

The view from the bridge

Robin Ramsay

9 September 2026

Congratulations . . .

. . . to Darren Jones MP, former Chief Secretary to PM Keir Starmer (and, before that, Chief Secretary to the Treasury). Mr Jones has had the temerity to (almost) say the unsayable about the British economy. In a piece in *The Times* (1 September) Mr Jones wrote 'Britain is poorer than we often think'. Indeed so, as I have been chuntering on about in these columns for some years. Estimates – and they are all estimates – put the UK somewhere between 18th and 28th in the GDP/per head table.

This and that

Regular contributor to these columns, John Booth, was on the Sonia Poulton YouTube show talking (mostly) about 9-11. I can't paste the url because doing so brings up a big ad for her show. But Mr Booth was on episode 235 at around 40 minutes.

Spooks

Sasha Ingber has an interesting substack on spookery. A very amusing post about one Meredith Cavan, for example on 21 August. Worth a look.

<https://substack.com/@sashaingber/posts>

Also worth a look is Jeff Stein's SpyTalk at <<https://www.spytalk.co/>>.

24 August 2026

Kincora

Below is a letter written by Colin Wallace to new PM Andy Burnham.

24 July 2026

Copy sent to Parliament but not acknowledged

The Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister,

I was delighted to hear you say during your speech on arrival at 10 Downing Street last Monday:

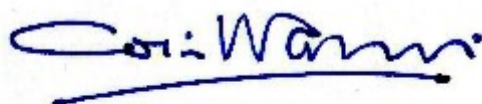
"It's about putting the right values and the right standards at the heart of government. I will put the care of people at the heart of everything I do. I will give this my all, and I ask you all to pull with me."

Two of my closest friends in years gone by were Tam Dalyell MP and journalist Paul Foot. Sadly, both are now dead. As the attached documents show, they did their utmost to resolve a long-standing dispute I have had with the MoD over my covert role with the Army in N Ireland, and my repeated attempts to draw attention to the sexual abuse of boys at the now notorious Kincora Boys Hostel in Belfast. What I and my Army superiors did not know at that time was that one of the main abusers at the Hostel was an informant of the Security Service, MI5. Despite that source's knowledge, the abuses continued unabated.

Paul Foot and Tam Dalyell did make strenuous attempts to draw my case to the attention of Parliament, but without success. The overall result of the cover-up is that the full extent of that abuse remains unknown. In June this year, one Kincora victim from the 1970s, Richard Kerr, who is now living in the USA, was awarded £100,000 for the abuse he suffered while he was an inmate at the Home. As part of the legal action it was alleged that "previous investigations failed to expose the full abuse at Kincora, along with the suspected knowledge and role of British state agents". The fact that teenage boys in the 'care' of the State should have been sexually abused repeatedly in this way over a period of years remains a national disgrace.

I enclose a selection of official documents which provide some insight into the problem. I would be very grateful if you would ask a member of your staff to examine that material to see what can be done to put the record straight. I am now 83 years of age and I strongly believe that you are probably the only person who can now deal effectively with this scandal. The full facts of the matter have still not been made available to Parliament. I believe that failure is unacceptable.

With my thanks and very best wishes.



Colin Wallace

This is included a very good, very detailed account of the Kincora affair, with many original documents and photographs of the participants. Top stuff.¹

¹ <<https://coverthistory.ie/2026/08/22/burnham/>>

18 August 2026

Who is my enemy's enemy?

'The Russia question' (pre 1990, the Soviet question) – viz. since they are anti-American and anti-NATO, should we not support them? – remains an issue on the left of British politics. For some the answer is 'Yes: my enemy's enemy is still my friend.' *The Grayzone* is a good example of this position. On it Kit Klarenberg wrote recently:

Leaks reveal failed journalist Paul Mason secretly advised ex-Prime Minister Keir Starmer, his Defence Secretary and now-Chancellor John Healey, and top aides on important security matters. Mason's belligerent pronouncements on the need for Britain to "deter" Russia through a massive military build-up influenced Labour's policies and rhetoric. Mason was secretly working with notorious British military intelligence operative Chris Donnelly to turn Labour toward a hardline position on Russia and defense spending.²

As a quick glance at Mason's Wiki entry will show, calling him a 'failed journalist' is false. But it is striking that *The Grayzone* perceive Mason as worth the abuse. Mason is certainly firmly in the anti-Russia camp these days. His recent essay, 'Why have we let Putin get away with it for so long?',³ discusses the British government's reluctance to acknowledge the fact of, let alone respond to, Russian influence and money in British politics.

Nick Cohen, formerly a columnist at *The Observer* – by *Grayzone* standards, another 'failed journalist' no doubt – is treading similar water. In his recent 'Why Westerners hate the West'⁴ he writes of British left supporters of Putin:

They say they are against imperialism – but they excuse Russian imperialism.

They say they love peace – but they excuse the Kremlin's warmongers.

They call themselves socialists – but they excuse a vicious kleptocracy that steals everything it can.

² Kit Klarenberg, 'Leaks show Paul Mason secretly advised UK Chancellor John Healey to escalate Ukraine war', July 24, 2026 at <https://thegrayzone.com/2026/07/24/leaks-starmer-healey-advised-russia-war/>.

