The view from the bridge

Robin Ramsay

12 November

Same old



Britain is not the only country where the politicians are losing their marbles about support for the Palestinian cause. (Alternatively: where the politicians are afraid to not follow the American line of support for Israel.) France is also treating many of those who support Palestine as 'terrorists'.

A high profile French Member of the European Parliament, Rima Hassan (right), is being prosecuted for *apologie du terrorisme* (the glorification of terrorism).[1]

A Russia-Ukraine peace deal?

Mary Dejevsky was the *Independent*'s foreign correspondent in Moscow, Paris and Washington. A recent essay of hers, 'J'ACCUSE - BORIS JOHNSON',[2] has the subtitle 'After the war, Boris Johnson must be held to account for his part in Ukraine's evisceration'. She believes that Russia and the Ukraine were close to a deal in 2022 and Boris Johnson had a hand in scuppering it. Dejevsky wrote:

> Putin's exact words at Valdai[3] were these, as per the Kremlin's official translation.
>
> "We reached an agreement in Istanbul – we truly did. And I am stating this as a fact, not something I made up. The signature of the

[1] 'This Politician Posted a Quote About Palestinian Resistance. Now France Is Dragging Her Through the Courts' <https://novaramedia.com/2026/10/19/this-politician-posted-a-quote-about-palestinian-resistance-now-france-is-dragging-her-through-the-courts/>.

[2] <https://marydejevsky.substack.com/p/jaccuse-boris-johnson>

[3] The 'Valdai' she referred to is a think tank annual meeting.

> head of the Ukrainian negotiating team is right there – he initialled those agreements. That means, on the whole, Ukraine was satisfied with them. There were further details to discuss, but the fact that he signed off on them implies general acceptance. After all, he did not act on his own; he surely did so by agreement and with the approval of the head of the regime. Yet, they abandoned this course of action at the insistence of their Western partners. Later, that same official, who led the negotiating team in Istanbul, said quite explicitly at a news conference: "Johnson, the former British Prime Minister, came and talked us out of it." So, he talked them out of it. Moreover, he said that "had we agreed back then, the war would have been over by now." [4]

Did Boris Johnson persuade the Ukrainians not to do the deal with Russia? President Zelensky denied that Boris Johnson persuaded him to abandon it.[5] But, arguably, he would, wouldn't he? A bigger issue with the Boris Johnson-scuppered-the-peace-deal thesis is the assumption that such a deal was close. I asked Google AI if this was true and it came up with the following.

> **Russia and Ukraine were remarkably close to a peace deal** in the spring of 2022. In the weeks immediately following Russia's full-scale invasion on 24 February 2022, negotiators from both sides held rounds of talks in Belarus and Turkey. By mid-April 2022, they had produced a **detailed, nearly complete draft treaty** (often referred to as the Istanbul Communiqué) that could have ended the war. However, the talks collapsed before a final agreement could be signed.
>
> Ukraine agreed to adopt **permanent neutrality**, renounce its ambition to join NATO, and maintain a nuclear-free status. Russia agreed not to block Ukraine from joining the European Union. (Emphases in the original.)

Yes, the claims in the second paragraph are striking. But let's return to Mr Putin's comment of 'further details to discuss'. Those 'details' included: Ukraine's army size; the future of Crimea and Donbas; Russia's demand that Russian become an official language in Ukraine; and the nature of bilateral alliances allowed under Ukrainian neutrality. In other words, the 'details' was

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[4] Putin speech at Valdai Club 1 October <http://en.special.kremlin.ru/events/president/transcripts/80910>.

[5] <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/feb/12/zelenskyy-rejects-claim-boris-johnson-talked-him-out-of-2022-peace-deal>

where the devil was and they were nowhere close to a deal.[6]

It is hard to see why Google AI – and Mary Dejevsky – concluded a deal was close. Mr Putin has subsequently and repeatedly said he is ready to do a deal along lines agreed in 2022. But anything resembling the 2022 draft will have to resolve those 'details'.

17 October

All our yesterdays

In this column in *Lobster* 90 I mentioned Mikes Hughes' *Inside the League*, his history of The Economic League. Hughes has followed this up with an detailed chronological study of Sir George Makgill, one of the pioneers of anti-labour private spookery in this country after WW1.[7]



You want 'Makgill Final PDF' at the bottom of the page at <https://www.mike-hughes-blacklist-blog.net/>. That's Makgill on the right,: 'AI rendering by Mike Hughes from a rare, poor, mechanically reproduced newspaper illustration.'

