

GOVERNMENT WITHOUT POLITICS GENERATES EITHER APATHY OR UNRULY SUBJECTS

Government without politics was Thatcher. Major less so. Blair deffo. Brown less so. And since 2010 it has been a constant. My definition of politics is that it is the inclusive discussion of and consensual arrival at public values. Policies should follow such values.

We are constantly told that we are a democracy. Our passports award us the title of 'citizen'.

The UK is, in fact a monarchy and we are subjects. When a government eschews politics two things can happen. We can resign ourselves to being ruled or we can resist, sometimes passively and sometimes actively.

Boris and his courtiers believe that their role is to do things TO us, not WITH us. They have relied heavily upon our apathy. But now they are encountering unrest. When, ten years ago, Osborne said that we were all in it together we ought to have become unruly. He lied but we allowed him to get away with it. Many people today are suffering and dying because of his choice of austerity. When he took over the economy was recovering. He threw that recovery into reverse.

Today we are ruled by unintelligent autocrats. Remember Boris playing touch rugby in Japan when he flattened that little lad? He thinks that is how you do government. But now he is encountering much bigger lads. For many years central government has de-funded local government so it has come as a surprise to Boris and co. that in order to enact its policies it must fund local government.

But this government is not only lacking intellect, it is also corrupt. It gives millions of our money, yes our money, to its cronies who then fail to deliver. More than ever we need a sharply contrasting official opposition. We do not have one.

What we do have is a myriad of small groups, networks, a few noble journalists working in mainstream and The Word Newspaper.

Northern local government opposes. So does London. Or should I replace the word 'oppose' with the word 'resist'? Whatever, Boris is not getting his own way. His entire life has been dependent upon and devoted to getting his own way. Might he take his ball home sometime soon? Like Trump, should he lose, I think he will draw the conclusion that the country was neither good enough nor grateful enough to benefit from his wisdom.

Cliff Jones 24th October 2020

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