

I DON'T WANT A COVID INQUIRY. I WANT AN INQUIRY INTO GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS.

For some countries Covid has revealed a good balance between inclusive social values and consensual government.

In the UK England in particular has suffered from commercial exploitation and government by imposition.

Inclusion and consent are key concepts. Successive governments have, however, made decisions exclusively and, instead of obtaining consent, have imposed those decisions upon the general public.

In whose interests have we been governed? We have been told that in a crisis shortcuts have to be made. We went through two world wars making rapid decisions in a proper manner. Today we have seen due process set to one side for the sake of what, efficiency? Actually, for the sake of cronies who were so often simply not up to the job.

Complain about this, reveal the selfish secrets of those with power, try to be a good journalist and, these days, prison awaits. New Labour introduced us to the word 'narrative'. It refers to an officially approved story. If, at a so-called consultation event you questioned a decision you would be told that it was a 'government given' and could not be challenged.

Our prime minister is said to wish to follow Blair. Cameron certainly did. And Blair was famously referred to as a 'Son of Thatcher'. We have, therefore, been suffering from poor government and politics for some time. Covid has been revelatory. It has also coincided with, in my view, the worst premier since Anthony Eden. The difference between Eden and Johnson is that the former wished to do the job but the latter only wishes to have the job.

We are, I believe, in serious trouble. We have a government intent upon making it difficult for dissenters to gain a hearing and even upon making it difficult for some people to vote. We are told that the gap between rich and poor is narrowing but that is simply a lie, a lie among many lies. Without lies we would not have a government.

I said that inclusion and consent are key concepts. We have neither.

Cliff Jones 2nd. August 2021

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