³ <https://www.thenewworld.co.uk/paul-mason-why-have-we-let-putin-get-away-with-it-for-so-long/>

⁴ <https://nickcohen.substack.com/p/why-westerners-hate-the-west>

Is all this really so difficult to understand? Some of the left are still pro-Putin because anti-Putin is where the right is and the left's core belief is that anything the right believes is wrong. The British state is unwilling to publicly discuss Russian operations in *British* politics because the Trump administration will not acknowledge the existence of Russian influence in *American* politics. Being America's flunkey has its price.

18 August 2026

AI on JFK's assassination

So much for the thousands of words of mine in these columns on Chauncey Holt and 'the three tramps'. I asked Google AI if Holt was one of 'the three tramps' and it replied:

In 1992, the Dallas Police Department released sealed records that revealed the actual identities of the three men [tramps]. They were transient individuals found in a railroad boxcar near the plaza shortly after the shooting:

- **Harold Doyle**
- **John Gedney**
- **Gus Abrams**

Both Doyle and Gedney were located by journalists and the FBI in 1992, and they confirmed they were simply homeless men passing through Dallas on the day of the assassination. (Abrams had passed away in 1987). . .

During a 1991 interview, Chauncey Holt claimed to be a CIA contract operative and a counterfeiter. He alleged that he was ordered to Dallas to deliver forged Secret Service credentials and was subsequently swept up by police as one of the tramps. Despite gaining widespread attention among conspiracy researchers and publishing a memoir detailing his story, his account was entirely debunked by the physical evidence and the emergence of the 1963 booking sheets.

The fact that this has been offered without qualification is rather striking. My essay, 'JFK, Chauncey Holt and the three 'tramps' redux', which refutes the received position above, is on the first page of hits if you ask Google search for 'Chauncey Holt and the three tramps'.

18 August 2026

More on MJ-12

I mention below (under subhead **Disinfo never really dies**) that Dick Russell is treating the MJ-12 UFO hoax of nearly 40 years ago as if it was real. In subsequent correspondence he recommended some recently 'discovered' MJ-12 documents.⁵ In one of them is this paragraph:

In protecting the operations of MAJESTIC, it has been necessary to [. . . .] individuals who would compromise the intelligence efforts, while distasteful [. . . .] at times, the use of [. . . .] measures have been executed. The untimely death of Secretary Forrestal was deemed necessary and regrettable.

The brackets [. . .] indicate redactions in the original.

Secretary of State James Forrestal died in 1949 after falling 16 floors from a hospital window. He was suffering from depression. If it was a murder and not suicide or accident, there is no way that his murder would be mentioned in official documents, no matter how secret. Putting this in an alleged MJ-12 document tells us they are fake.

David Miller

You may remember that one of the casualties in the recent anti-semitism operation by the Israel lobby in this country was Professor David Miller, sacked by Bristol University because he 'did not meet the [university's] standards of behaviour'.⁶ This decision was made after a sustained 3 year campaign against Miller for his views on Israel.⁷ Miller took his dismissal to an Employment Tribunal and won in 2024. *The Middle East Monitor* commented at the time of Miller's victory:

The case is not only a vindication of Miller . . . but the verdict has also exonerated those who have been warning for years about the weaponisation of anti-Semitism by the pro-Israel lobby against critics of

⁵ <<https://dickrussell.substack.com/p/ufo-coverup-the-early-history>>

⁶ <<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-58765052>>

⁷ That campaign is described at <<https://electronicintifada.net/content/who-are-israel-lobbyists-want-david-miller-fired/32651>>.

the apartheid state.⁸

The university appealed to the Employment Appeal Tribunal and lost in August this year.⁹

By one of those odd coincidences, although I hadn't thought of Miller for months, the news of his final victory came the day after I had come across some of Miller's recent essays on the website of UK Column. He has been writing for the site since his sacking by Bristol University. I have only skimmed a couple of the essays but they look very interesting.¹⁰

But why did he chose UK Column? I first noticed them about 15 years ago when they ran articles about a curious organisation called Common Purpose.¹¹ UK Column found Common Purpose sinister – something nobody else could see.¹² But then it also found the United Nations sinister.¹³ So it is an odd choice by Miller. There are surely other, more mainstream sites which would have published his material.

Empathy, shmempathy

The New York Review of Books recently quoted Elon Musk on empathy. I looked up the source of the quote. This is the full text.

So that we've got civilizational suicidal empathy going on. And it's like, I believe in empathy. Like, I think you should care about other people, but you need to have empathy for civilization as a Whole and not commit to a civilizational suicide. . .

Also, don't let someone use your empathy against you so they can completely control your state and then do an insanely bad job of managing it and never get removed. . .

The fundamental weakness of Western civilization is empathy. The empathy exploit. They're exploiting a bug in Western civilization, which

⁸ <<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20240207-anti-zionism-is-now-a-protected-belief-in-britain-time-for-a-reckoning-for-pro-israel-lobbyists/>>

⁹ <<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce3qk5qk559o>>

¹⁰ See, for example, his long, two part biography of MI6 officer Michelle Hallam, starting at <<https://www.ukcolumn.org/article/the-spy-who-came-in-from-up-north-part-1>>.

¹¹ See, for example, <<https://www.cpexposed.com/>>.

¹² See <<https://www.ukcolumn.org/article/nottingham-common-purpose-effect-re-visited>>.

