

Its LOCK DOWN or LOCK UP.

Ten years in clink if you break the rules concerning travel. How much do you get for Barnard Castle?

Government reminds me of an inexperienced teacher who encourages the kids to be boisterous (ten quid for every diner to eat out) but then, seeing things get out of hand, over punishes them. Detention!

But today something more significant is on my mind, yours as well, I am sure. It is the launch, in 1906, of HMS Dreadnaught that immediately made all other battleships obsolete. Who had the most battleships by far? The UK did. Suddenly, they become out of date and we had provided a template for our competitors. That was not all bad. Why not?

The First Sea Lord, Admiral Jacky Fisher, was extremely dynamic and improved our ship-building efficiency enormously. Other nations had ideas for a similar design, particularly in Italy, but at best they were dilatory. That was never Fisher. He saw problems, he researched, he analysed, he planned and he took action. Covid 19 reminds me of our need for such people today.

What made him resign eventually? Churchill's stupid Gallipoli campaign, badly conceived and badly carried out. We committed almost 500,000 to that invasion of Turkey and approximately half of them never fought again. You can guess why.

Churchill was, then, the politician in charge of the navy. When I was 18 I wrote an essay that asked the question, 'How do you become a Great War Leader?' The answer? 'First start your war.' My point was that after the end of WWI Churchill did so much to encourage the victors to harm Germany that WWII should be seen as WWI Part Two.

Boris thinks he is Churchill. Starmer is nowhere near being a Fisher. What is needed is someone, some people, who can emulate Fisher or Lloyd George in 1911 setting up Old Age Pensions or Nye Bevan setting up the NHS.

Instead we have politicians responding to "Houston, we have a problem" with "Hang on the footy has just started on the telly".

We have a TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE government. The very people that voted to fragment the NHS and out-source so many services are now planning to reverse their policy. I don't trust them.

Probably, so far, 120,000 people have died. The number need not have been anywhere near that.

He and his government should not be allowed to get away with their crimes.

Cliff Jones February 12th. 2021

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