Russia and us

So: I am back with Russia. Seems like my adult life has been spent with 'the Soviet/Russia question' in the background – and occasionally the foreground.

Craig Murray describes four days spent in Russia as the guest of the Russian state.[8] He attended various meetings and spoke at some. (Curiously, the one thing some of his hosts did not appreciate was his support for the

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[6] On which see <https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-ukraine-peace-deal-putin-draft-treaty/33183664.html> or <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2024/apr/22/boris-johnson-ukraine-2022-peace-talks-russia> and <https://theconversation.com/ukraine-war-the-idea-that-kyiv-should-have-signed-a-peace-deal-in-2022-is-flawed-heres-why-250423>.

[7] On whom, see the sketch at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sir_George_Makgill>.

[8] 'Four Days in Ekaterinburg' at <https://www.craigmurray.org.uk/archives/2026/09/four-days-in-ekaterinburg/>.

He was invited by 'Yana Lantratova, Russian Federal Commissioner for Human Rights, to deliver a speech on human rights to the International Youth Festival in Ekaterinburg'. The still extant independent *Moscow Times* profiled Landratova at <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2026/05/19/who-is-yana-lantratova-russias-new-human-rights-commissioner-a92789>.

Palestinians.) At one event the Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov

> . . . went out of his way to mention Scottish Independence. He mentioned again, as he had to the Ambassadors two days earlier, that the Russian attitude to Scottish Independence was governed by the of self-determination as specified in the UN Charter . . .

Being a Scots Nat, Murray found this cheering. From another perspective, hearing a Russian Foreign Minister citing the UN charter should provoke guffaws (just as it should coming from a US Secretary of State). Murray doesn't acknowledge that Lavrov's comments suggest that the Russians will be trying to covertly support the Scots Nats (again[9]) with the aim of weakening the UK *qua* NATO member. Would an independent Scotland allow US nuclear subs into the base at Faslane, north of Glasgow?

I have nothing new to add to the discussion of Russian attempts to influence the 2016 referendum on UK membership of the EU;[10] but as I was writing this it was reported that recent Ukrainian attacks on Russian data centres resulted in a large decline in on-line Russian support (presumably bots) for Reform Party politicians.[11]

Huh?

Finding a rationale for continuing support for Israel is taxing the ingenuity of some of its defenders. Take *Times* columnist Daniel Finkelstein. In his piece for the paper on 14 October, 'Left's obsession with Zionism has history', Finklestein ignores the 80,000 or so recent Palestinian corpses and the destruction of most of the buildings in Gaza. Instead, he links today's left anti-Zionism to a statement issued by the Central Committee of Communist Party of the Soviet Union at a 1970 press conference on Zionism.

I kid you not.

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[9] See <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/7/21/russia-meddled-in-scottish-vote-unclear-on-brexit-uk-parliament>

[10] See <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jul/21/just-what-does-the-uk-russia-report-say-key-points-explained> and <https://bylinetimes.com/2025/02/13/russian-interference-british-politics-sergei-westminster-spy-ring/>.

[11] 'Reform figures see social media engagement drop after strikes on Russia data centres' <https://www.thelondoneconomic.com/politics/reform-figures-see-social-media-engagement-drop-after-strikes-on-russia-data-centres-410517/>

Feedback

Scott Newton replied to my review of his *Modernization Frustrated*: *The Politics of Industrial Decline in Britain Since 1900* (with Dilwyn Porter) in this issue.

> As we said in our preface to the Routledge Revivals edition, we underestimated both the difficulties faced, and the capability shown, by the Wilson-Callaghan governments of 1974-79. In the end, they left things in pretty good shape, in terms of GNP, the external balance and inflation. In fact, I don't think their record has been bettered since, although John Major's 1992-97 government didn't do too badly in those areas, either. Moreover, the 'IMF cuts', such as they were, had been largely restored by 1978. I was wrong in stating that 1976 marked the close of an era that started in 1945. This deeper understanding owed a lot to Douglas Wass's account of the IMF crisis, *Decline to Fall*, published around 2008.
>
> All this is frequently forgotten or just conveniently ignored by commentators, a case of 'selective historical amnesia'. 1979 was the crucial date, a point I tried to make clear in *The Reinvention of Britain*.[12] Since then, as you know, it's been pretty much downhill all the way, leading to the dire situation you identify in your review.

