

# POLITICS FADING AWAY

**My definition of POLITICS has long been THE INCLUSIVE DISCUSSION OF AND CONSENSUAL ARRIVAL AT PUBLIC VALUES.**

I know there are a few bones to be picked out of that definition but the main point is that it is about values. Many experiences helped me formulate that definition. I guess that most people believe that politics is what politicians do. Thinking like this leads to the association of politics with the urge and the struggle to obtain and to keep power. If Trump is defeated in November and, as some are forecasting, he declares the result to be fake that will make it very clear that power is his only motivator. As I am referring to Trump perhaps it should be FAKE.

Ivor Crewe and the late Anthony King often pointed out the tendency of Central Government to hoard power. Local Government by contrast has lost it. In the process the numbers of people participating in decision-making have shrunk. Tony Blair did government without politics. Even inside a meeting of the Cabinet there was little informed discussion. Contrast the decisions to invade Afghanistan and Iraq with the decision of the Wilson government not to join the USA in Vietnam. In the case of Wilson there was proper well-informed discussion. In the case of Blair it was just the opposite. Power and politics are not the same thing. Politics is A GOOD THING. Too often the practice of politicians is A BAD THING.

Gove is a disciple of Blair and, so Cameron's spin doctor tells us in his book on the referendum, had a picture of Lenin on his office wall. The phrase 'Unity of Purpose' is associated with Lenin. In other words, once the decision has been taken the commands for action must be obeyed. It sounds more relaxed but Blair's 'sofa government' meant something very similar. I am sure that a spell check would reveal that in Blair's book the two most prominent words are 'leader' and 'leadership'. These days education is infested with those words.

Closely associated with Gove is Cummings. Closely associated with Cummings is Johnson. I am, fearfully, remembering the phrase GET BREXIT DONE. Sound bites and slogans do not encourage discussion. It is, however, just about as far as today's politicians will go to include the public in decision-making. Blair would offer a shiny new policy bearing a label such as MODERNISATION and we would be required to implement it. The New Labour phrase was 'This is a Government Given.' No discussion. Hit that target! Or else!

**With Corbyn out power, obtaining and keeping it, has shoved to one side the wish to discuss values. Gove, Cummings and Johnson, The Three Brexiteers, have a motto: Omnes pro uno, nullus pro omnibus. It has to be in Latin for the sake of our great leader.**

Cliff Jones 11th. July 2020

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