¹³ <<https://www.ukcolumn.org/article/one-world-governance-common-purpose>>

is the empathy response. And I think empathy is good, but you need to think it through and not just be programmed like a robot . . .¹⁴

The autistic Elon Musk grew up in apartheid South Africa, reading science fiction.

Joachim Joesten

On 30 July Robert Morrow¹⁵ sent out an email extolling, once again, the research of Joachim Joesten into JFK's assassination in the decade after the event. Evidently he hadn't seen my comments on Joesten five years or so ago. Viz:

There are three items which suggest that Joesten was being run by the KGB. Joesten had been a member of the German Communist Party before the war and had his first book on the assassination published by a small New York outfit, Marzani and Munsell, subsidised by the KGB.¹⁶

The second is the report on the JFK Assassination Debate site by Brigitte Wilke that a 1958 Joesten book in German, titled *CIA*, described the National Security Agency (NSA)'s work in some detail and even named its then director, Ralph Canine.¹⁷ As the existence of the NSA was not publicly acknowledged until the 1970s, this came from an intelligence source, presumably the KGB.

The third is the fact that Joesten's writing about the assassination echoed the KGB's view of the event. When the KGB thought it was probably the CIA and/or the oil millionaires behind it, Joesten's book said the same. When the KGB acquired information in 1965 that LBJ

¹⁴ <<https://podcasts.happyscribe.com/the-joe-rogan-experience/2281-elon-musk>>

¹⁵ <<https://www.blogger.com/profile/09024776169168805400>>

¹⁶ KGB officer Oleg Kalugin wrote in his memoir *Spymaster*: 'he [Marzani] had close ties to the Soviet government and the KGB, which secretly kept his publishing house afloat. KGB officers frequented his parties.' (London: Smyth Gryphon, 1994) p. 85.

There are a couple of documents on the CIA's site about Joesten, one of which looks like a bad scan and is jumbled and partly unintelligible. The readable piece is at <<https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/docs/CIA-RDP80B01676R000600120027-6.pdf>>.

¹⁷ See the post of August 20, 2008 on the page at <<https://educationforum.ipbhost.com/topic/6089-joachim-joesten/#comment-54197>>.

was behind it, Joesten switched to writing his LBJ book.¹⁸

I sent him the paragraphs above and he replied:

Thank you and btw Joesten was not a Soviet KGB asset. Nothing in their files about it and he was also critical of the USSR. He was a leftist and a straight shooter as a reporter.

Which doesn't deal with the points I made. I asked Google AI 'Was Joachim Joesten a KGB asset?' and got an affirmative, citing *The Mitrokhin Archive* – which I don't have – and naming Joesten's first New York publisher, Marzani, as being funded by the Soviets (as did Oleg Kalugin: see note 16).

OK, this is small beer, a minor footnote in the assassination literature. Defenders of the Warren Commission – and yes, there are still a few – cite the Soviet use of Joesten in propagating the early theories about a conspiracy as if this in some way counters the research. But who cares? Of course the Soviets tried to stir the pot. But the real work was done by independents. With or without the KGB's meddling the story would have come out.

Maggie, Maggie, Maggie

The Sunday after Andy Burnham became Prime Minister I bought the *Sunday Telegraph* to read it on his arrival at the top of the greasy pole. Its comments mostly focused on Burnham's statement the week before that:

In the 1980s, Britain took some wrong turns. Political power was centralised, economic power privatised, large parts of the country de-industrialised, and they still haven't recovered.

The *Telegraph's* response was predictable, of course: look at the Labour economic disaster in the 1970s, it said; inflation, over-mighty trade unions, IMF loan, the Winter of Discontent. And then Maggie came along and saved us. Thus spake Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch, Eamonn Butler, long time director of the Adam Smith Institute, and historian Vernon Bogdanor.

I'm not going to rebut all this again but merely comment that it illustrates very clearly the difficulty many people have in dealing with reality when politics and/or central belief systems are involved. No amount of statistics and counter

¹⁸ <<https://www.archives.gov/files/research/jfk/releases/docid-32204484.pdf>> We don't know the source of the Soviets' belief that LBJ was involved in the assassination. One possibility is Robert Kennedy, who got to know Soviet diplomatic personnel during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

factual statements would persuade our trio of true blues that Mrs T. was anything but a Good Thing.¹⁹ Nor does this only apply to those on the right. A recent autobiographical sketch of Gordon Brown does not suggest that he has grasped that he and Mr Blair also damaged the British economy by pursuing policies benefitting the City of London and damaging manufacturing.²⁰

In defence of paranoia

I am grateful to David Ciza for pointing me towards 'In defence of paranoia: rethinking politics after the Epstein Files' by Dr. David S. Moon.²¹ The author's summary at the beginning of his essay states:

This article argues that a reflexive dismissal of 'conspiracy' has left political analysis blind to the routine operations of elite collusion, a failure exposed in stark terms by the Epstein case. It calls for a disciplined, evidence-led 'paranoia' capable of tracking power across the opaque 'parapolitical' networks that structure contemporary politics.

Moon is essentially restating the case made by the late Carl Oglesby in his 1974 essay 'In Defence of Paranoia.'²² Below are some extracts from Moon's essay.

Many in the media treated any mention of Epstein's association with British power as conspiracy theory. [. . .] The whole episode ultimately revealed a cognitive failure amongst the class of people paid to understand and explain politics: an inability, or unwillingness, to recognise the role of elite networks in politics and situate events within them. In short, a deficit of healthy concern about political conspiracies.

