

The Charge Sheet against Anthony Charles Lynton Blair

The charges are as follows.

First count

That in 1997 you did deceive the electorate who voted to rid the body politic of Thatcherism. Instead, under deceitful labels such as 'aspiration', 'choice' and 'modernisation' you promoted greed and avarice, widening the gap between rich and poor.

You gave us Sofa Government and, disdaining democracy and the values of your party, poured scorn on Labour loyalists whose selfless dedication got you elected. You surrounded yourself with scarce-bearded courtiers who struggled even to spell socialism. Inclusion, the gaining of consent, listening to experts and even pausing to reflect did not feature in your way of working.

Politics is the inclusive and consensual process of arriving at public values prior to policy-making. You did not work like this. In your attempt to use absolute power your preference was to exclude and not include.

You are, therefore, charged with being **anti-political**.

Second count

You removed schools from democratically accountable local government and began the process of handing them over to private, profit making companies and religious organisations. By doing so you deepened social and religious divisions within local communities.

You reduced the powers of local government and failed to restore social housing or to bring public utilities back into public ownership. The current democratic disconnect between the public and its public services that began under Thatcher was carried further by you. As a consequence both party membership and public participation in representative democracy dropped every year that you sat on your sofa.

For years school textbooks on government and politics had chapters on Accountability: the accountability of government to the people. You reversed that and made the people accountable to you. On your sofa you thought you were Napoleon.

You are, as a consequence, charged with being **anti-democratic**.

Third count

You were unwilling to engage with evidence that might bring into question the narrow prejudices with which you began the job of Prime Minister. You

ignored evidence from experts that did not fit with your views. You gave power over the civil service to your personally chosen apparatchiks who instructed very experienced, knowledgeable and properly appointed people to work only to targets set by you and members of your court. By doing so you de-intellectualised the civil service and the entire process of governmental decision-making.

You substituted the ersatz politics of focus groups for the real thing. Your approach to consultation was to employ people to control and manipulate the process so that the desired result always emerged. It was a waste of time participating in such events and hoping that other perspectives might be used; other voices heard; and dissent respectfully listened to. One-dimensional thinking was all that was ever required of the people instructed to 'deliver' your targets. This was part of an attempt to dumb down the country.

You are, therefore, charged with being **anti-intellectual**.

Fourth count

An education system should fulfil all young people. Its purpose is perverted when schools are differentiated by resource, religious beliefs, privilege and advantage: when unfairness is introduced to the system. Under the deceitful banner of parental choice you empowered schools to do the choosing and enabled your follower, Michael Gove, to create a free-for-all in which the favours go to the already favoured.

You are, therefore, charged with being **anti-educational**.

Fifth count

You led a government that sought to reduce the power of and even to dissolve institutions, policies and conventions that, under the banner of the Welfare State, have worked to minimise the damaging effects of privilege and inequality. You encouraged the fulfilment of a few at the expense of the many.

You are, therefore, charged with being **anti-societal**.

Sixth count

You are interventionist by nature, no matter the cost to lives, decency or even national interest: your self-interest exceeds that of the nation. Tuition fees, for example, were not party policy but you wanted them and cared nothing for the views of your own party or students. In fact you despised your own party and so they came about.

And when it came to Afghanistan and Iraq you did not even allow your cabinet access to information that might have stopped your headlong dash to death; the death of others of course. You had already gone along with

the callous sanctions policy so the inhumanity of your values was already well established. When it came to pulling triggers and dropping bombs the extra step was easy for you.

Falling in with the wishes of evil and simple minded people such as Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Paul Wolfowitz and George W Bush was not only easy for you but also very self fulfilling. It fed your self-belief. Across the world people saw pictures of you sharing smiles and looks of earnest concern with the most powerful people. The world also saw pictures of you standing in front of tanks addressing our gallant lads. The belief that it was for all this that you were brought into the world showed very clearly on your face.

You continue to glorify gore; you justify inhumanity; you dismiss human rights; you disregard international law; and you rake in millions by doing so. Today you wander the world establishing remunerative relationships with the ignorant, the depraved, the corrupt, the genocidists, the torturers, the thieves of land, the ethnic cleansers and, guess what, for a small consideration of, say, ten million quid you will teach them how to avoid being held to account for their crimes.

And you cynically joined the Catholic Church.

This count is the longest and most encompassing of the charges against you so it has to be summarised.

You are charged with being an overall shit who compounds his crimes by assuming that we shall let you get away with it.

We, the undersigned, beg to bring these charges on behalf of all those people that wish to expunge both Blair and all for which he stands from public life. His legacy must be the well-learned lesson that there must be no more Blairs.