10 October

No cigar

Nick Cohen recently talked to Anne Applebaum on his YouTube channel.[13] Applebaum is an interesting figure with much knowledge about Europe and Russia. On her Substack blog recently she offered an account of the corruption and incompetence of the Trump regime with an essay, splendidly titled 'Empire of Grift'.[14] It included this:

> This revolution has special resonance in the democratic world that came into being after 1945, a world based not exclusively on law, but on a set of mostly *self-imposed restraints*. Inside this sphere, American power

[12] Reviewed by Dan Atkinson in *Lobster* 74. See <https://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/article/issue/74/the-reinvention-of-britain-1960-2016-a-political-and-economic-history-by-scott-newton/>.

[13] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Q_UZ0w8BEg>

[14] <https://anneapplebaum.substack.com/p/empire-of-grift>

> was largely derived from alliances that *it refrained from exploiting*. (Emphasis added.)

Evidently Ms Applebaum has not read the late William Blum's accounts of post-WW2 American foreign policy which documented over 50 American coups, attempted coups or destabilisation campaigns.[15] It is striking that she is still repeating the cover story.

Neo-liberal delusions

Andy Burnham's comments in his first speech as PM about 'wrong turns' taken in the 1980s surely has rattled a few cages.[16] Take Tom Harris, former Scottish Labour MP and junior transport minister under Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. He used the columns of the *Daily Mail* (of course) to tell us that Burnham had been an enthusiastic Blairite and his change of course was down to personal ambition rather than recognition of mistakes.[17] In the course of this Harris shows how and he and others of his ilk see British economic history before the arrival of the Blessed Margaret in 1979.

> Back then, Burnham was a genuine New Labour devotee: a supplicant and a semi-protege of Tony Blair. He believed in the project to . . . rid it [the UK] of the *hardline socialist forces* that had *so impoverished* our country in preceding decades. . . (Emphases added.)

'Hardline socialist forces' – does he mean the administrations of Labour PMs Attlee, Wilson and Callaghan? And if not, what?

Was Britain 'so impoverished. . . in preceding decades'? I asked Google for UK economic growth 1945-79 and got the following paragraphs.

> **Key Macroeconomic Eras**
>
> **1945–1951: Post-War Austerity & Rebuilding**
> Facing a shattered economy and a national debt peak of –270% of GDP, Clement Attlee's Labour government implemented strict rationing and austerity. Backed by US Marshall Plan grants, the

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[15] Detailed in his *Rogue State: A Guide to the World's Only Superpower* (Common Courage Press [US] and Z Books [UK]) 2000.

[16] <https://labourlist.org/2026/07/andy-burnham-first-speech-pm-transcript/>

[17] <https://www.dailymail.com/debate/article-16177063/My-old-friend-Andy-Burnhams-shift-devout-Blairite-hard-Left-class-warrior-driven-naked-ambition-TOM-HARRIS.html>

state nationalised key industries (coal, rail, steel, utilities) and founded the National Health Service (NHS).

1951–1973: The "Golden Age" and "Stop-Go" Cycles
The UK experienced continuous economic growth, averaging 2.5% to 3% annually, alongside near-full employment (often under 2% [unemployment]). Real wages doubled, triggering a consumerism boom. However, growth was disrupted by "stop-go" macroeconomic policies—deliberately choking the economy via interest rates whenever consumer booms triggered balance-of-payments crises.

1973–1979: Stagflation & Consensus Breakdown
The 1973 OPEC oil shock threw the UK into a tailspin. Growth slowed dramatically and inflation spiked, frequently crossing 20%. This era of "stagflation" saw rampant industrial strife (including the "Three-Day Week"), a humilitating (sic) 1976 IMF bailout, and ultimately the 1978–79 "Winter of Discontent", which dismantled the post-war consensus and set the stage for Margaret Thatcher.

