

## What is possible now?

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I would like to be interested in Labour's plans to appoint a new leader, and so the Prime Minister of the UK. I have to admit, I am not.

I know that we will suffer almost endless discussion of this issue for weeks to come until Starmer is gone, a successor is appointed, and Andy Burnham is left in perpetual exile in Manchester, as I think likely.

But the real question is why should I be interested in a contest where the choice seems to be between Wes Streeting, Angela Rayner and Andy Burnham?

None has any notable leadership talent.

As far as I can tell, none of them has any understanding of economics of any sort, and when Burnham last stood to be leader, in the contest that saw Jeremy Corbyn win the day, his offering was dismally neoliberal. I expect nothing different from either him or the other two now. Nor do I see any chance that Labour might change course as a consequence of the election of any of these three, or someone else.

We can, of course, rank them from least bad to terrible. Joint least bad are Andy Burnham and Angela Rayner.

The award for being terrible undoubtedly goes to Wes Streeting, who long ago sold his soul, and anything else he could lay his hands on, to private equity financiers, but there can be little doubt that the other two share his conviction, which has underpinned Labour's decline, that there is nothing that it can do which markets cannot do better.

Add to this the fact that all three of these candidates, plus every Labour MP, can only speak in jargon, and this leadership campaign, which will surely happen, looks to be as exciting as a contested vote for the appointment of a liquidator of a failed company.

I am so bored of hearing ministers and MPs talking about Labour "concentrating on delivery". I yell at the television in response, "Of what?" And, of course, to that question, there is no answer.

This is, of course, the point we would inevitably reach when Tony Blair created verb-free soundbite politics, and “verb-free” was the key point there. The veneer of government action, when the only desired outcome was the transfer of power and wealth to a financial elite, was the objective that Blair set for the Labour Party, and that is where it has headed ever since.

Labour is now populated by people without a shred of political conviction, concern for the people the party was created to serve, or even understanding that they have the power to effect change in the world that desperately needs it. Their service is to oligarchs, the City of London, the interests of large multinational corporations and, all too obviously these days, Zionism.

We must, and I very strongly suspect we will, have a new Prime Minister. When the consensus is that a Prime Minister must go, their chance of survival is close to zero, most especially when that consensus is rationally based, as it is on this occasion.

But let me be clear, we do not need a new Labour Prime Minister. Even less do we need a new Conservative Prime Minister. And we most certainly do not need Nigel Farage in Number 10, not that I really think he has any ambition to get there, so keen has he been in the past to avoid responsibility, accountability and the loss of personal income that will go with both.

Instead, we need new politics. The rise of the Green Party of England and Wales reflects that fact, but so far the offering is flawed, potentially by policy incoherence, but also by entryism, which will always be a problem for a party in its position, where its popularity is rising so rapidly.

That is why the foundations matter. And it is to those foundations that I want to dedicate my time.

I’m not saying that I will be giving up political commentary here, because to do so would break a 20-year habit, but without new thinking and new explanations, we are stuck with what we have, and that is failing us terribly.

The time for new ideas is now, and in that context, you should read all of this post as, in part, justification to myself for having woken up in the night and spent two hours sketching out, in incomplete form, an explanation for what has happened, which is not ready for publication as yet.

That is another way of saying that I can still find politics as exciting as ever when I focus on what might be possible rather than what is failing, and it is the decision to focus on what is possible that motivates me now.