



**Socialist  
Party**

**GENERAL ELECTION DECEMBER 2019**

**LET'S GET THE**

**TORIES  
OUT!**

**DEFEAT JOHNSON'S BILLIONAIRE GOVERNMENT  
CORBYN CAN WIN WITH SOCIALIST POLICIES  
BUILD A MASS ANTI-AUSTERITY MOVEMENT**

**9 YEARS OF TORY RULE  
HAVE BROUGHT US:**

- Universal Credit which has plunged families into starvation and homelessness
- 8m people live in poverty in working households
- Real wages are on average still £13 a week below 2007 levels
- Up to 5m struggling on zero-hour contracts
- 1.6m parcels distributed by foodbanks including to nurses and other workers
- Unsafe air quality and inaction on climate change
- The anti-Trade Union Act
- The housing crisis and spiralling homelessness.
- Schools cuts, academisation, privatisation, and stressed out kids
- Trebling student fees (with the Lib Dems)
- Racist and divisive rhetoric and policies
- A collapsing NHS
- Privatising our public services
- Cutting corporation tax

In other words, the Tories wreak chaos and destruction on our living standards and public services while benefiting the fat cat bosses and billionaires.

**ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!  
NO MORE TORY AUSTERITY!**

**WE NEED TO FIGHT FOR:**

- **£12 an hour minimum wage now, end zero-hour contracts**
- **Scrap Universal Credit. Restore and improve benefits**
- **Rent control and mass council house building to end homelessness**
- **Free education - write off student debt**
- **End cuts and privatisation in the NHS & all public services**
- **Repeal all anti-union laws - restore collective bargaining**
- **A Brexit in the interests of the 99%**
- **Nationalise the banks, rail & Royal Mail**
- **Nationalise energy and transport as part of socialist change to end climate change**
- **A socialist government to take into public ownership the top 150 companies that dominate the economy and run them under democratic workers' control and management**

**Austerity is a lie!**  
**WE NEED HOMES,  
JOBS AND SERVICES  
– ACCESS TO  
EDUCATION, HEALTH, CHILD  
CARE, SOCIAL CARE FOR ALL.**

For the last ten years austerity governments and the rest of the capitalist establishment have been telling us that these things are unaffordable. That's a lie.

**There is plenty of money!**

Here are just a few indications of where it can be found.

The richest 1,000 people in the UK have increased their wealth by £47.8bn in the past year alone.

They now hoard **£771.3bn**. As a consequence of austerity the poorest are dying nearly ten years younger than the rich. A 20% wealth tax on the 1,000 richest people would produce over **£150bn**.

NHS hospital trusts have **£55bn** in PFI debt. They should refuse to pay that and the money should be spent on NHS services, jobs and pay.

HMRC recently estimated a 1 percentage point increase in corporation tax could bring in £3.1bn per year. Raising corporation tax to the 52% level it was under the Tory Thatcher government would raise **£102.3bn** a year.

Nationalisation of water, energy grids and the Royal Mail would save

UK households **£7.8bn** a year according to new research.

But any measure that might be detrimental to the gargantuan profits of the capitalist elite will be opposed vociferously by the bosses. We can't afford to continue living in a society based on low pay, super-exploitation and unaffordable housing.

The only practical way to build a society "for the many, not the few," is to take the commanding heights of the economy into democratic public ownership, and to break the power of the capitalist class.

# Capitalism – a system for the billionaires

The 'rigged system' that Jeremy Corbyn refers to is run by and for a tiny number of wealthy individuals and companies; it is called capitalism. A tiny group of people, in Britain and worldwide, own and control industry, science and technique, and harness them in order to maximise their own profits.

Since the financial crisis almost a decade ago, the number of billionaires in the world has nearly doubled. In Britain the majority of us have faced austerity while a tiny handful are raking it in. There are around 125 major corporations that completely dominate the economy. It is the tiny elite that own those companies and their hangers on who are the real establishment and are determined to try and stop Jeremy Corbyn coming to power.

Jeremy Corbyn rightly name-checked some, including the particularly anti-worker Sports Direct boss Mike Ashley and Ineos boss Jim Ratcliffe – but they are not alone. Capitalism is a system based on production for profit and not for social need. The exploitation of working class people is written into its DNA. Capitalism is increasingly not even capable of carrying out its historical mission of developing science, technique and the organisation of labour.

