

## **THEY ARE ALL THE SAME, POLITICIANS.**

**How often do you hear people saying that? To limit myself to Tory politicians how credible is it to liken Harold Macmillan and Rab Butler to Johnson?**

Macmillan broke the record for the number of council houses built and is remembered for his 'Selling the family silver' speech when he rebuked Thatcher for privatising public services.

When Rab Butler took over from Gaitskell as Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1951 the similarities between the economic policies of Labour and Conservatives were so great that they were given the name 'Butskellism'.

Thatcher unleashed greed. The academic term for greed comes from C.B. Macpherson who in 1962 wrote a book about 'Possessive Individualism'. Remember that Thatcher told us that there is no such thing as 'society'. Wherever she found signs of it she did her best to destroy it.

It was the First of May 1997. We woke up the next morning breakfasting on booze to celebrate what we believed was the end of Thatcherism.

Far too slowly in my case I realised that Blair was her First-Born Political Son. Yes, you can trot out some good stuff such as Sure Start but, overall, he stood the concept of Accountability on its head to make the people accountable to government if they failed to hit the ever-changing targets they were set.

"Have you 'delivered' Target A? You better get a move on because tomorrow it will be changed to Target B".

Michael Barber was behind a lot of this, riding round Whitehall on his bike with POLICY DELIVEROO emblazoned on his back pack.

After he saved capitalism from itself Gordon Brown realised too late that he should also have held it to account. To make a comparison between him and Blair ask yourself which one you might be prepared to go to the pub with to watch the footy on the telly.

Cherie used to drink, so I am told, in my pub with her 'Scouse Git' dad. I cannot imagine how she would be welcomed today. Her once posh and highly selective school has, by the way, just been trashed by inspectors.

In 2010 we got Bullingdonian Cameron, "We're all in this together" Bullingdonian Osborne and "Last of the Liberal Wine", Cleggy. At which point I began to write about what I called SOCIAL FRACKING. I also wrote a lot of bad poetry, arguing that the low standard of politics matched my standard of poetising.

de Piffle does not inspire within me any such versifying.

How might we describe or even label the political philosophy of de Piffle? I do not think that we can. How do you spell 'narcissism'? I always have to check that one. In

the USA I could never have voted for bloodthirsty Clinton. And once 'Drone Man' Obama forgot how to spell Guantanamo or even Gaza there was no way that I could have voted for him either. For too many politicians personal ambition comes first, second and third.

So, are they all the same? Name me a politician who tends an allotment and makes his own jam. His lack of possessive individualism and his unwillingness to punch on the nose those that falsely accused him lost him the chance of power. But can you imagine the contrast of reaction if, rather than de Piffle, you walked into the pub with Jeremy?

Maybe you frequent de Piffle-welcoming pubs. I don't. For a start, I cannot afford them.

NO, THEY ARE NOT ALL THE SAME.

**Cliff Jones 13th. December 2021**

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