This is the conventional view and strikingly omits the inflationary effects of the Conservative government's 'dash for growth' in 1972/3 which helped give the UK the worst inflation in Europe. Even with this omission, it offers no support for Harris's view. Yes, the British economy didn't grow as fast its European neighbours in the 50s and 60s, but there are a number of reasons for that, starting with the UK government managing a declining empire with attention and resources focused abroad rather than domestically. But back to Mr Harris:

> Privatisation, deregulation and tax cuts, despite the *manifest boon* they have conferred on Britain's long-term economic growth and international standing since the 1980s, he [Burnham] now disowns as 'neoliberal'. . .(Emphasis added.)

As for the 'manifest boon' produced by privatisation, deregulation and tax cuts, here is Google AI citing the Office of National Statistics:

> . . . real GDP growth averaged roughly 2.2% to 2.6% *per year* during the 1980s and 1990s, it slowed to an average of 1.1% in the 2020s due to successive structural shocks.

2.2% to 2.6% is the same as, or slightly worse than, it was in the preceding decades. In the 1970s average GDP growth was about 2.7% per year and real

disposable income per head rose by nearly 30% across the decade as a whole.[18]

As for the UK's 'international standing', yes, lots of planes flew bankers in and out of the City after the 'Big Bang'. Whether or not this was a good thing depends upon how you view the UK being an off-shore tax haven for US banks and a reliable supporter of US foreign policy no matter how violent or stupid.

9-11: no surprise

In a conversation with writer Tim Weiner,[19] former SIS chief, Sir Richard Dearlove, said recently apropos 9/11 and its aftermath:

> It was clear there was a wish in the Bush administration to ascribe 9/11 to a linkage with Saddam Hussein. We in the UK violently disagreed. At a briefing in the White House with the president I challenged the CIA briefer and said he was talking nonsense, that there was absolutely no linkage, and that I could say authoritatively we knew there was not one. I do not want to go into detail as to how we knew. What is also highly relevant is that in June there had been an intelligence summit in Bermuda, organised by the Brits, to exchange what we had on *a coming catastrophic attack*. But we did not know the time or the place. So the dreadful thing is that *when 9/11 happened, it was not a surprise*. It was that the jigsaw had not been put together, and there certainly was not a picture of the jigsaw on the lid of the box. (Emphases added.)

Craig Murray

I always read Craig Murray. A couple of things in his recent writing struck me. The first is in his 'Losing my religion':[20]

> When social media started to show us relentless imagery of shredded

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18 <https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/the-uk-economy-in-the-1970s/>

19 'Careers Ended Over Ukraine: Tim Weiner and Sir Richard Dearlove on Trump's CIA. A Pulitzer-winning reporter and a former chief of MI6 sit down together, and neither of them can find much to reassure you' <https://en.hvylya.net/interview/2907-careers-ended-over-ukraine-tim-weiner-and-sir-richard-dearlove-on-trump-s-cia?>

20 <https://www.craigmurray.org.uk/archives/2026/09/losing-my-religion/>

> children and human suffering beyond belief, it was astonishing to me that the governments of the western social democracies almost unanimously continued to support Israel.

He is astonished to see European countries going along with the American line of support for Israel? *Really?* Surely the astonishing thing would be a western social democracy *not* supporting the US line.[21]

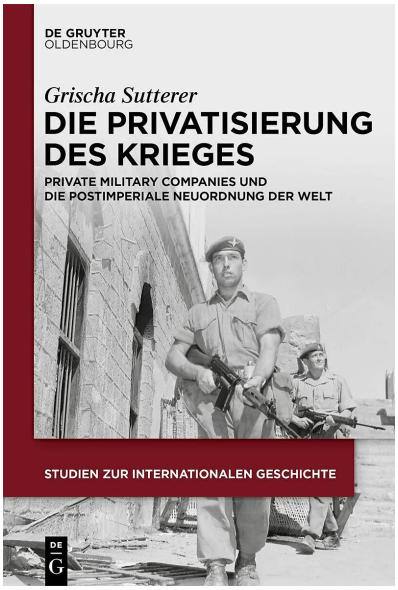
The second is his account of four days he spent as a guest of the Russian state in Ekaterinburg.[22] At one meeting he spoke of

> how the access to true information by young people on Gaza from their mobile phones had broken the hold of state propaganda and placed populations at odds with a Zionist billionaire-controlled political class that they could not influence.

A 'Zionist billionaire–controlled political class'?

