

# THE ANARCHIST CRITIC.



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We will try to produce this bulletin on a regular basis highlighting policies and events that influence our lives but are dictated by corporate institutions and governments beyond our control. If we, the ordinary people desire a world for all our children, we must resist, organise, and take control

## ELECTION STUFF. CROOKS AND LIARS.

In today's society we have lots of strange and bewildering events, festivals etc.. One of the most bizarre festivals is the "Festival of Crooks and Liars", this comes round every four or five years and usually goes under the odd name of "elections." In the UK we have one coming up in the next few months. This festival starts with the groups and/or individuals wishing to participate in the "Festival of Crooks and Liars" breaking into outbursts of incoherent verbal diarrhoea. These verbal outbursts tend to get loud, more ridiculous and more persistent as the festival date looms ever closer. The event culminates in a mad frenzy of the contestants running around the country trying to prove that they are indeed the biggest crook and the best liar in the land.

The aim of the "Festival of Crook and Liars" seems to be for the contenders to make every attempt to out do the other contenders in verbal rubbish, hyperbole and deceit. This part is foolish enough, but the part played by the public is much more of a mystery. It would seem that some members of the public believe that if they take part in this trip of insanity and actually vote for one or other of the contestants in the "Festival of Crooks and Liars" this will in some way end poverty and bring peace and stability to their lives.

What is more strange is the fact that those who take part in the voting ritual of this festival have been doing so for many years and have seen the results each time to be that the "Crooks and Liars" do very well, but they themselves remain, relatively poor and insecure and their environment keeps going down hill, yet they persist in participating believing that somehow the next bunch of "Crook and Liars" will not actually be crooks and liars.

Perhaps those "voters" should start to organise among themselves to take control of their own lives and communities and try to shape them the way that they would like in co-operation with others and leave the ridiculous show of insanity that is the "Festival of Crooks and Liars" for what it is, a dangerous illusion, a disempowerment that allows our wealth to be siphoned upwards.



## POLITICAL THEATRE.

As our unloved politicians gallop maniacally around the land seeking enhancing photo-opportunities and vomiting meaningless sound bites, it tells you all you need to know about our political system. It is all show and appearances, it is a personality contest, wives included. They call it democracy, I call it theatre. It is baffling how in a country that has been fighting an illegal war in Afghanistan for the last nine years can run up to an election and not one of the main parties mentions the war. Is this a coincidence or is it a pre-arranged set up by the leaders of these little political cabals to make their jabberings all on the narrowest of topics where they can speak volumes but say nothing that is related to reality.

Imagine living in a land where the system allows you real influence and real choice. Imagine at election time engaging in debate about the war and how to end it, is the "war on drugs" a waste of time and resources, the pointless expenditure on a nuclear deterrent, should we have a religious or a secular society, why do we allow the pharmaceutical industry to bleed the our National Health Service, should we permit the privatization of the Health Service, Can we ever hope to openly debate at election time the morality of the British arms industry, the ineffectiveness of our prison system, or the unfair distribution of wealth within our society, why do we still have a Monarchy. Glory be, that would be going too far.

What is an even greater stretch of the imagination is having been able to debate any of the above, is the possibility of that debate having any influence on those elected. No matter what is debated, it has no bearing on the policies of the elected government, that just wouldn't be British politics, that might be getting too close to democracy.

Only with the abolition of the state and all its authoritarian institutions and replacing them with a system of free association, voluntary co-operation and mutual aid based on sustainability that sees to the needs of all our people and not to the needs of the privileged parasites that control this type of society, can we hope for fairer and just society. We need a society of communities controlled by all those who take part in those communities working in federation with each other.



## **FEVER PITCH!!!**

As the UK election campaign for the Westminster House of Corruption rolls on to its ultra boring conclusion, the media keep referring to the elections having reached “fever pitch”. So far we have had a television “debate” by the three “leaders” where there has been rantings about how well each projected himself. We have also had a mountain of coverage on how well each of their respective wives were handling the affair. We have also had photos of the young Nick Clegg at his posh school with some other toffs.

Any words that they vomit out at the various photo opportunities are preceded by, savings and cuts that wont hurt anybody, and of course “change”. They are all for change, time for change, our change will be better than their change and other crap waffle. They get quite excited about when the cuts should come, now, later, not at all. The savings are always in meaningless numbers, a billion here and a billion there. Absolutely no detail, no meaningful explanations. They think the electorate is stupid.

With about two weeks left for you to decide who gets their snout in the pig trough we have heard nothing about any of the real problems facing the ordinary people. It is incredible that we approach a national election and the country has been nine years at war and not one of the main parties have even mentioned the war. A war that has claim almost 300 young British lives, not to mention the other lives lost in that unfortunate country, yet it is not an issue at the national election. They don't want the public to discuss the killing of working class youth.