¹⁹ As well as politics, of course, there is the simple fact that as we get older we find it increasingly difficult to change our minds when faced with new information. I asked Google why changing minds gets more difficult as we get older and it replied:

Changing your mind is harder with age because the brain builds deep neural pathways and prioritizes stability over new data. Accumulated life experience creates strong mental models and personal biases, making it more difficult to unlearn old concepts and process new information rapidly

²⁰ <<https://educationenvoy.org/what-we-do/>>.

²¹ <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/407257676_In_defence_of_paranoia_rethinking_politics_after_the_Epstein_Files>

²² Available at <<https://www.unz.com/print/Ramparts-1974nov-00015>>. Oglesby's essay was, in part, a riposte to Richard Hofstadter's 1964 'The Paranoid Style in American Politics'.

[. . .]

Yet in the rush to repudiate fantasy and defeat hatred, serious analysis of *real* conspiracy has too often been dismissed. The result, as the Epstein affair illustrates, is an incomplete grasp of politics as it actually operates, and a vacuum readily filled by darker forces. Conspiratorial politics flourishes amid institutional decay. [. . .]

The task, I submit, is neither to treat the Epstein example as an aberration nor abandon oneself to online delusions. It is to recover a disciplined, democratic suspicion: a form of healthy paranoia suited to an age of opaque networks, dark money, and unaccountable elites. As I set out here, that means moving beyond certain received reference points, opening the 'difficult boxes' of politics and its academic study, and embracing a perspective that includes those elements captured under the rubric of 'parapolitics'. [. . .]

From Operation Underworld and COINTELPRO in the United States, to the City of London's status as a global hub for illicit finance and the 'spy-cops' scandal in the United Kingdom, covert operations, corporate collusion and state-criminal entanglements have demonstrably shaped political life in ostensibly liberal democracies.

What with this and Dr Theo Kindynis,²³ there are signs of life in British academic political studies.

Burnham and the Israel lobby

If, like me, you had vaguely thought that the departure of Sir Keir Starmer from No. 10 meant the end of the Israel lobby's role in the Labour government, you'd better read Jody McIntyre; either the string on X²⁴ or his substack.²⁵ The lobby is still in there.

²³ See his 'Criminology, Conspiracy Theories and Theorizing Conspiracy' at <<https://academic.oup.com/bjc/article/65/5/1088/7991030>> which includes this:

For much of the field's history, parapolitical enquiry has been marginalized within the academy—where the fields of intelligence and security studies are closely aligned with the security state—and has instead been developed in a number of grey literature periodicals such as *The Lobster* (UK) and *CovertAction Magazine* (US).

²⁴ <https://x.com/jodymcintyre_/status/2081783574118678857>

²⁵ <<https://jodymcintyre.substack.com/>>

Google AI and our secret history

I have been reformatting *Lobster* 11, 'Wilson, MI5 and the rise of Thatcher', and have thus read it for the first time in years. It details the network of right-wing groups, paramilitary groups, spooks serving and retired, all bound together by the notion that the Labour Party and the trade unions were either a conscious front for the Soviets, or were unwittingly acting as one. This network apparently faded away slowly after the election of Mrs Thatcher as Conservative leader in 1975. But this was the background to the mutation of the recreated 'stay behind' groups into the secret paramilitary force described by Peter Sanderson in 'The British Gladio' in *Lobster* 81. Re-reading *Lobster* 11 showed me why little of what Sanderson described was surprising.

Researching Sanderson's claims I rediscovered this from *State Research* issue 2 in 1977.

UNDERCOVER RESERVE FORCES

A paramilitary committee of former high-ranking service officers has, for the past six years, been receiving official government support to set up an undercover, anti-communist resistance movement in Britain (*Daily Express* 18/7/77). The Resistance and Psychological Operations Committee (RPOC) is a covert group within the government-funded Reserve Forces Association (RFA). The RFA is the representative body of British military reservists, and the British component of the NATO-supported Confederation Inter-Allies des Officers de Reserve (CIOR). The RFA was formed in 1970 and is formally an independent organisation, but its 214 individual and 90 corporate members represent all the reserve units of the armed forces and the government treats it as the spokesman of Britain's reserve forces.

Since 1971 the RPOC has been setting up the nucleus of an underground resistance organisation which could rapidly be expanded in the event of a Russian occupation of any part of NATO, including Britain. Close links have been formed with similar units in several European countries, which are actively recruiting 'anti-communist resistance fighters', according to Chapman Pincher. They are also said to have established an intelligence network which NATO chiefs regard as being of great value²⁶

This RPOC-RFA network looks like the group which organised the Civil Contingency Cadre which Sanderson joined. So I Googled <British state +

²⁶ This is not on-line as far as I can tell.

1970s + Resistance and Psychological Operations Committee> and then followed leads offered by Google AI. Which got me much apparently striking material. This for example:

In the 1970s, the Resistance and Psychological Operations Committee (RPOC) operated as an influential, semi-covert body associated with British military planning, reserve forces, and intelligence networks. It allegedly laid the groundwork for an underground resistance organization and coordinated psychological warfare concepts during the Cold War. The Resistance and Psychological Operations Committee (RPOC) functioned as a vital, covert bridge connecting the British state to NATO's secret "stay-behind" networks and transnational anti-communist intelligence hubs.

