



Labour Leave: at last arguments are on the table, if not answers

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The Labour Leave campaign is ratcheting up and at last the arguments are on the table, if not the answers. This itself is a critique of a paper from “Open Britain”, part of a “Remain” campaign. However it is far from final, dodging key questions.

As with others who campaigned to leave arguing from a left perspective the media provide little oxygen. The Guardian, which itself has published some damning indictments of the neoliberal agenda, nurtures the Labour MPs who maintain there is no left argument for leaving! Attacks on unions, austerity, privatisation are not issues for them? There appear to be a sizable number of people who remain voiceless who voted for Britain to leave the EU, including the single market, and don't subscribe to the racism and xenophobia of UKIP and Farage or the Tory right and Boris Johnson. This is no accident as the Euro elite in charge of the democracy free zone they inhabit have made sure that the Brexit argument is from racist and fascists alone.

Those leaders who put the referendum in motion and were instrumental in the campaign championed by the right wing media are either gone or largely discredited. Where is Cameron now? Presumably enjoying the perks that the Westminster corrupt revolving door allows politicians and supporting officers to enjoy. His chancellor chum has a portfolio of lucrative positions bestowed on him. If he was ever “in it together” with the likes of us he certainly ain't now. Farage made his bed with the increasingly unpopular Trump and UKIP can't seem to find a replacement. If, as claimed, the left failed the voiceless before, another chance awaits.

The problem for Labour is that it is, and always has been, a social democratic party. That is, it does not break from the Capitalism that has been in crisis time and again recovering only by confiscating the wealth that we as working people create and handing it to fewer and fewer.

In both Westminster and Brussels the lobbyists have unfettered access to the political leadership and are able to ply them with the largesse which fuels the fabled “American Dream” which we've now globalised through neoliberalism. Doesn't matter if you're Republican or Democrat, Conservative or Labour you can end up “filthy rich” and like the noble Lord Mandelson, feel entirely comfortable with your loot.

One thing that the US and UK still have are democratic forms of government, nominally at least, which is more than can be said for the European Union. As Tony Benn pointed out at the time of Maastricht in 1991 the EU alone has a constitution which is in favour of big business and large corporations, i.e. the agenda of Capitalism, and proscribes Socialism.

The Labour leadership is saying it will renationalise rail, water, energy et al, but if, as many of the remaining Blairites want, you remain in the single market and fall under EU law you can't. Norwegian workers found this out to their cost even though Norway is outside the E.U. Because it is in the single market European law has precedent over those of Norway. 40 years ago Norwegian dock workers won the right to refuse casual labour on the quayside. This has been overturned by the imposition of EU law which gives precedent to corporate interests giving big shipping companies the right to employ whoever they want.

While Capitalism receives criticism the article above is written from a social democratic perspective. In other words any answer to Capitalist excesses from bodies such as the EU has to be capitalism. This is often described as a soft form or "cuddly capitalism." Nothing cuddly about it. What other ways are there? Blair proposed a "third way". Judging by his life style there doesn't appear to be much difference to capitalism in his thinking and doing!

It's the "S" word that is missing and no one dare mention it's name. Supporting neoliberalism – an extremist movement if any is - Globalisation has led to rampant colonialism with resources being stripped from the poorest peoples. The right has had its chance to nail Brexit but the right, at first strongly supported, has been widely disgraced and held back from gaining power as widely expected by some. There is an opportunity for the left to support those who have been placed in penury by EU policies, together with those of the Tories which look remarkably similar notwithstanding it is a Tory Government supposedly leading on Brexit.

There is a Socialist alternative which needs to be seriously considered widely.

11th February 2018

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