So what are you voting for? The three main parties all agree on all but the cosmetics, so what you are really voting for is to see that somebody gets a salary of at least £64,000 plus “expenses” nudge-nudge, and a host of other money making perks, while you can look forward to cuts in all departments of your life. Cuts in health, education, pensions, social benefits, wage cuts and wage freezes, higher unemployment, working longer before you get your reduced pension. You can sit back and watch the billionaires get fists full of tax payers money while you head for a return to the Victorian era. Are you mad!!

This system of capitalist exploitation is not set in tablets of stone, it is a man made system that benefits the few at the expense of the many. There are alternatives, surely we have sufficient imagination to take control of our own lives and devise a system of justice and mutual aid, a system that sees to the needs of all in that society and not pander to a bunch of greedy power hungry parasites

## **WHAT YOUR MP COSTS YOU.**

Well you can rest assured that an MP is never out of pocket. They start with a basic salary of £61,820 + incidental allowance £22,193 + London supplement £2,916 + additional cost allowance £24,006 + communication allowance £10,400 + IT equipment £3,000. Then there is the winding up allowance of £40,799 + staffing allowance of £100,205, which a high percentage goes to family and friends. Let's not forget a car allowance of 40p a mile for the first 100,000 then 25p after that. And would you believe bike allowance of 20p a mile. So the next time you cycle to work remember to ask your boss for that 20p a mile.

## **WHY BOTHER VOTING??**

Another election trundling towards us like a dinosaur from the ancient past. All the same old verbal waffle, the same patronising claptrap and theatrical performances. The same old sleaze mongers and corporate poodles trying to tell us, everything will be different this time if we vote them into the pig trough that is the Westminster House of Corruption.

Surely we have learnt enough to know that voting will change nothing for us the ordinary people. Politics and the party political system is all about big business and how the shareholders minders, the government, can further their aims and protect their wealth and privileges. The very questions they ask are part of the problem, the way they form and frame the problems is restricting the debate to a narrow vein that suits them.

To break out of this straight jacket imposed by the privileged parasites we have to ignore the party political circus and the election and start to talk to each other at street level and at community level, perhaps there we will begin to formulate our answers round the problems that we ourselves can identify with in our everyday lives. Our lives are dependent on Prime Ministers, shareholders, parasites and sleazy politicians, only if we hand them the power by abdicating control of our own lives. We the ordinary people make, grow and distribute everything in this world, they need us to maintain their privileged position, we don't need them. We can do it all in a fairer and more just manner without the profit motive. Our lives would be so much richer if took control of our communities in federation with all other communities and sent the party political system and its bed companion the corporate world, to the dustbin of history. So to sort our problems, don't vote, talk to your neighbours and workmates about your problems and see what answers you develop. I'm sure it will be much better than the crap that is dropped on you by the present system.

## **ELECTIONS, DEMOCRACY MY AR\*\***

As the election is now set to occupy the media in its usual frenzy of excitement about nothing, we will be plagued by promises of how each and every one of the parties has the answer to our problems. The fact that we have had elections for some considerable time and the ordinary people still struggle to raise a family in decent conditions, should tell us something. Elections are a theatre put on to create the illusion that we the ordinary people are involved in the decision making process. However, no matter how we vote or if we vote, we still have to struggle to survive while the parasitical rich continually get richer. There's something wrong with the system!!! Everybody that enters the Westminster House of Corruption, comes out richer than they went in, while those who put them there are still struggling along trying to make ends meet.

We should try to grasp the facts, the corporate world make the decisions and the sleazy two faced politicians are there to give it all a look of democracy by putting their stamp of legitimacy on those decisions. Look at what we have, CCTV cameras everywhere, was that in the party manifesto, did you vote for them? Selling off public assets at bargain prices, did you vote for that? Privatising large sections of education and health, did you vote for that? Billions given to the big banks, did you vote for that? Our money being spent on illegal invasions in Iraq and Afghanistan, not to mention the slaughter, did you vote for that? Because of the bail-out for the rich and comfortable, we are now heading for drastic cuts in our standard of living through savage cuts to health, education, benefits, pensions etc. did you vote for that?

While the rich parasites plunder the public purse, with the blessing of their bed-mates, the political puppets, a couple of figures should make interesting reading. In Scotland the number of people living below the median wage has rise from the year 06/07. the figures for 07/08 are 8% of the population live on or below 40% of the median, 13% live below 50% of the median and 19% live below 60% of the median. With the present "economic climate" these figures are sure to rise. Where was the money to bail-out these people, after all we are told it is a democracy. It is an cruel illusion, a cage of exploitation, a rich parasites paradise, a blind alley for our kids, not a democracy.



