

Can Labour really fill the Tory created political vacuu...

Published: January 13, 2026, 7:48 pm

I posted this [thread on Twitter](#) this morning:

The Conservative Party is collapsing in front of our eyes. The suggestion that there was no one who could lead them after the destructive premiership of Boris Johnson is proving to be true. But this is creating a dangerous vacuum in English politics. A thread...

To anyone who wants to be rid of the Conservatives and their far-right policy agenda the news that Tufton Street's policies are already being massively rejected by the electorate seems like good news.

Labour poll leads exceeding 30% are now becoming commonplace. They may not last, but equally the idea that the Tories might form the next government now seems very remote, although events (by which I mean nuclear war) could still change that, maybe.

Assuming Putin does not go down that route, the current prospect is that Labour will have a massive majority - maybe bigger than that enjoyed by Tony Blair when he was first elected - in the next parliament. But, and this is the key question, is that a good thing?

I have many reasons for thinking otherwise. Some are down to what Labour keep saying it will do. It will stay out of EU. It believes in balancing the government's current budget and so will deliver austerity. And it is opposed to PR.

Labour also opposes the right of countries in the Union to decide their own future. And it has a very small commitment to the green transformation agenda compared to the needs we face.

I am not, as a result, convinced that a Labour government that is dedicated to the perpetuation of neoliberalism is going to provide the answers that this country wants.

And that, I suggest, is dangerous.

The reason why is that people who are flocking to Labour now because of their quite reasonable disenchantment with Tory dogmatism will find no solution to their political desires in neoliberal Labour managerialism, which is the alternative.

If Labour wins the next election with a big majority (and I think it will) the enormous risk is that soon after it does so people realise that it provides few better real solutions to the issues that we face than the Tories.

Managing a failing economy and society better than someone else might but not seeking to change it will still mean it that economy is failing, albeit maybe more slowly. And that is not what we need.

But ignore the economic issues for a moment: I did a long Twitter thread on them yesterday. Instead think about what the reaction to this will be. I very much doubt it will be a swing back to the Tories. I think they are in terminal decline. The search will on for new ideas.

In Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland the alternatives to failing Westminster politics are obvious. To suggest that the Union now has no future is to state the obvious. I think its demise is inevitable. Only timing is in question.

But what will happen in England? The likelihood that the Tories will be replaced by a fascist party, which could easily attract 30% of the vote, is high. I strongly suspect that this will happen.

So, can Labour either morph into the mainstream innovative, whilst competent, party that is required, or can the Lib Dems or Greens fill the void, or will there have to be something else?

The platform for this 'something else' party that is required is not hard to imagine. It will be pro-Europe. It will be green. It will reject neoliberal balanced budget mantras, and manage the economy with the aim of full employment.

It will support redistribution. It will be intensely pro-investment in a sustainable future. It will be accountable. It will deliver electoral reform.

Labour, Lib Dems and Greens all have elements of these policies in their platforms now, but miss too much of the economic understanding. And what they ignore is that their supporters have more in common, overall, than the parties do. That is why they support tactical voting.

But, is there a way that either a) Labour can adapt, which is the safest route to keeping fascists out, or b) a new party can emerge from maybe all three to fight fascism with ideas fit for this century, which are in overall short supply in politics right now?

I do not, of course, know the answers to these questions. No one can, but I suspect many think the scenario in which I place them is realistic.

I am, let's be clear, delighted we might be rid of Tory fascism whenever the next election happens. But what I am worried about is holding fascism at bay for good.

I wish I could be confident that Labour might be wise enough to take the steps to ensure that might happen, but I am not. That's why we need to think now about what does happen in the not too distant future. A lot depends on doing so.