

The message from Thursday is clear - the left can win, ...

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Some will say today is a bad day for the left. I'm going to beg to differ.

Today is a good day for the left. Not for a long time has it been so clear what it has to do, and what the gain from doing it will be.

The SNP is a left of centre party and it has won outright in Scotland with a confident manifesto that confirms its commitment to the role of the state in the economy.

Labour in Wales has done better than it has ever done before in Assembly elections on the basis of a confident manifesto that confirms its commitment to the role of the state on the economy.

Labour did not do as well as it should have done in England. But that's because it failed to commit itself to a confident policy that supports the role of the state in the economy.

The Lib Dems abandoned their left of centre stance and were wiped out.

Sure the Tories have done better than I would have wished. But I have to accept that the right will always be with us. That's a fact.

And what's very obvious today is that confident left of centre parties can win but in the absence of such a party no one delivered in England.

The message is clear and unambiguous. If only Labour offered England the choice the Welsh and Scots have but which has been denied to the English for more at east 20 years, of a party that is confident enough to say that this country needs strong government by a party that believes in the role of the state because of the enormously beneficial role it can play in the economy and in people's lives then that party could walk to a landslide.

The SNP's win is not chance. It was choice. It's a choice the people of England want to make.

It's up to Labour to offer them that choice.