

Building a populist party

- 1) British institutions are falling under woke influences that undermine them. For example we now have: an education system that teaches woke nonsense; a police system that polices tweets; a legal system that is soft on left-wing lawlessness; and border controls that facilitate global people smuggling. Institutional demise across the board is underpinned by a system of recruitment and promotion where merit is compromised by diversity. This undermining of our institutions will continue unless challenged by a political party with a clear counter-narrative on all issues.
- 2) None of the established political parties is able to provide a lead. Today's Labour and Tory parties are relics of an era where class (defined by the workplace rather than culture) shaped politics. The Labour Party is losing its working-class base and although the Tory Party is the current beneficiary its structure and ethos will ultimately deny it success. All the mainstream political parties (Lib / Lab / Con / Green / SNP / Plaid) are elite-based parties that peddle broadly similar politics. In this regard, the UK is different from America where an established party, the GOP, is losing its RINOs (Republicans in name only) in favour of a counter-narrative under the MAGA movement.
- 3) The May elections highlighted the weakness of British populist parties, with no populist candidates being able to save their deposits. The plethora of populist parties (Heritage, Reclaim, Reform, SDP, UKIP and others) is a further expression of weakness, with some of these parties amounting to little more than a handful of committed but unprofessional volunteers.
- 4) The absence of a strong populist party has spawned the politics of individualism, which can spill over into the politics of ego. In recent years many of the disaffected middle class have set up their own political party, website, podcast, campaign or think tank. Many of these outlets involve the same people who talk to each other but who rarely reach beyond a small circle of mostly disaffected middle class thinkers. This plethora of individual activity lacks practical effect because it cannot connect with the majority of ordinary people who have limited time and who know that you cannot think your way to a better society. Ordinary people need a populist party that can articulate their concerns and turn them into practical results, much as UKIP did previously over the desire to leave the EU.
- 5) The desperate need for a strong populist party in Britain can only be addressed by a party that is built on:
 - i) a comprehensive programme of populist policies,
 - ii) members who are trained to win political arguments, and
 - iii) internal democracy.

i) A comprehensive programme of populist policies

- 6) UKIP and the Brexit Party were successful as single issue campaigns at a time when the UK's membership of the EU was a bar to British democracy. But, with a Brexit of sorts achieved today's populist party needs to confront a comprehensive set of political issues. In a recent Breitbart column on [why he will never again vote Conservative](#) James Delingpole sets out seven issues that a populist party would need to confront:
 1. Control immigration, in part to ensure public services aren't overwhelmed, but perhaps mainly to ensure our country maintains its character. Too many of the Soros types pushing the globalist open borders subscribe to the 'magic soil' theory that if you ship some fellow to Blighty he'll become a model Englishman. No he won't. Bitter experience over many years shows as often as not, he will strive daily to make it more like the place he came from. This

is so obvious to me - and to all of you I'm sure - that it oughtn't to need explaining. Yet it does.

2. Restore education - because without it, our country has no future. Bring back grammar schools; give more state schools the freedom to be like Katharine Birbalsingh's Michaela School where children have to learn by heart uplifting patriotic poems, learn times tables, facts and dates, dress smartly, respect their teachers, be quiet in class. English should be about grammar and spelling and reading actual complete books. History should be a celebration of great men (and women), a catalogue of battles and key events, and inspiration for future heroes - not a breast-beating whinge about the slave trade.
 3. Stop sucking up to Big Business, Woke Corporations, and suchlike because they are scum, they have no loyalty to Britain - or the free market or the consumer - and certainly don't deserve being propped up with taxpayers' largesse on *grands projets* like, say, an expensive, massively overbudget new rail system which destroys the countryside and which no one needs. Do help small businesses - which are the backbone of the UK economy and are generally much less woke - by getting out of the way and letting them get on with the business of doing business. Cut red tape; cut taxes; watch the economy grow.
 4. Maintain a strong Armed Forces - for protection, national pride, tradition - but don't use them on foreign wars of intervention which cause far more harm than good.
 5. Win the culture wars. Utterly destroy wokism wherever it rears its hideous head: no encouraging confused kids to get sex changes; no diversity quotas; no unconscious bias training anywhere where the taxpayer is paying for this crap; scorched earth policy (wreaked via Charity Commission) for any institutions - eg the National Trust - which abandon their core purpose and instead start dabbling in identity politics nonsense; sell off the BBC, burn down all its buildings, salt the earth and sprinkle it with holy water and garlic; make 'taking the knee' before sporting events an offence punishable by castration... That should do for starters.
 6. When you say 'Cut the Green Crap', actually mean it: remove every bat-chomping, bird-slicing eco-crucifix from England's green and pleasant land (see also: Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland); frack for shale gas. Go for energy which is abundant and cheap.
 7. Law and order
- 7) Populist issues, such as the seven above, are not randomly chosen. They stem from a counter-narrative that is rooted in the fundamental needs of ordinary people in a liberal democracy. They connect with the desire of ordinary people for the collective institutions of family, workplace, community and nation. These institutions have been under assault from a global elite that celebrates individualism (the basis of the elite's workplace success) and transnationalism. A global division of labour serves the interests of the well-educated at the expense of most ordinary Brits who witness with alarm the export of manufacturing and the import of cheap labour. This economic model serves the interests of a minority which is bolstered with loyalty bought by privileging other minorities who choose to play identity politics. Mass immigration and the culture war are aimed at weakening and dividing the collective interests of ordinary people. The elite's combination of economics and politics has created a narrative that dominates political debate. But it dominates only because it is not challenged by a party that understands and presents a counter-narrative.
- 8) The fact that needs to be addressed is that there are too few people who feel confident arguing for populist policies, such as the seven above, on the doorstep, to their friends or in front of a TV camera. Those who have a go risk being cancelled. Those who succeed have nowhere to go beyond a few extra

social media 'likes'. The counter-narrative is too weak because it has no political party to champion it. In a democracy change requires a political party that energises the many to prevail over the few.

