

## **BOWER ON BORIS**

**When Tom Bower wrote his book on Chilcot I wrote 39 pages in response. If I add in all the links I included, almost 40 I think, that is a lot of words. Why did I do all that? Self-indulgence? Maybe. I gave myself a different reason. I needed to make sense of things. His book came out before Chilcot reported; before we realised that millions of public money had been spent on what I believe Chilcot himself only ever intended to be a damp squib.**

**I saw Bower's book as a contribution to the varnish stripping of Blair. Very necessary. And yet Blair remains at large; he remains a member of the Labour Party; and his pockets are full.**

So, Boris? I have not read Bower, only the reviews. Do I dare comment? Going to anyway. The niece of Donald Trump targets his father as the inculcator of selfishness, the prompter of narcissism. Bower points the finger at the father of Boris. I am not saying that such influence is immaterial. I do, however, believe that our social values play a role that is crucial when it comes to the likes of presidents and prime ministers.

Eton presents itself as a place in which education takes place. Replace the word 'education' with the word 'fulfilment' and we see that school, in the clear case of Boris, as the enabler of selfishness.

The University of Oxford likewise, despite all its impressive encouragement of scholarship. For Boris it would seem to have provided him with a stage for the magnification of his personality. The Bullingdon club is not a case of a few lads having a couple of pints too many. It is, however, a case of the destructive celebration of class-superiority. Why were not Boris and Cameron and Osborne et al sent down for their antics?

Boris has been allowed to perform as a celebrant of selfishness. He is aware that at times he must adopt a differing role for the sake of votes. Adopting momentarily a role that does not reflect his true self is easy for him because, for him, truth is never more than an option.

I suppose that I am saying that any deep analysis of Boris will be inadequate if there is no accompanying deep analysis of the system that empowered and encouraged him as he gained power.

Our class system has provided us with a prime minister who has no class.

**Cliff Jones 19th October 2020**

[www.criticalprofessionallearning.co.uk](http://www.criticalprofessionallearning.co.uk)