27 September 2026

'Private armies' of the 1970s



I mentioned below under subhead **Google AI and our secret history** that I had come across a reference to a German language book which apparently had material on the Resistance and Psychological Operations Committee (RPOC) of the British state. RPOC was running in the 1970s and looked like it may have had a role in the anti-Wilson operations of the period and perhaps even in the formation of the Civil Contingency Cadre.[23] I contacted the author, Dr. Grischa Sutterer, who very kindly emailed me the relevant chapter of

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[21] In fact, so gruesome have the Gaza events been, there was some minor carping about the US line in 2025. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/7/22/28-countries-called-for-an-end-to-israels-war-on-gaza-what-did-they-say>

[22] <https://www.craigmurray.org.uk/archives/2026/09/four-days-in-ekaterinburg/>

[23] See 'The British Gladio and the killing Sergeant Speed' in *Lobster* 81 at <https://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/article/issue/81/the-british-gladio-and-the-murder-of-sergeant-speed/>.

his book which Google translated for me. The chapter provides an account of the RPOC's formation and personnel but this is the most significant (final) section.

> While the societal impact of the Resistance & Psychological Operations Committee is virtually undetectable, the committee was nonetheless part of a broader organizational framework. As a participant in the Interdoc initiative and the Reserve Forces Association, the committee played a role in a network of organizations situated at the interface of state and civil society—a network intended to provide a privatized complement to psychological warfare within the NATO context.[60] . . . .
>
> According to internal documents, the Ministry of Defence was the committee's sole source of funding. Admittedly, amidst the tense atmosphere of July 1974, the committee's leadership did attempt to tap into additional financial sources in the City of London to prepare for a major media campaign. Yet the contacts established within London's financial sector demanded 'sterner measures' than merely disseminating publicity-oriented information about potential subversive activities. Other groups were ready to take on these more concrete tasks.[63]

In subsequent correspondence Dr. Sutterer told me that these 'other groups' referred to in the last line, were the so-called private armies which were formed by General Sir Walter Walker and David Stirling, which have been much discussed in these columns.

The Russian 'threat'

Luke Harding of the *Guardian* has been an outlet for MI6 for quite a while which has enabled his successful career as journalist and author. But as Craig Murray has shown, relying on official sources – let alone official *secret* sources – means Harding has had to put his name to some bullshit in his time.[24]

On his Substack Nick Cohen quotes Harding on the Trump presidency as being:

> the greatest success in the history of Russian espionage. If you had a KGB wish list from the sixties or seventies, it would include to divide America from its European partners, reduce NATO's power and question its viability, and have a US president who repeated Kremlin lies . . . One

[24] <https://www.craigmurray.org.uk/archives/2018/04/where-they-tell-you-not-to-look/>

former British intelligence officer[25] I spoke to described Trump as like the Manchurian candidate on steroids.[26]

Two things struck me about the quotation above. First was the qualifying 'from the *sixties or seventies*'. Why those decades? Would it have been any different in the 80s? The 2000s? Is it any different now? Second is the notion of Trump as 'Manchurian candidate'. This misunderstands Mr Trump. He has no interest in or understanding of international politics. He became president to make himself rich. He sees President Putin as doing the same thing – which is true up to a point – but is unaware of, or choses to ignore the fact that Putin has political beliefs beyond enriching himself.

Yes, America is going to reduce its commitment to Europe as part of the decline of its empire. This was bound to happen one day. But will this actually benefit Russia? It is not obvious to me that it will. The perceived 'Russian threat', and the shrinking US interest in it, means the European members of NATO will spend a great deal more on their military and will create a more closely integrated European defence force. If the Russian state really is bent on recreating the Soviet empire circa 1988 (about which President Putin has spoken occasionally) it had better start soon. As the Ukraine war has shown, the Russian land forces are not very good and would lose a land war with a united Europe.

RIP



Sadly, the death of Frances Stonor Saunders was announced in September. Saunders wrote the excellent *Who Paid the Piper? The CIA and the Cultural Cold War* (London: Granta, 1999).[27] The obituary in the *Guardian* portrays a major intellectual figure.[28]

[25] Presumably Christopher Steele.