## **GLASGOW TRONGATE 1919.**



## **POLITICS OF THE PEOPLE.**

There are still those who believe that by writing letters and donating time and money to candidates and political parties they can effect genuine change within a country. They seem to hold the view that change must come from above, therefore we must petition the leaders, and once they realise the validity of our view, they will graciously make the changes. There is no evidence what so ever to support this view. The need is to resign from the debating society, stop expecting party political donations to change the world. There are too many longwinded responses to the right wing rhetoric, responses that only solicit more rhetoric.

Mass organising outside the party political system, people on the streets, that's what brings about genuine change. Our history tells us this story if only we would read it. The Glasgow rent strikes of 1915-26, women's suffrage, the labour battles of the 20s & 30s, the American civil rights movement, the anti-Vietnam war protests, the Upper Clyde Shipyard work-in, the British anti-poll tax protests and there are many, many more. All these movements were successful because of the people on the streets, people taking direct action. All these movements were at first opposed by the major sections of the party political system. The social changes these movements created didn't happen because people politely and meekly waited for the major parties to respond, they happened because the people ignored the party political system and forced the implementation of their demands.

The government is there not to listen to the people, but to defend the system that keeps the wealth and power in the hands of the corporate greed machine. It will always do its best to defend its class, and if that means a series of unending oil wars, the death of thousands and the destruction of a country or two, then so be it.

The ordinary people cannot rely on such a system, if we wish a better world for all, then we will have to do it ourselves.

### **QUOTES:**

*"It makes no difference who you vote for -- the two parties are really one party representing 4 percent of the people."* **Gore Vidal**

*' "Politics' is made up of two words, 'poli,' which is Greek for 'many,' and 'tics,' which are blood-sucking insects."* **Gore Vidal**

## **JUST A MAN MADE SYSTEM NOT TABLETS OF STONE.**

There is an inherent flaw in the capitalist system. The bosses want the workers to work as hard as possible, for as long as possible, for as little as possible. The workers want a decent standard of living and a reasonable amount of leisure time with opportunities. The workers desires are in direct conflict with the bosses desire of ever greater profit.

If the workers' needs are to be fully met we must get rid of the bosses. No easy matter considering the bosses are well organised both on a world wide and a national basis from the IMF, the World Bank, the G8 etc. At the national level there is the state and with the state comes the force of the military, the police, the judicial system set up to punish those who would dare to try to break the mould.

We live in a world where the 225 richest people have a combined wealth of the world's 2.5 billion poorest people. The state is there to protect the interests of this minority, it will be done by persuasion, if this fails then force will be used without limit or compassion.

Persuasion starts in education (state propaganda). History is not neutral, what we learn in school is the necessity of government, our own government's benevolence as opposed to others. The greatness and wonderful moral uprightness of our leaders, (deemed to be necessary) and the wonderful benefits of capitalism. The worlds poverty is never linked to the capitalist system.

What we do not learn is that many times, it has been shown that government is not necessary, People are not inherently bad. Given the right conditions a spirit of mutual aid and co-operation can and does grow.

Laws are made not to protect us but to protect those who own the property.



## **ANARCHISM ONLINE.**

[www.glasgowanarchists.org.uk](http://www.glasgowanarchists.org.uk)  
Glasgow anarchist's website.

[www.radicalglasgow.me.uk](http://www.radicalglasgow.me.uk)  
Local resource home of the Anarchist Critic

[www.iwwscotland.org](http://www.iwwscotland.org)  
Revolutionary trade union run by its membership.

[www.praxisglasgow.wordpress.com](http://www.praxisglasgow.wordpress.com)  
Libertarian socialist organisation building strength in communities and workplaces.

[www.libcom.org](http://www.libcom.org)  
Anarchist/libertarian/communist news and resource site.

[www.classwar.uk.org](http://www.classwar.uk.org)  
Militant anarchist group, publishers of the newspaper of the same name.

[www.freedompress.org.uk](http://www.freedompress.org.uk)  
The oldest British anarchist newspaper, going strong since 1886.

[www.anarchistfaq.org](http://www.anarchistfaq.org)  
Infoshop.org's Anarchist FAQ, details what anarchism is and why you should help it come about.

[www.solfed.org.uk](http://www.solfed.org.uk)  
The Solidarity Federation, British section of the International Workers' Association.

[www.katesharpleylibrary.net](http://www.katesharpleylibrary.net)  
Library of Anarchist history.

[www.citystrolls](http://www.citystrolls)  
Think of your City and make it happen.

[www.redpepper.org.uk](http://www.redpepper.org.uk)  
A radical independent magazine.

[www.akuk.com](http://www.akuk.com)  
Anarchist publications.

[www.schnews.org.uk](http://www.schnews.org.uk)  
Free alternative news site

[www.annarky1.wordpress.com](http://www.annarky1.wordpress.com)  
Another ann arky spout.

## **FREEDOM**

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