Capitalism today has only climate chaos, economic crisis and endless austerity to offer the majority. This is what lies behind the mass movements around the world that we are witnessing. It is why postal workers, McDonalds workers and university workers are voting to strike. And it is the potential these movements represent that terrifies the defenders of capitalism - not so much what Corbyn's programme contains but the confidence it will give workers and young people to fight for more.



It is already clear that the capitalist establishment will do all they can to resist the implementation of Jeremy's policies, firstly by trying to ensure that he isn't elected. But this doesn't mean they will succeed.

Unfortunately, representatives of the capitalist establishment exist inside the Labour Party as well as out. The big majority of Labour MPs remain desperate to ditch Corbyn. Contrary to their claims this isn't because he is 'unelectable' but because they fear he might be elected.

Back in 2015 Tony Blair declared that Corbyn becoming prime minister would be "a very dangerous experiment" which he wouldn't be prepared to risk. No surprise then that he and others are now going all out to try and prevent it happening.

Never before has it been so clear that Labour is two parties in one: a potential anti-austerity party around Jeremy Corbyn, and a pretty fully formed pro-capitalist party around the Blairites.

The pro-capitalist wing will never give up attempts to strangle a new anti-austerity party. Eleven Labour MPs voted against a general election. 100 of them didn't bother to vote! The arch-Blairites are determined to wreck Corbyn's chances of winning a general election.

**No more concessions should be made to them.**

**We need a party that stands in the interests of the working class, all suffering austerity, and the environment - not the billionaires!**

# Socialist Party supports Jeremy Corbyn's anti-austerity stand - now and after the election

The Socialist Party fully supports Jeremy Corbyn's anti-austerity stance. Since he was first elected as Labour leader we have done all we can to strengthen the potential anti-austerity party around Corbyn in its battle against the Blairite right of the Labour Party.

Had the policies we have argued for – including democratising the Labour Party, allowing the readmission of expelled socialists, and introducing mandatory reselection of MPs – been implemented, the anti-austerity wing of the Labour Party would be in a much stronger position than they are today; where the Blairites are circling ready to pounce beyond the general election, whatever its outcome.

This will be made difficult for them, however, if Jeremy can mobilise mass popular support to drive out the Tories. Mass rallies should be called in every town and city in the country. The Socialist Party will do all we can to build such a campaign.

Our student members are part of Socialist Students. Socialist Students will be organising door knocking of student halls and mass leafletting sessions on campus, as well as joint students' and workers' meetings, including with UCU and CWU strikers, to build the movement for socialist policies on campus. They're organising a socialist voter registration drive too.

In the trade unions our members put forward fighting strategies based on action to defend members. This is vital preparation for whatever comes next - if that means fighting Johnson's pro-rich government or building resistance to the enormous pressure on Corbyn from the Tory press, the banks and

big corporations, the courts and state machine and all shades of pro-capitalist politicians – from Blairites to Tories – to back down on his anti-austerity programme.

If Corbyn wins but doesn't get a majority, we say he should fight for his programme and call on the working class to back him. Even if Labour wins a majority, it will be a minority government for the anti-austerity part of the Labour Party, because they will be surrounded by pro-capitalist MPs.

**We need a movement now to win the election but we also need a movement for after to win the policies that working class and young people desperately need.**

**Text JOIN with your name & postcode to 079 580 320 71**  
**join@socialistparty.org.uk**  
**020 8988 8777**  
**Socialist Party, PO Box 1398. Enfield, EN1 9GT**  
**@socialist\_party**  
**Socialist Party**





## For a workers', anti-racist Brexit

A clear anti-austerity programme – in the interests of the working class – should also define Labour's approach to Brexit. Workers who voted for Brexit did so primarily because they were in revolt against all the misery they have suffered over the last decade. Jeremy should make clear that he would negotiate a Brexit in the interests of the working and middle class majority.

He needs to set out a programme based on repudiating the EU's anti-worker posted

directives and privatisation rules that oppose nationalisation of companies and industries.

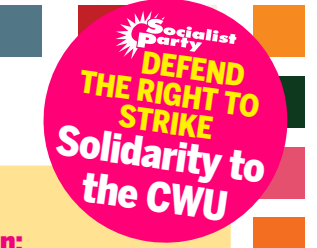
This should be linked to trade union defence of all workers' rights, opposing racism and defending the rights of EU migrants, as Jeremy has done. It should not be confined to this country but on these policies reach out to the working-class across Europe who are suffering from the EU's austerity offensive.

