

MAY + TORIES MUST GO!



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Theresa Dismay', 'Gamble backfired'. These were the 9 June headlines in the scurrilous Sun and Daily Mail, right-wing rags that have spent the whole election campaign raining down vicious attacks on Jeremy Corbyn in the vain hope of a Tory landslide.

On the day the general election was called the Socialist Party declared that: "If Corbyn fights on a clear socialist programme – for a Brexit in the interests of the working and middle-class - he could win the general election." At the time that was met with derision by many including the right wing of the Labour Party: who wrongly thought a general election would give them the opportunity to unseat Corbyn.

In just seven weeks, Jeremy Corbyn's election campaign has proved them all wrong. It has transformed the political situation in Britain. In the face of overwhelming opposition from the capitalist establishment and media, and sabotaged by the right of his own party, Jeremy Corbyn has put his anti-austerity programme to the people of Britain. Hundreds of thousands of people, including the membership of the Socialist Party, have campaigned for his programme on the streets of Britain. The result has been the biggest increase in vote share for any party since Attlee's Labour in 1945.

Turnout among young people increased from 43% in 2015 to 72% as they streamed out to support Corbyn. Young people were central to the increase in Labour's vote, but this was not, as the capitalist media is claiming, a 'young versus old' election. Many older workers, disillusioned with Blair's Labour, put a cross next to a Labour candidate for the first time in decades in order to support Jeremy Corbyn.

'WEAK AND WOBBLY' TORIES MUST GO!

This election was a devastating defeat for May and the Tories. Far from being 'strong and stable', May's illegitimate government is trying to cling to power via a bodged deal with the right-wing, sectarian Democratic Unionist Party. Jeremy Corbyn and John McDonnell have rightly called on her to resign and pledged to put their programme to parliament and challenge MPs to support it. Now we need to build a movement for the implementation of their policies, whatever the parliamentary arithmetic.

The trade union movement should call an immediate national 'Tories Out' demonstration against austerity – calling for the scrapping of the Tory attacks on the NHS and schools, and for the abolition of tuition fees. Such a demonstration

could be millions strong and the springboard for a 24 hour general strike. This in turn could force May to call a new general election.

At the same time Jeremy Corbyn and the Labour left should make a clear call for Labour councils to stop implementing Tory cuts. In a short campaign very impressive numbers were convinced to vote for Corbyn despite their initial scepticism about whether he would implement his programme. This scepticism is a result of the betrayals of New Labour in office, and peoples' experience of Labour councils at local level that have presided over 40% cuts in services since 2010. To consolidate the enthusiasm that was generated for Corbyn in the election it is necessary to now make clear that he opposes any more council cuts, and that this Tory government is too weak to force Labour councils to implement them. This is particularly important in urban areas, where the surge to Corbyn was strongest, and every council has elections next year.

TRANSFORM THE LABOUR PARTY

"Big up Jezza for reviving so many ppl's hope in politics. If Labour was united behind Corbyn this past year he coulda won this outright!" said Riz Ahmed of the hip-hop trio Swet Shop Boys (one of the many musicians who supported Corbyn) – stating what is obvious to many Corbyn supporters. Jeremy has not only faced the relentless hostility and sabotage of the capitalist elite, but also from the Blairites - the representatives of capitalism inside the Labour Party. In the immediate aftermath of this election they will not dare to try and launch another coup against him, but we can't be fooled into thinking that they are reconciled to his leadership. Labour remains two parties in one.

For the capitalist class Jeremy Corbyn's policies, and even more the hope they are creating for millions, are a real threat. Therefore their representatives in the Labour Party will search for a new way to defeat Corbyn. Even in the week of the election right-wing Labour MP Joan Ryan openly attacked Corbyn and banned Labour canvassers from using leaflets which mentioned him! Now in the aftermath of the election Blairite Hilary Benn has poked his head above the parapet to mutter about how 'Labour must learn from its third electoral defeat'. Even those Blairites who temporarily make statements supportive of Jeremy cannot be trusted. They will do so in order to try and surround him and force him to retreat from his radical programme. What else does the ultimate Blairite and would-be assassin of Corbyn, Peter Mandelson, mean when he talks about Corbyn needing to 'show

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respect' to all wings of the party? It was the right's attempts to gag Jeremy which were largely responsible for most people not knowing what he stood for before the election. We cannot allow this to happen again. Instead a campaign needs to be immediately launched to transform the Labour Party into a genuinely anti-austerity, democratic party of workers and young people.

This requires the introduction of compulsory reselection of MPs. The next general election could be at any time and Labour must not face another election with the majority of its own candidates opposing Jeremy Corbyn. This should be combined with the democratisation of the party, including restoring the rights of trade unions, and welcoming all genuine socialists into a democratic federation. These measures could create a party which is genuinely able to bring together all the young people, socialists, workers and community campaigners who are inspired by Jeremy Corbyn into a powerful mass force.

FIGHT FOR SOCIALISM

This general election campaign has introduced socialist ideas to a new generation. That is enormously positive. It has also given a glimpse, however, of how far the capitalists would go to try and sabotage any attempts to introduce policies in the interests of the many not the few. The hostility Jeremy Corbyn faces in opposition is only a pale shadow of how they would attempt to derail a Jeremy Corbyn led government. To prevent this will pose the need for far-going socialist measures including nationalising the 100 or so major corporations and banks that dominate Britain's economy, in order to be able to introduce a democratic socialist plan. This would allow a socialist government to begin to manage the economy in a planned way under democratic workers' control and management - that really would be "for the many, not the few."