

What we are up against

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The Spectator - the far-right rag edited by Lord Michael Gove, the man who did more to destroy English education and create the crisis among young people alienated from education as Secretary of State for Education in David Cameron's government - said this in an email promoting its latest edition:

There is a problem with British politics, [John Power and William Atkinson](#) posit in this week's cover piece.

Dark money from abroad is being funnelled into our system. A complex web of interlocking charities, advocacy groups and campaign outfits is being bankrolled to push a ruinous net-zero agenda. This is the story of the Dark Green lobby.

It added:

The European Climate Foundation spent €171 million last year in Europe, much of this funding research for British thinktanks. It also funds outlets tackling 'net-zero misinformation' - in other words, science.

The Quadrature Climate Foundation spends money 'greasing the wheels so we can accelerate the [net-zero] movement'.

One of the recipients of its generosity is Uplift, an organisation which has judicially reviewed the legality of the ongoing extraction of oil and gas from the Rosebank site in the North Sea.

Net zero has given the left a new means of controlling and constraining capitalism and growth. And now the darling of the Dark Green lobby, Ed Miliband, is on the verge of becoming the man controlling the economy. It is hard not to be impressed. And deeply depressed.

I was not sure whether to laugh or cry when I read this. The paranoia is deep. The dedication to the destruction of the planet, whatever the cost, is profound. The denial of the science is clear, as is the denial of the evidence of climate change all around us.

The unbridled enthusiasm for neoliberalism is apparent. The sense of delusion runs deep.

But what is most staggering is the sheer prejudice in this. The fact that the Spectator can talk about these issues is because they are taking place in plain sight. At the same time, the takeover of British politics by wealth is happening behind a veil of opacity.

The Tufton Street think tanks will not disclose their funding.

Farage and Lowe seek to promote far-right politics in the UK using money from billionaires from outside it.

And everywhere, corporate lobbyists dominate the political agenda, subverting it to ensure that the will of the country's people is not met, which is why we have a political crisis in the UK at present.

With regard to all of this, the Spectator is in denial. The corruption, the failure, the subversion of democracy, and the contempt for the state are all ignored, as is the fact that we face a climate crisis.

What matters to Michael Gove and his crew is that neoliberalism, the cult of growth on a finite planet, and the perpetuation of rising wealth for the already wealthy, must continue.

No wonder we are in a mess. This is what we are up against. It is, not to put too fine a point upon it, the challenge of unreason that we face.

The unreasoned denial of evidence.

The unreasoned support for a failed political-economic system, whose remaining support comes only from those whose interest is their own unreasoned well-being, which they associate with wealth, even though it appears to make them thoroughly miserable.

The unreasoned vilification.

And all of this is backed by one thing, which is the money of the wealthy.

That is what we are up against.