**After the High Court injunction: SUPPORT THE POSTIES!**

The ruling by the High Court against the Communication Workers Union (CWU) that voids their national strike ballot in Royal Mail is a massive attack on the union, its postal worker members, and the whole labour and trade union movement, which must now come to the CWU's aid.

This is a defining moment for workers, their unions and their ability to organise and strike.

- For an emergency TUC demonstration to support the CWU and the posties
- Defend trade union rights and the right to strike
- Repeal all the Tory anti-union laws
- Tories out – for a Jeremy Corbyn-led government on socialist policies, including the re-nationalising of Royal Mail



Printed and promoted by Socialist Party, PO Box 1398, Enfield, EN1 9GT



# WHAT THE



# Socialist Party

# STANDS FOR

## RENATIONALISE PRIVATISED PUBLIC SERVICES

The billionaires who are already squealing about Jeremy Corbyn's profligate policies will do all they can to sabotage their implementation if he is elected.

To counter this, the workers' movement would need to organise active support for Corbyn's policies. This is no different to the outrage of the capitalists when the 1945 Labour government founded the NHS. However, it was met with enormous enthusiasm by the working class able for the first time to access decent healthcare.

For 30 years successive governments – Tory and New Labour – have privatised public services, leading to vast profits for the privateers, and the undermining of public services for the rest of us. There is huge popular support for renationalisation of privatised public services. Jeremy should pledge to renationalise them all, including Royal Mail, British Telecom and the energy companies, with compensation paid only to shareholders in genuine need. This does not mean simply repeating the nationalisation of the post-war era.

This time it should be based on popular democratic control involving service workers, trade unions and users. And why limit public ownership only to what was achieved in the past? The fact that the pharmaceutical industry was left in private hands when the NHS was founded costs tax payers billions through extortionate charges for medicines. It is estimated that the payments to the pharmaceutical industry costs the NHS around 10% of its annual budget, around £11 billion a year.

## TAX THE RICH AND BIG CORPORATIONS

Socialists argue that the rich should be the ones who pay for the economic crisis, and we support dramatically increased taxes, not for the working and middle classes, but for the tiny elite at the top of society.

For most of the 1970s the tax rate for the very highest band of income was 83%. Likewise, for most of the 1970s, big corporations paid 52% of their profits in tax. But that percentage has been reduced step by step to 19% today.

We support taxing the rich and big corporations, but we also recognise that the 'markets' – that is capitalism – will never meekly accept dramatically increased taxation and regulation.

The most common response to demands for higher taxes on big corporations is that it isn't a 'realistic' demand because they will avoid paying by leaving the country. What does this say about capitalism? If you are poor, and are found to be claiming a few pounds a week in benefits that you are not entitled to, you are called a scrounger, are demonised by the government, and can even face imprisonment.

Meanwhile when big corporations refuse to pay the levels of taxation agreed by a democratically elected government we are told we are being unrealistic for expecting anything else, and that the answer is to lower taxes to make Britain more competitive.

## FOR DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PLANNING

So what is the alternative to dictatorship of the markets? As a start we call for the nationalisation of the big banking and finance companies. Compensation to shareholders should be paid only on the basis of proven need. Not one penny should go to the speculators who are demanding that the working class pay for the crisis for which they bear responsibility.

A socialist nationalised banking sector would be democratically run by representatives of banking workers and trade unions, the wider working class, as well as the government. Decisions would be made to meet the needs of the majority – for example, offering cheap loans and mortgages for housing, to assist socially useful small businesses, and for the planned development of industry and services, and ending all repossessions of people's homes.

That would only be the start, however. Capitalism has led to enormous economic destruction. In Britain the economy has lost about 10% as a result of the great recession. Nor is there any prospect of a return to healthy growth. This is the real difference between now and, for example, the end of the Second World War when the total national debt was far higher as a proportion of the economy than now – over 200% of gross domestic product (GDP) compared to around 81% in 2015.

Then, however, Britain entered a period of unprecedented economic growth, thereby shrinking the national debt. Today, the best prospect that can be hoped for under capitalism is a prolonged period of economic stagnation.

That is why a crucial step towards solving the economic crisis would be to take into democratic public ownership the 125 or so big corporations that control around 80% of Britain's economy. This would provide the possibility of developing a democratic, socialist plan of production that could very quickly transform the lives of millions.

## Join us:



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