Which I think is probably true but for which is there no evidence. Google AI's apparently sexy statements about RPOC are almost entirely based on the 1977 Chapman Pincher article in the *Daily Express* which is cited in the *State Research* piece above. Google AI finds no official or academic material on either RPOC or the Reserve Forces Association (RFA) in English.²⁷

The biggest lie

Thom Hartmann may be America's most important radical voice. He is certainly its most productive. He has published a book almost every year since 1992, had a radio programme, is now on-line and does other journalism. He makes me feel lazy. Somehow I managed to miss almost all of that output, noting in *Lobster* 51 only his co-authorship with Lamar Waldron of a JFK whodunnit, *Ultimate Sacrifice*.²⁸

A PDF advance copy of his latest book, *Who Killed the American Dream? The Greatest Political Crime Ever Told*, (Oakland [CA]: Berrett-Koehler, 2026) arrived by email. Hartmann begins:

PROLOGUE

A Crime in Plain Sight

Every law student in America learns the same story:

"In 1886, the United States Supreme Court ruled in Santa Clara

²⁷ Google AI tells me there is a section on RPOC in a German book. I have contacted the author.

²⁸ <<https://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/article/issue/51/ultimate-sacrifice/>>

County v. Southern Pacific Railroad Company that corporations are persons under the Fourteenth Amendment. This single decision fundamentally trans-formed American democracy, business, and law. It granted corporations the same constitutional rights as human beings: free speech, due process, equal protection. Everything that followed, from unlimited corporate campaign spending to corporate control of our media, politics, and environment, traces back to that pivotal moment.”

There’s just one problem: it never happened. The Supreme Court debated this issue and never made that ruling. Not in 1886, not ever. What actually happened is far more disturbing: A court reporter [Bancroft Davis, the Court’s official reporter], a corrupt Supreme Court justice, and the railroad oligarchs who owned America’s most powerful corporations successfully conspired to rewrite the Constitution. They committed the crime in broad daylight, recorded it in official court documents, and hid it in plain sight for 140 years

Hartmann isn’t claiming to be the first to discover this: it has been known about for over a century.²⁹

Corporations as people is a difficult concept for those raised in the UK to grasp but Hartmann gives examples:

- † Every time a corporation claims First Amendment rights to spend unlimited money on elections, it’s Davis’s fraud.
- † Every time a corporation claims due process rights to block environmental regulations, it’s Davis’s fraud.
- † Every time a corporation claims equal protection to avoid taxes that fund schools, roads, and public services, it’s Davis’s fraud.
- † Every time a corporation claims religious freedom to deny employees healthcare coverage, it’s Davis’s fraud.
- † Every time a corporation prevents the EPA from investigating their pollution by citing the Fourth Amendment right to privacy, it’s Davis’s fraud.

Hartmann hopes his new detailed examination of these events will kick the issue into public consciousness.

²⁹ When I googled this I came across Professor Adam Winkler’s 2018 “Corporations Are People” Is Built on an Incredible 19th-Century Lie: How a farcical series of events in the 1880s produced an enduring and controversial legal precedent’. <<https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2018/03/corporations-people-adam-winkler/554852/>>

Definitely maybe

The excellent Peter Geoghan's 'Revealed: the Russian ties of Liz Truss's radical right conference'³⁰ is subtitled:

CPAC UK was set up by a lawyer who worked with sanctioned 'notorious kleptocrat' – and speakers include politicians linked to pro-Kremlin networks and Moscow talking points.

It includes this:

Jack Posobiec, a former US navy intelligence officer turned alternative news anchor, has claimed that Boris Johnson sabotaged a potential Russia-Ukraine peace deal in 2022 and has repeated Russian disinformation about "Ukrainian biolabs". Paul du Quenoy, president of the Palm Beach Freedom Institute, has described Ukraine as a "corrupt post-Soviet kleptocracy".

Let's take these points one at a time.

Boris Johnson sabotaged a potential Russia-Ukraine peace deal in 2022

He didn't, but he did try to. He flew to Kiev and very publicly told the Ukrainians not to do the deal with the Russians which was then being discussed. How close to a deal the two sides were at the time – the best estimate is not very close.

Russian disinformation about 'Ukrainian biolabs'

The US state has indeed funded 40 biolabs in Ukraine. The office of the US Director of National Intelligence released documents showing so.³¹ What said labs are actually doing . . .

Ukraine is a 'corrupt post-Soviet kleptocracy'

Ukraine certainly was and is corrupt, as simply googling 'Ukraine and corruption' will show. 'Kleptocracy' is a more complex proposition. Clearly the Ukrainian state is not *simply* engaged in enriching its members, which is what kleptocracy means. It is fighting a war, for one thing.

Which is to say: our political opponents don't always talk nonsense.

All together

I did smile at the first interview given by Starmer's former right-hand man,

³⁰ <<https://democracyforsale.substack.com/p/revealed-the-russian-ties-of-liz-truss-cpac-nigel-farage?>>

³¹ <https://www.dni.gov/files/BIOLAB_Slides.pdf>

Morgan McSweeney.³² Said McSweeney:

We didn't prepare enough for what kind of world we were going to . . . I think we didn't have enough conversations at the top of the party about what that meant, how to prepare for it, what that meant for the state.

