iv</sup> See Noam Chomsky (1997), ‘Market Democracy in a Neoliberal Order: Doctrines and Reality’ in *Z Magazine*.

<https://chomsky.info/199711/>

<sup>v</sup> See Ollie McAninch (2019) ‘Jeremy Corbyn is the most smeared politician in history’ in *The London Economic*.

<https://www.thelondoneconomic.com/opinion/jeremy-corbyn-is-the-most-smeared-politician-in-history/18/07/>

See also the research conducted by Loughborough University:

<https://www.lboro.ac.uk/news-events/general-election/report-1/>

See the report on Corbyn produced by London School of Economics:

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/media-and-communications/research/research-projects/representations-of-jeremy-corbyn>

See the research conducted by Birkbeck College, University of London:

<http://www.bbk.ac.uk/news/television-and-online-news-biased-in-coverage-of-labour-crisis-report-claims>

<sup>vi</sup> This is precisely what I predicted in 2014, ‘...any community, any enterprise, any religion that enables citizens to imagine a genuinely alternative world will find itself closed down by the propaganda or the muscle of the very empire that manufactures belief in freedom of choice.’ (*Atheism After Christendom*, 2015)

<sup>vii</sup> Lovingkindness (*hesed* in the OT, *eleos* in the NT) is predominantly directed towards widows, orphans and refugees. It underlies the Liberationist insight that the God of Scripture is ‘biased towards the poor’. Modern interpreters cannot with legitimacy speak of God’s love whilst bracketing out (or paying only lip service to) the weakest, most vulnerable and voiceless members of society. These folk (the *anawim*) are the people amongst whom the God of Israel makes himself thoroughly at home.