

Apathy might have the biggest turnout whenever the gene..

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It was very easy to look at the news this weekend and think that this country is tired of its government, its politicians, and its prospects, given what those politicians have to offer.

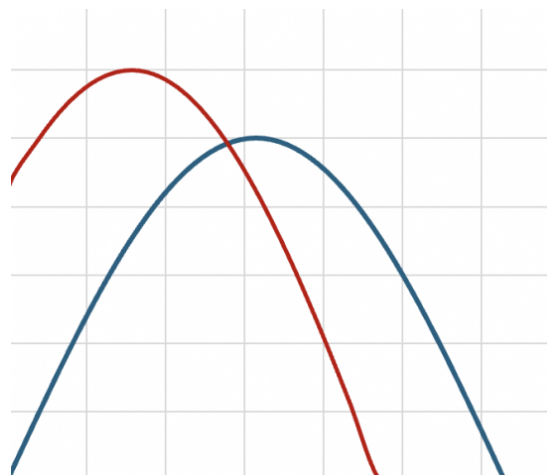
I try, almost continually, to find positives to talk about when discussing issues here. The whole of the [Taxing Wealth Report 2024](#) is about that. It says there are better options available. I suspect most people, deep down, are convinced that this must be the case.

But what worries me is that the political class do not. As John Harris [has to say in the Guardian this morning](#):

Which brings me to my final source of anxiety. Keir Starmer's technocratic approach to politics has obviously worked short-term electoral wonders, but it has also left a space that the re-energised post-Brexit right will sooner or later move to occupy: the one reserved for emotion, stories and narratives about what Britain is. Worse still, in the absence of those things, some Labour people are already filling the gap with some very dangerous messages.

He is right: this is exactly what Labour is doing, and people realise.

This is a crude chart, but which I hope illustrates a point:



The red line is meant to be broadly left of centre politics, and the right line is broadly right of centre politics.

People at present are hoping that Labour will be further from a right-wing extreme than the Tories are, with there being space on the right where Labour simply will not go. The result is that they hope to be better off under Labour, hence the higher peak to their plot.

The reality is that there is no real indication that this is the case. Far from creating its own distinct approaches to almost anything, Labour simply apes the Tories, as John Harris notices, being dragged behind both the Tories and Reform into places no-one ever really expected to find Labour policy going.

The result is, of course, that we are worse off. As [*I explained yesterday*](#), *that is because the extremist pro-market policies that too many political parties now share deliver sub-optimal outcomes simply because there are many occasions (but of course, not all by a long way) where the government can and always will be the best choice for delivery of a service, which fact the philosophies (if we can call them that) of both parties now erroneously challenges.*

No wonder people are bored in that case. What is there to look forward to when nothing is working now, and the prospect is that very little will, even if the government is changed?

I hate to say it, but apathy might have the biggest turnout whenever the general election comes, as indicated by those staying away. And that is our greatest hope because no one needs a 200-plus seat majority for Labour.