They didn't prepare because they thought they would lose the election, as Labour Together member Neal Lawson told us.³³ McSweeney's organisation, largely funded by pro-Israel money, wanted Wes Streeting as leader. They assumed Streeting would succeed Starmer after the latter led Labour to election defeat.

Which illustrates once again how far ahead politicians think.

Different strokes . . .

How different perspectives see the same events. Here's the MAGA fan Roger Stone:

President Donald Trump's America First foreign policy is delivering results that were, until very recently, dismissed as impossible. NATO allies, long content to let the United States shoulder the burden of their defense, are finally stepping up. Germany, Europe's economic powerhouse, is pledging to build the continent's strongest army signaling a broader shift across the alliance. This is not charity or coincidence—it is the direct outcome of relentless pressure from President Trump, who has made clear that the era of American taxpayers subsidizing European security is over.³⁴

So the vast network of American military installations all over Europe (and the world) since WW2 was America generously protecting us against the Red Menace. How could I have not grasped this?

Bilderberg

The essential Carole Cadwalladr had a recent piece pointing out that Peter

³² <<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce8j2e38zzgo>>

³³ <<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/nov/13/keir-starmer-labour-prime-minister-corbyn-mps>>

³⁴ 'NATO Realignment Comes to Fruition as Europe Pays Their Fair Share'
<<https://www.stonecoldtruth.com/p/president-trumps-nato-realignment?>>

Thiel, a leading member of what she has christened the brologarchy, has been funding the Bilderberg group.³⁵

This is news to me but then I haven't been interested in Bilderberg for a while. Tony Gosling has more about Bilderberg than you could ever hope to need at his site Bilderberg.org. Out of curiosity I asked *Lobster's* search engine for the first reference to Bilderberg in these pages. There's a passing reference in *Lobster* 1.

Disinfo never really dies

I admire Dick Russell, but oh dear, he has relaunched the MJ-12 (Majestic) UFO nonsense on his substack: 'UFO COVERUP: THE EARLY HISTORY: A STARTLING NEW DOCUMENT COMES TO LIGHT'. (Caps in the original.)³⁶ I discussed the MJ-12 psy-op – for that's what it was – in some detail in *Lobster* 40.³⁷ The MJ-12 psy-op was 'blown' by one of those taking part in it, Bill Moore. He told the annual conference of the major American UFO organisation, MUFON, in 1989 that it had all been disinformation, cooked-up by parts of the military-intelligence agencies. It had been what Colin Wallace described years before as a double bubble operation: you lead people down a false trail and then pop what you had persuaded them to believe.

All our yesterdays

These entertaining paragraphs appeared in an essay by Geoffrey Wheatcroft in the *New York Review of Books* on 25 June 2026.

In case anyone failed to grasp what that name [New Labour] meant, just before Blair's triumph at the 1997 election there was a very funny book review in *The Spectator* by the late Robert Taylor, a financial correspondent and man of the left . . . The book was *The State To Come* by Will Hutton, a cheerleader for Blair and New Labour, who predicted 'a strange rebirth of liberal England', with greater public

³⁵ 'You're obsessing over the wrong Peter Thiel conference. Forget Dialog. Bilderberg is where the actual masters of the universe meet. Three guesses who secretly funds it?'
<<https://brologarchy.substack.com/p/youre-obsessing-over-the-wrong-peter?>>.

³⁶ <<https://dickrussell.substack.com/p/ufo-coverup-the-early-history?>>

³⁷ <<https://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/article/issue/40/disinformation-from-euros-to-ufos/>>

spending paid for by higher taxes on the rich, strengthened unions, a closer engagement with Europe beginning with an immediate process to join the single the currency when it was created, and many beguiling things besides.

Could Hutton really believe this nonsense, Taylor asked? How the young spin doctors in Millbank Tower [Labour headquarters] must be laughing among themselves at such patent absurdity. They know from their own focus groups findings that what Middle England real, really wants is Thatcherism with a fresh young face and this is what Mr Blair provides.

It was indeed obvious that NuLab were Thatcherites and several of us wrote so in *Lobster* 33, just after Blair won his first general election. My version included this:

This is the key move by the Blairites: they have become the party of the City, the big transnational corporations and the Foreign Office – the overseas lobby. They have succeeded triumphantly in becoming the party of Europe – still desired by a majority of the overseas lobby in Britain. This shift explains the enthusiasm for the Blair faction expressed by the London establishment – the Foreign Office, the higher media and the EU-oriented section of British capital – before the election. Labour, under the Blair faction, is a more reliable bet for continued EU membership than the Conservative Party with its vociferous English nationalist wing, the so-called Eurosceptics.

And with this shift to an overseas orientation, comes the concomitant position that Labour's traditional constituencies – so-called Old Labour – the domestic economy, especially manufacturing and the public sector, become merely interest groups to be taken for granted and ignored.³⁸

I was still a member of the Labour Party then and there was no-one around me in it willing to face this. From the odd comment he has made, Andy Burnham seems to have grasped this – albeit almost 30 years too late. We shall see what – if anything – he is prepared to try and do to rectify it.

