

## **POLITICIANS ON THEMSELVES.**

**Books written, or in some cases, 'written', by politicians are usually devoted to self-justification. I have read a few. And very few of those few are self-critical.**

I called my review of Blair's book about himself From Illusion To Delusion.

A friend told me that I did not need to write more than just that.

In 1997 we voted for an illusion. When he left us to become a multi millionaire he was one of the few to remain deluded about himself.

Supposing that you had caused your country to take part in two illegal invasions of other countries leading to millions of innocent deaths and massive displacements bringing about a Europe-wide refugee problem, what word would you use to both describe and excuse it all?

Mistake.

Right, that is that sorted, now let me change the subject.

The person Blair competed with for the leadership of the Labour Party after the death of John Smith was Gordon Brown.

Of the two who would you go to the pub to have a pint with while watching the footy on the telly?

Famous as the politician that Obama said was the only one who knew how to deal with the banking crisis of 2008 Brown criticises himself. He realises that bailing out the banks should have been accompanied by much more control of them.

When John Smith died how did Blair respond?

Sit down and try to stay calm.

He tells us in his book that he was so aroused that he sexually 'devoured' Cherie.

Yes, 'devoured' is the word he chooses for a book going to be read all over the world.

Did he let her see a draft?

Now that Cameron is back in the limelight, wearing ermine, his autobiography is worth remembering. That referendum! When is he going to get round to explaining what went on?

When he does what comes over is his feeling of betrayal by Gove and by Boris who he thought were his friends. But to get a deeper understanding of the cockup we have to read the book by his spin doctor, Craig Oliver, who got a knighthood for failure.

Also in Cameron's book is his account of the attack on Libya. For me it looked like a Tory Prime Minister saying to himself: "Blair had two wars so I should have at least one on my record."

He admits that it all went wrong, "But that was not my fault."

Some politicians are totally oblivious to the damage they have caused. Instead of excusing they celebrate.

When Ken Clarke was in charge of Education the University of Leeds was carrying out fantastic research with seven year olds into assessment in Key Stage One of the National Curriculum.

He ignored all of it and out of his head told teachers what scores children should have. Zero research backing this up.

He did not like the results and so created Ofsted to ensure that in future teachers would get the results they were told to get, or else!

In his book he is proud of doing that.

Today I am getting close to the end of THE PLOT by Duchess Dorries.

Making sense of it is a challenge, but some things that she says are clear to me.

Michael Gove was not a posh boy, but got himself close to them. He was so close that they thought he was under control. He wasn't. He was always plotting against them.

Her overall picture of politics, Tory politics, is that it is like working in a large office; somebody goes out, the others slag them off; they come back and are greeted with smiles.

The country meanwhile?

We moan and put up with being the subjects of rulers focussed on themselves.

The books, now that I have stirred up your insatiable desire to read them are:

TONY BLAIR, a journey. 2010.

MY LIFE, OUR TIMES by Gordon Brown. 2017.

FOR THE RECORD by David Cameron. 2019.

UNLEASHING DEMONS by Craig Oliver. 2016.

KIND OF BLUE by Ken Clarke. 2016.

THE PLOT by Nadine Dorries, 2023.

**Cliff Jones, 24th. November 2023.**

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