[26] <https://nickcohen.substack.com/p/trumps-presidency-is-russias-greatest?>

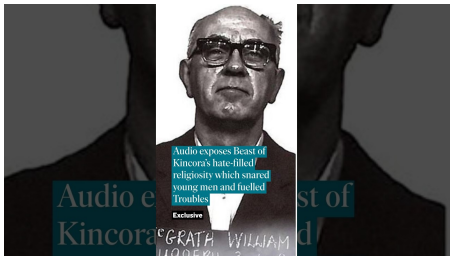
[27] Reviewed in the *LRB* by Edward Said at <https://www.lrb.co.uk/the-paper/v21/n19/edward-said/hey-mister-you-want-dirty-book>. The correspondence beneath the article is worth a look.

[28] <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2026/sep/13/frances-stonor-saunders-obiituary> Some of that intellect is on display in a kind of self-interview she did in 2016 for the Goethe Institute. See <https://www.goethe.de/ins/gb/en/kul/past/eur/sci/20843133.html>.

21 September 2026

Kincora

Click on the image below to hear William McGrath, 'the Beast of Kincora', talking about the threats he saw facing his faction in Northern Ireland. No date on the tape, alas, but early 1970s I presume.



Big stuff

This is from Dick Russell on his forthcoming book:

> *Breaking the UFO Disclosure Dam* by bestselling investigative journalist Dick Russell pulls away the curtain on eighty years of government secrecy, manipulation, and obstruction. In this groundbreaking narrative, based on dozens of interviews and meticulous document analysis, you will learn:
>
> Why renowned lawyer, Daniel Sheehan, and practicing physician, Steven Greer, decided to devote their lives to disclosure.
>
> About the mysterious deaths and disappearances of remote viewers and scientists.
>
> President Kennedy's secret plan for UFO disclosure and the CIA's frightening pushback.
>
> What's really going on with drones, the Buga Sphere, and the 3I/ATLAS comet.
>
> Of the hidden trail of Pentagon funding to reverse-engineer captive spacecraft.
>
> The inside stories of military whistleblowers like David Grusch and Jake Barber and behind-the-scenes figures like Andrija Puharich and Christopher "Kit" Green.
>
> Harvard's curious role, from Donald Menzel and John Mack to Avi Loeb.
>
> How the CIA used psychic Uri Geller and his relationship with Andrija Puharich.

> Of the CIA's program to utilize kids with psychic abilities to communicate with UFOs.

UFOs? Psychics? For what it's worth, since I read *Psychic Discoveries Behind the Iron Curtain* circa 1972,[29] it has been clear that something was going on in a field dismissed by most. We have since learned that the CIA and the US military spent some money researching this and discovered that while some of the phenomena – remote viewing, for example – were real, they were not reliable and repeatable and therefor had no potential intelligence or military value. Equally, given the number of UFO sightings over the years by serious people, the phenomenon had to be taken seriously – a view supported in recent years by the Pentagon's drip feed of bits of film and testimony by personnel confirming the presence of *something . . .*

Following the money

The day it was announced that Reform UK had received two £36 million donations from British cryptocurrency billionaires, I asked Google AI what the donors wanted in return. It replied:

> While the donors deny demanding specific quid-pro-quo terms, critics emphasize that Reform UK's public policies and leadership statements inherently favor the donors' financial interests:
>
> Crypto-Friendly Tax Cuts: Reform UK has formally proposed slashing capital gains tax on crypto assets from 24% to 10%.
>
> Market Deregulation: Nigel Farage has repeatedly pledged to liberalise the UK cryptocurrency market, stating that 'Reform's Britain will lead the digital money revolution'. The party has also floated creating a bitcoin reserve fund at the Bank of England.

If you want to follow donations to all political parties in the UK, click on <https://donation.watch/en/unitedkingdom> which is keeping track of donations over £1000.

The excellent Mr Booth

Regular contributor to these columns, John Booth, was on the Sonia Poulton

[29] Text available free at <https://archive.org/details/psychicdiscover00shei/page/n7/mode/2up>.

YouTube show talking (mostly) about 9-11 (click on the left image). He appears at around 40 minutes. He was also on the Crispin Flintoff show on YouTube (click on right image). He appears at around 13 minutes.





9 September 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.[30]

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?',[31] discusses the British government's reluctance to acknowledge the fact of, let alone

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[30] 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/>.

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

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'[32] 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.

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.

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). . .

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

> 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 for 'Chauncey Holt and the three tramps'.

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.[33] 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.

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

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

(almost) say the unsayable about the British economy. In a piece in *The Times* (1 September) Mr Jones wrote 'Britain is poorer that 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.