Covid conspiracy theories

The central Covid conspiracy theories are that there was no Covid pandemic;

³⁸ <<https://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/article/issue/33/contamination-the-labour-party-nationalism-and-the-blairites/>>

or, if there was one, it wasn't as dangerous as the authorities said it was. Looking for examples of them I came across 'Why I don't believe there ever was a Covid virus' by Dr. Mike Yeadon.³⁹ He has an impressive CV⁴⁰ but his reasons for denying the existence of Covid are still unclear to me after reading his essay and he has a pretty conspiratorial world-view to begin with. Take this paragraph:

So who do I mean by 'they' and 'the perpetrators'? There are a number of candidates competing for this position, with their drug company accomplices, several of whom are named in Paula Jardine's excellent five-part series for TCW, 'Anatomy of the Sinister Covid project'.⁴¹ High on the list is the 'enabling' World Economic Forum and their many political acolytes including Justin Trudeau and Jacinda Ardern.

This is absurd. The World Economic Forum is a talking shop of no consequence. As for Trudeau and Adern (then Prime Minister of New Zealand) as cosmic villains – *really*?

What the cited Paula Jardine's essays do show is that the American military and biochemical industry, using a possible threat of biological weapons, worked for twenty years to obtain a lot of US taxpayer money to deal with the threat of biological warfare. (Bogus 'threat' generation is a standard feature of the US military-industrial-congressional-complex.) When Covid arrived much of the groundwork for a large-scale organisational response to it had been laid. It is thus not that big a step for the conspiratorially-minded to interpret those preparations as sinister.

Yeadon writes:

To this point, an ex-pharmaceutical industry executive Sasha Latypova, [. . .] describes the extensive evidence of the contracts and relationships that were in place before the Covid era. Contracts were signed for billions of dollars in February 2020.

³⁹ <<https://off-guardian.org/2023/04/06/why-i-dont-believe-there-ever-was-a-covid-virus/>>

⁴⁰ It includes this:

Dr Mike Yeadon has a degree in biochemistry and toxicology and a research-based PhD in respiratory pharmacology. He has spent over 30 years leading new medicines research in some of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies, leaving Pfizer in 2011 as Vice President & Chief Scientist for Allergy & Respiratory.

⁴¹ Actually it's 6 parts. It begins at <<https://www.conservativewoman.co.uk/anatomy-of-the-sinister-covid-project-part-1/>>.

Though it is possible that she has other documents, in her essay Latypova does *not* show 'contracts signed for billions of dollars' in February 2020.⁴² There is one, from July 2020, showing a deal with Pfizer Inc.. However, working her way through official documents, she shows that after the Covid outbreak the US Department of Defense did deals with other organisations, including one from China. Which is interesting but not necessarily sinister. After all, the US government was indirectly funding the lab in Wuhan in China from which the virus escaped in the first place.

Towards the end of her piece she gives us this:

The current war is the war of the global governments (plural), that only pretend to be at odds with each other, marketing themselves as "left", "right", "communists", "green", "capitalists", "socialists", "populists", "conservatives", etc. etc. in a never ending clown show of the political theater. Behind the scenes, the "official enemies" are partners and co-investors into "joint ventures" against us, people of the world.

Which is just silly.

Election theft

Did the hi-tech bros steal the last presidential election for Trump? It is beginning to look like it. Check out 'Elon Musk's Ex, Ashley St. Clair, Confirms He Rigged the 2024 Election Using Technology'.⁴³ It includes this:

On June 5, 2025, a year ago to the day, Musk made his own position explicit:

"Without me, Trump would have lost the election, Dems would control the House and the Republicans would be 51-49 in the Senate."

And then go to 'We Dug Into Data for the 2026 Kentucky 4th District Republican Primary'⁴⁴ from the Election Truth Alliance. The Trump-stole-the-election (or it-was-stolen-for-Trump) thesis is not quite proven but it's getting close. But then if you decide to give up bits of paper and use computers to register and count votes you are inviting fraud; and there is so much money

⁴² 'The role of the US DoD (and their co-investors) in "covid countermeasures" enterprise' at <<https://sashalatypova.substack.com/p/the-role-of-the-us-dod-and-their>>.

⁴³ <<https://thiswillhold.substack.com/p/elon-musks-ex-ashley-st-clair-confirms>>

⁴⁴ <<https://electiontruthalliance.substack.com/p/we-dug-into-data-for-the-2026-kentucky>>

involved in who becomes president, it will not be remotely surprising if it is irrefutably proved that election fraud has taken place.

Settlers?

'His father had just been buried. Then West Bank *settlers* forced him to dig up the body'. (Emphasis added.) Thus BBC TV news on 11 May 2026. 'Settlers'? Surely 'thieves' or 'terrorists' would be more appropriate. Oddly, the Qatar-based Al Jazeera uses the same term.

Palestine weekly wrap: Israeli *settlers* rampage through West Bank villages. Settlers uproot olive trees, seize land, and displace families, reflecting unchecked violence across the West Bank. (14 May)
(Emphasis added.)

Craig Murray on Zionism and British politics

'Unquestioning Zionism has for decades been the entry ticket to the British political and media Establishment. Anybody who was not a fully certified and compliant Zionist would find their career limited – as Jeremy Corbyn, Alan Duncan, Robin Cook and David Mellor all found. Most others, of course, were never allowed to progress that far.'⁴⁵

This is overstating it. Alan Duncan reached number 2 in the Foreign Office, Robin Cook number 1 in the same department. Duncan's chances of going much higher were nullified not by his pro-Arab views but because he was gay. He was the first Conservative MP to come out. David Mellor's political career was derailed by publicity generated by his former mistress going public. These days it might not be fatal to a career but then . . . Robin Cook was in the shadow of Blair and Brown and didn't live long enough to challenge them when their neo-con fantasies blew up in their faces in 2008 (he died in 2005) and we can't know if could have risen further. As for Jeremy Corbyn, by becoming leader of the Labour Party he achieved far more than anyone (including himself) ever thought he would.

