

THIS COUNTRY TERMINATES AT BREXIT

OR

A HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE END OF BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

In 2002 Greg Palast wrote *THE BEST DEMOCRACY THAT MONEY CAN BUY*. Today social media plays a big role in the commodification of both policies and voters. It has not caused corruption but merely given corruption more levers to use in order to suck democracy out of the system and make government incompetent.

Palast was concentrating on George W and Blair at a time when there were fewer electronic levers and corruption had about it a more old fashioned air. Today we are waking up to the antidemocratic nature of THAT referendum but huge corporations and other countries such as Israel and the USA have interfered in our government and politics for decades. It is so normal that we seldom remark upon it. If you have grown up being manipulated it takes a shock like being on a train running into the buffers to bring us to our senses. We have a democratic delusion that has created a democratic deficit. Perhaps Brexit will make us more aware of this. But have you ever fallen asleep on a train and realised too late that the terminus is not where you want to be?

It usually takes a few years for historians to see their words of wisdom appear on a shelf in a bookshop. The same is the case for a report by the Electoral Commission. Perhaps we should be grateful that Sir John Chilcot has nothing to do with that commission which finally seems to be getting to grips with the dirty deeds behind Brexit.

In years to come young people in schools will read in their history books about David Cameron's attempt to control his own party by means of an advisory referendum; of his attempt to increase his chances of winning by, without having the authority to do so, announcing that he would regard the result as binding; of Michael Gove's wife giving the game away (yes it was a Tory game) by telling him "But you were only supposed to blow the bloody doors off"; of Boris treating truth as an option seldom to be chosen; of Theresa May finding one and a half billion quid down the back of the sofa to bribe the Orange Lodge into supporting her; of Fox and Davies and Mogmentum cynically posing as tribunes of the people; and of how 37% of the electorate were deceived into thinking that losing jobs, destroying the NHS and being nasty about foreigners were jolly good things.

We can read all those history books in the waiting room at the Terminus. I am pretty sure there will be a canteen of sorts there as well: something like Milliways, Douglas Adams' Restaurant at the End of the Universe. So, let us have a Brexit party. We must invite the Goddess Demokratia and her successor, the Goddess Oligarkia. We can watch old films about the victory of the Labour Party in 1945. William Beveridge is bound to come and Nye

Bevan. Barbara Castle shall definitely make an appearance; maybe John Hampden will turn up. There will be a table reserved for abstract concepts such as Human Rights. And, yes, there will be free beer for all the workers.

For years I have said that British people are not citizens but subjects. We are a monarchy. This is not a bit of left over history. This is not about drooling over Royal weddings and babies. This, right now, is about Theresa May reaching for the Royal Prerogative to by-pass Parliament; it is about her treatment of MPs as Lumpen Parliamentariat; it is about regarding many of us as Lumpen Electoriat; and it is about the power of corrupt, corporative, destructive, greedy and privileged groups of people operating behind the scenes.

Greg Palast showed us that democracy is a commodity. So are we. We may not wish to arrive at the terminus. Even more we may wish not to hit the buffers. And far more we may wish not to see the sign THIS DEMOCRACY IS NOW OUT OF SERVICE.

As I type Theresa May is getting ready to put up that sign. What are we going to do about it?

Cliff Jones 27th. June 2018