

We have a democratic deficit

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

I was interviewed by Matt Frei on LBC yesterday. The subject of discussion was Brexit. At the close of the interview Matt asked me in ten seconds to summarise something good that had happened as a result of Brexit. I used two seconds and said, "I can't".

I had a rather strong impression that Matt Frei shared my opinion. I think he also agreed that one of the most worrying things about Brexit is the democratic deficit it has created in England (but not in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland).

With both LibDems and Labour chasing votes in Leave areas (the southwest and north, respectively) they are unwilling to talk about the massive failings of Brexit, and give no hint of reversing it. That leaves well over 50% of the population effectively unrepresented.

The same is largely true with austerity. A majority of people in this country clearly want improved public services. They would pay more tax for them, if need be. Those who can't would have no problem with government borrowing. But no one is saying that is possible when it is.

And let's not ignore migration. The number of asylum seekers in this country has halved since 2002. The closure of routes is what has forced them into boats. That is all that has happened. That, and a 15 fold delay in processing applications as a result of under-resourcing.

In effect, politics and politicians have allowed the destruction of sensible debate. The agenda has been captured by misinformation, prejudice and deliberate appeals to the lowest common denominator leaving democracy in peril and government in tatters.

I do, of course, understand that this is the Tory agenda. What I do not know is why

other political parties allow the Tory agenda to close down the electoral choices maybe 50% or more of people in this country.

Are we forever to be condemned to living in a failed state because we can never discuss the cost of Brexit, the deliberate destruction of competent government and a wholly unjustified claim that the government 'has no money' when it alone can create it?

It would seem that this is the desire of England's political parties. I don't think it is in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

And let me be clear: I am not denying anyone the right to support Brexit, austerity and false economics. What I am really annoyed about is that neither Labour or the LibDems seem to be offering much of an alternative. That is, I think, failure on their part.