

Brexit Omnishambles

Chequers is dead and so is May. Betrayal, stab in the back, and omnishambles are forming an unstoppable narrative.

This has been years in the making. It is much more than just Brexit or the June 2016 Referendum. Our democracy and single party focus political system is not up to the job. It is not just a Tory mess. The Labour party is in deep trouble too. David Runciman in End Of Democracy reckons that our mature democracy has reached its dementia stage. I do hope that he is wrong.

Our whole approach and mindset to Brexit has been flawed from the outset. The premature triggering of Article 50 was a fatal error. Everyone said Brexit would be the greatest challenge and endeavour faced in peacetime. Yet we did not put in the scale of thinking and team effort required to rise to this supreme challenge.

In the Westminster bubble the wood is not being seen for the trees. The anger felt by Leave and Remain voters alike is close to boiling point. We cannot, and should not, be expected to tolerate any more of the same.

The Chequers - most timid - of approaches is plainly unacceptable to the majority of British people, including a lot of Remainers. Mandelson speaks for many when he describes the Chequers Brexit compromise as the worst of both worlds and a 'national humiliation'.

We need leadership that has the vision and stamina to deliver a fair and reasonable deal. One that convinces that we really will go for no deal and WTO rules if we are pushed beyond the 'fair and reasonable'.

Only fresh leadership will deliver UK as a respected partner, not as a rule taking colony of this current and deeply flawed EU model.

May has worked every hour and done her very best. She is by nature a COO (chief operating officer) not a CEO (chief executive officer). In Whitehall she is referred to as an ideas free zone. She has not got the nation-leading presence, character, or authority to get us through this. Her time is up.

Who succeeds her? Boris is not dead but will never be PM. Nor will Gove. Davis should take over as caretaker PM to get us through Brexit. After him we need a next generation fresh PM who is dedicated to a radical OneNation agenda.

Davis has the essential in-depth experience and calm leadership manner required right now. His leadership style, more laid back than most, may perhaps be a good thing given the stresses and divisions that Brexit is causing.

Davis will know how best to toughen-up and re-brand our approach and is much more likely to deliver a more reasonable and fair Phase1 Brexit result. He will be better positioned to put our no deal planning into emergency urgent mode to give essential leverage to our negotiation.

Davis is more visionary and strategic than May. I can see him doing a Southgate and bringing in younger talent into the cabinet. He would likely give more freedom to cabinet colleagues to forge ahead with a 21st century version of a OneNation radical domestic agenda. This is essential if the Tory party, after many years in government, is to have any chance of leap-frogging ahead of 'old school' Momentum Labour at the next election.

No one wants an election right now. Many Labour MPs certainly do not. Public anger with both parties is too high. So my betting is on next election in 2022, with a fresh next generation PM and cabinet which will include Ruth Davidson.

Corbyn, like Boris, has peaked. Tory implosion is not impossible. The Brexit omnishambles makes it less resilient to any major non-Brexit fiasco, but it is difficult to see the Marx Brothers being voted in at a time of mega constitutional crisis and peril.

If the Tory party can't go into ruthless 'nation first' mode then can we please have a proper national government for a while. Given the range of external risks and threats, and internal social and economic issues we could do with wartime level teamwork and planning. Heck, with wartime taxation for 3-5 years too, we could turbo-charge our 21st century education and tech base, put in place the infrastructure we need, and look after the left behinds.

Our current leadership and old school single-party-takes-all political system is broken.

It is time for new, tougher, and brave leadership. Focused on delivering our full potential and rejecting old establishment-driven timid, risk-averse mindsets and process.

If the Tory and Labour parties do not step up, others will. God forbid please a British populist movement and leader.