

Funding the Future

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Jeremy Corbyn and Zarah Sultana have jumped. [They are now launching a new party.](#)

Whether any other MPs join this group is as yet unknown, but the man on whom many pinned their hopes in two general elections now has a new election vehicle and a young heir apparent who is capable of appealing to many.

As was seen in a recent LBC opinion poll, this new party will likely attract some immediate public support because Labour is so diabolical, the Greens are at present politically disorganised and in a state of flux in England and Wales, and a large number of people on the left of politics in those two countries feel that they have literally no one who can represent them anywhere in the political spectrum.

My hope is, of course, that this party will add a new dimension to political debate. We most definitely need that, and I will watch with interest how this develops.

Does that, however, mean that I think it will deliver major political change? That is an entirely different question, and as I have said before, I have seen other political parties come and go over the last 50 or more years during which I have observed politics. I can be no more confident that this upstart will be more successful than almost all the others that I have seen, most of which are nothing but memories now. The fact is that within our two-party system, breaking the mould is incredibly difficult.

That said, we must remember that, in recent years, Reform appears to have achieved this goal. Of course, given the fiascos that we are now seeing from that party, both within Parliament and in the councils it is running, its fortunes may not last, especially as for many people keeping Reform out of power is their top political priority.

Whatever people might tell opinion pollsters, and whatever they might believe, when election day comes, I think that there will be many who will vote tactically to achieve the goal of keeping the far right out of power, unless we get proportional representation in the meantime, and I fear that will not be the case. Weighting for this factor is very difficult.

That said, I am not suggesting that Curbyn and Sultana are making a mistake when

creating this initiative. I know that Labour needs to be challenged from the left, and it is welcome that they are.

What worries me is that unless Labour collapses as completely as it is likely that the Tories will by 2029, the risk is that Farage might, single-handedly, be elected into office based on a split vote within the first-past-the-post system, however incompetent those around him might be, and then we might face the most significant democratic breakdown that the UK has ever seen.

Labour could, of course, prevent this. They could create proportional representation. They could also become a credible party of the left again. Those options are available to them. Many would welcome it if that were the case and if Zarah Sultana and Jeremy Corbyn were welcomed back into the Labour fold.

If Labour doesn't do that, which is most likely, and instead pave the way for fascism, as appears to be their intent, we are in deep trouble, and there will be much to observe, think about, comment upon, and then agonise over during the course of the next few years. I am not sure that much of that will be fun, but I will do it, nonetheless.