

The need is for a politics of care

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I confess to being worried. Everyone, Jeremy Corbyn included, knows Theresa May will have a bigger majority after the general election than she has now.

Suggestions that Wales might elect a Tory majority and that in Scotland the Tories really are the opposition now suggest that, for now at least, the collapse in faith in anyone else is significant.

Corbyn is, of course, a factor. Labour's collective suicide, from which path I fear it will not be deflected, is probably the biggest negation of responsibility in recent democratic history. But that said it is not enough to explain the collective leave taking from anything approaching common sense that is occurring right now.

The last time I felt sentiment like this that was so obviously disconnected from reality was in 1999 when market values of dot.com companies were wildly inconsistent with any then known possibility of real worth arising. A crash did, of course, follow.

That same disconnect exists now.

The NHS is in crisis and it is this government's fault.

The same can be said of education, social care, the justice system, the police, energy, social housing and so much more.

And the Conservatives have completely failed to deliver their economic promise, even if it was wrong headed.

Despite all this they appear dominant in all polling. There is, quite clearly, a collective leave of sense sweeping the UK right now.

But this never lasts. Blair survived and built on a landslide because he came in on an upturn and fortune let him build in it. May has no such luck. She inherited a mess and Brexit may be popular now (nothing else can explain this madness) but it is not long before it will become apparent that to be ill, young, old, on low pay, vulnerable within

the whole spectrum of the criminal law system, with a disability and more will be enough to leave you on your own and subject to the whims of fate in which the state has little willing to intervene. All this and the likely failure of Brexit to deliver anything tangible will give rise to a backlash, and soon.

Labour though will not be there to exploit it.

UKIP is bust right now.

The LibDems and Greens are working from low bases.

The SNP has to prove it is a rounded party.

What that means is that when the backlash comes it is not clear who will gain.

There is a need for a Macron moment, but he is too much like Blair for comfort. The need is for a politics of care. It's been absent for too long. I wish I knew where it might come from.