Below is a recent letter sent by Colin Wallace to PM 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 bye 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 a 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

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'.[34] This decision was made after a sustained 3 year campaign against Miller for his views on Israel.[35] 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 the apartheid state.[36]

The university appealed to the Employment Appeal Tribunal and lost in August this year.[37]

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 came 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.[38]

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.[39] UK Column found Common Purpose sinister – something nobody else could see.[40] But then it also found the United Nations sinister.[41] So it is an odd choice by Miller. There are surely other, more mainstream sites which would have published his material.

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[34] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-58765052>

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

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

[37] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce3qk5qk559o>

[38] 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>.

[39] See, for example, <https://www.cpexposed.com/>.

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

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

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 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 . . .[42]

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

Joachim Joesten

On 30 July Robert Morrow[43] 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.[44]
>
> The second is the report on the JFK Assassination Debate site by

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

[43] <https://www.blogger.com/profile/09024776169168805400>

[44] 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>.

> Brigette 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.[45] 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 was behind it, Joesten switched to writing his LBJ book.[46]

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*[47] and naming Joesten's first New York publisher, Marzani, as being funded by the Soviets (as did Oleg Kalugin: see note 44).

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

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

[46] <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.

[47] Christopher Andrew and Vasili Mitrokhin, *The KGB in Europe and the West* (London: Penguin, 2000). However this has no *direct* evidence of Joesten being a KGB asset.

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 factual statements would persuade our trio of true blues that Mrs T. was anything but a Good Thing.[48] 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.[49]

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.[50] 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

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[48] 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.

[49] <https://educationenvoy.org/what-we-do/>.

[50] <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/407257676_In_defence_of_paranoia_rethinking_politics_after_the_Epstein_Files>

1974 essay 'In Defence of Paranoia.'[51] 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 understands 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.
>
> [. . .]
>
> 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,[52] there are signs of life in British academic political studies.

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[51] 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'.

[52] 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).

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 X[53] or his substack.[54] The lobby is still in there.

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

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

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

> 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 value . . . .[55]

This RPOC-RFA network looks like the group which organised the Civil Contingency Cadre which Sanderson joined. So I Googled <British state + 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.[56]

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,

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[55] This is not on-line as far as I can tell.

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

Ultimate Sacrifice.[57]

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 County v. Southern Pacific Railroad Company that corporations are persons under the Fourteenth Amendment. This single decision fundamentally transformed 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.[58]

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

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

[58] 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/>

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.

Definitely maybe

The excellent Peter Geoghan's 'Revealed: the Russian ties of Liz Truss's radical right conference'[59] 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 were the two sides at the time? The best estimate is that they were not very close.

Russian disinformation about 'Ukrainian bioloabs'

The US state has indeed funded 40 biolabs in Ukraine. The office of the US

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

Director of National Intelligence released documents showing so.[60] 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, Morgan McSweeney.[61] 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.[62] 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

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

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

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

> 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.[63]

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 Thiel, a leading member of what she has christened the broligarchy, has been funding the Bilderberg group.[64]

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 in 1983.

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.)[65] I discussed the MJ-12 psy-op – for that's what it was – in some detail in *Lobster* 40.[66] 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

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

[64] '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://broligarchy.substack.com/p/youre-obsessing-over-the-wrong-peter?>.

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

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

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 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 really, 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.[67]

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; 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.[68] He has an impressive CV[69] 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'.[70]. 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*?

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

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

[69] 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.

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

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.

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.[71] 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

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71 '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>.

He Rigged the 2024 Election Using Technology'.[72] 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'[73] 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 involved in who becomes president, it will not be remotely surprising if it is irrefutably proved that election fraud had 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.'[74]

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

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

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

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 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 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 politicos who strut around as if they were the 'adults in the room' but have nothing original between their ears.[75]

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,[76] none of the neo-cons can (publicly) recognise this. The interesting question is: do they know they failed but are unwilling or 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.[77]

Wikibollocks

The death of the senior MI6 officer Margaret 'Meta' Ramsay at the end of May[78] 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

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

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

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

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

with MI6.[79] One of them was the John Smith Trust,[80] named after the former 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 alcohol[81] 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.

Operation BGFiend

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.

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[79] <https://wikispooks.com/wiki/Margaret_Ramsay>

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

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