Of course there is pressure on British politicians to support Israel but this occurs mainly because supporting Israel is part of supporting the USA. If

⁴⁵ <<https://www.craigmurray.org.uk/archives/2026/05/zionism-has-poisoned-the-uks-central-nervous-system/>>

Corbyn had not been smeared as an anti-semite, he would have been attacked in some other way because he was not a supporter of the USA and NATO; and the United States was – is – not willing to allow the government of its most loyal geo-political ally and largest off-shore tax haven and to fall into the 'wrong' hands.

Blair 1

Regular contributor to these columns, former Labour MP Colin Challen, responded to the essay by Tony Blair attacking the prospect of an Andy Burnham-led government.

The oracle's latest thoughts have been communicated in a 5,700 word long essay and yours truly has read it so you don't have to. The interesting thing going on here is that it comes amidst a rather existential battle for the future of Labour, at least as some more wistful pundits would have it. In actual fact, there is currently no real battle going on. There are no 'big ideas' flying out like sparks from a welder's torch. More like the spluttering of a dying flame overwhelmed by unconsumed wax. Tony, who is almost exactly the same age as me, still feels terribly relevant but hasn't the self-awareness to perceive that he is merely presenting as new thoughts those which are essentially retreads. In fact, he comes across as a bit confused, and as a fellow septuagenarian I have sympathy with his plight. He talks still of the 'Radical Centre' that woolly and pretentious term which could only ever appeal to politicians who strut around as if they were the 'adults in the room' but have nothing original between their ears.⁴⁶

Two things struck me about Sir Tony's intervention. The first is that by making it he has probably boosted Burnham's support among Labour Party members and supporters, many of whom have not forgiven Blair for supporting the invasion of Iraq. The second is that it illustrates beautifully the problem that people engaged in politics have in changing their minds and/or being seen to change their minds. No matter that the last 40 years of neo-con economic policies have been a failure,⁴⁷ none of the neo-cons can (publicly) recognise this. The interesting question is: do they know they failed but are unwilling or

⁴⁶ 'An Oracle Speaks' 27 May 2026 <<http://www.colinchallen.org/blog>>

⁴⁷ On this see the review of A. G. Hopkins' *The Land Where Nothing Works: How Britain Lost The Plot* in this issue.

unable to publicly acknowledge this; or are they simply unable to process the data which shows failure?

Blair 2

Within seconds of leaving No.10, he fixated on accreting personal wealth: an advisory role at JPMorgan Chase and Zurich Financial Services, exorbitantly-priced private speaking gigs, contracts with human rights abusers. That tendency led naturally to his current situation, with the Tony Blair Institute taken over wholesale by billionaire Larry Ellison so he can use Blair as a ventriloquist dummy for his views on AI. Everyone has a price. It turns out Blair's price was \$130 million for the 2021-2023 period, and \$218 million since then.

Thus Ian Dunt on his Substack.⁴⁸

Operation BGFriend

is the name of the joint SIS/CIA operation against Albania at the start of the Cold War. There is new study of the op, *A Rich Harvest Of Bitter Fruit*, by Stephen Long, forthcoming from Icon Books. Long tells us in his introduction that he stumbled across 6,700 pages of CIA files on the op in the US National Archives. This isn't my field, as academics say, and doesn't really interest me greatly. However a skim of the text shows it to be massively detailed. I can think of no other post-war intelligence op which has been so minutely analysed. If there is a reader who would like to review this, please get in touch.

Wikibollocks

The death of the senior MI6 officer Margaret 'Meta' Ramsay at the end of May⁴⁹ sent me to Wikispooks where there is a rather detailed entry on her and the network of organisations of which she was member before and after her work with MI6.⁵⁰ One of them was the John Smith Trust,⁵¹ named after the former

⁴⁸ <<https://iandunt.substack.com/p/john-major-is-a-better-former-pm-bf2?>>

⁴⁹ <<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/meta-ramsay-death-mi6-spy-b2985761.html>>

⁵⁰ <https://wikispooks.com/wiki/Margaret_Ramsay>

⁵¹ David Miller has a detailed account of the John Smith Trust at <https://x.com/Tracking_Power/status/2059413236395765874>.

leader of the Labour Party and student colleague of Ramsay at Glasgow University. That entry includes this:

It was founded in 1996 as a living memorial to the late John Smith, a prominent British politician who *possibly was assassinated* by the deep state to clear the way for Tony Blair. (Emphasis added.)

There is no evidence even hinting that the death of John Smith was suspicious. He had a stressful life, during most of which he drank far too much alcohol⁵² and got little exercise. In any case, Smith had been a member of the Bilderberg steering committee, among other things, surely a key component of 'the deep state', if that over-used phrase means anything these days. Wikispooks should be better than this kind of dumb conspiracy theorising.

⁵² John Booth, while Labour Party Chief Press Officer, saw him drink an entire bottle of whiskey in an evening.