ii) Members who are trained to win political arguments

- 9) UKIP's strength was its members who were committed to the single issue of Brexit (even though it had and still has a good and broad sweep of [populist policies](#)). But its membership was never trained in the sense that internal discussion about Brexit, let alone broader issues, was almost non-existent. Cameron got away with describing UKIP in 2006 as 'as a 'bunch of fruitcakes and loonies'. Even in its heyday UKIP suffered from a high turnover of members as the party offered little to those who lacked sufficient zeal over the EU to keep going. UKIP's fratricide after the 2016 Brexit referendum was the logical consequence of this intellectual weakness.
- 10) Farage was an impressive leader of a single-issue campaign and he took his skills into the Brexit Party. His model retained UKIP's focus on a single issue and dispensed with the element that had become problematic, membership. This model should have died with Brexit, if not before.
- 11) Organisations are only as good as their staff or members. Organisations do well if they recruit well, train well and reward well. Political parties are no different. This is particularly so in the twenty-first century where the mainstream narrative is well ingrained in the media, universities and other institutions. The mainstream narrative is constantly peddled as good and virtuous so that those who challenge it can be shot-down with a few words ending in 'ist' or 'phobic'. (The Tory Party for example, constantly accommodates to the mainstream narrative, as a cursory consideration of Delingpole's seven issues above will confirm. It will be exposed when reality catches up with this woke and duplicitous party.)
- 12) All clubs, workplaces and nations have rules over who can join. It is the acceptance and understanding of these rules that make the institution what it is. A nation, for example, that allows allcomers to become citizens, by doing little more than ticking a few boxes, will soon fragment. A populist party needs members who understand the populist programme and can win others to it. It needs a rule on who can become a member. This can be achieved with a two-fold structure of *supporters* and *members* and a culture of training.
- 13) Anyone who wants to *support* the populist party should be allowed to, much as is currently the case with Reform UK and Reclaim. However, these supporters should only be allowed to become members once they have demonstrated a sufficient understanding of the party's politics and an ability to argue for them.
- 14) As noted above, Delingpole's seven issues, which must be central to a populist programme, require their proponents to be skilled and knowledgeable. This skill and knowledge is not going to come from listening to the mainstream media, and in the UK there is little by way of an effective alternative media. A successful populist party will need to involve its members in a continuous programme of education, writing and activity.
 - a) Education: some political organisations, such as [Policy Exchange](#) and the [Academy of Ideas](#), already organise regular political events and a populist party will need to encourage regular debates and discussion with those in or close to the populist cause.
 - b) Writing: although there are numerous websites and social media outlets for 'alternative' media a populist party will need to develop its own writers who can be relied on to resist the pressures of the mainstream narrative. The populist party should be commenting on all topical issues with tweets, articles and longer essays.

- c) Activity: an effective populist party needs to train and develop organisers and participants for elections and other political activity that promote the party's politics. Members will need to be organised into branches and regions, with an appropriate number of branch and regional organisers.

iii) Internal democracy

- 15) Individuals cannot change society, only a strong party with many committed members can do that. The argument for the party to be built on a democratic platform is pragmatic and principled.
- 16) From a pragmatic perspective individuals cannot be expected to devote time and energy to building a populist party unless they have a stake in it. Mere foot soldiers who take orders and turn up for the occasional bit of canvassing will quickly lose interest. This problem dogged the Brexit Party and many of its supporters lost heart when Nigel Farage unilaterally decided to stand down 'his' candidates in Tory held seats in the 2019 general election. One man bands will come and go, a party that belongs to its members will endure.
- 17) From a principled perspective democracy is right because it encourages maximum debate and gives the organisation (whether it is the nation or the party) the chance to arrive at the best outcome. Populism champions democracy, the idea that people should be sovereign over themselves, and that principle cannot be advocated for the nation, if it is not practised by the party itself.
- 18) So a populist party must be built on internal democracy whereby power vests in the ordinary members, organised in branches, who elect their own representatives, including their leader. UKIP's application of this principle has not been a happy one since 2016 during which it had a succession of unsuitable leaders. But UKIP's experience is not an argument for a top-down undemocratic organisation, like the Brexit Party and Reform UK - it is an argument for a party that ensures its members have been through a proper filtering and training programme before they are entrusted with influence over the organisation.

Conclusion

- 19) In Batley and Spen three teachers have been suspended following a religious education class in which pupils were shown a cartoon of the prophet Muhammed. These teachers are now in hiding after being hung out to dry by their school which suspended them and apologised for their actions. The local MPs and the teachers' union have accommodated to religious intolerance (multiculturalism) and hence have reinforced the elite narrative. A populist party, with the resources to do it, needs to stand in this by-election to assert the counter-narrative, which is that there can be no compromise between free speech and religious fundamentalism.
- 20) The forthcoming by-election in Batley and Spen provides an opportunity for a populist party to start the fight-back by using it to present a counter-narrative and to begin recruiting the members who could make the party strong. Is there an organisation that is currently up to this task?

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