

Funding the Future

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George Monbiot's [article on the nationalisation of water](#) in The Guardian yesterday concluded with what I think was an exquisitely crafted and profoundly poignant paragraph, in which he said:

It's a simple test: does the government operate in the interests of the country, or in the interests of private capital? This shouldn't be a difficult choice for Labour to make, yet, as with so many such tests, it flunks it. Why? Because it is terrified of any measure that might alienate even the most parasitic and extractive forms of capital. Strangely, however, it seems to have no qualms about alienating the rest of us.

In a few words, George summarised precisely why Labour is failing so badly.

It's failing us.

It's failing the country as a whole.

It's failing its membership.

Even its own MPs are making clear it is failing them.

And it is doing all that because of its dedication to a political philosophy that is itself very obviously failing, to the point where it is clearly beyond redemption, as anyone who suggests that Britain is not working can see, even if they do not frame their analysis in the way I do.

So why is the Labour leadership doing that?

Is it that they really do believe in this failed dogma?

Or are they terrified to let go of it and move on, as we must, into a world that relatively few are still willing to explore, describe or theorise about but which, nonetheless, must now be brought into being?

Or is it, as some think, straightforward corruption that motivates that stubborn resistance to change, the possibility of which we cannot rule out?

I do not know the answer to these questions.

What I do know, as most people also know, is that what Labour is doing is profoundly inappropriate, and even just wrong. Nothing can now justify its choices, but it shows no sign of backing down. Starmer, Reeves, Streeting, Kendall, Cooper & Co are dedicated to our destruction, and of a great deal of what is of value.

The result is that we are in a wilderness, although the required destination is obvious. However described, what we need is a politics based on care to replace that of deliberately manufactured human indifference from which we have suffered for the last 45 years.

What is not yet clear is how we get that politics of care, but get it we must. Our ability to adapt to the challenges we face is utterly dependent on our doing so. Needs must, then.

And what is clear now is that Labour will not be a player in that future. It only wishes to play in the past, and that is now another country, where we no longer want to be. We can, we will, and we must move on. And, whether Labour likes it or not, and however many of its members it seeks to silence, expel, or ignore, move on we will.