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General Election 2024

Labour Party's 'Loveless landslide'

- On 4th July Britain held its General Election.

The results were decisive, with the Labour Party winning its best ever showing of 411 out of 650 seats to form government, and the Conservative Party reduced to its worst ever showing of 121.

It also saw an historic growth in independent MPs elected (5 MPs), fuelled largely by backlash within Muslim-heavy constituencies to the Labour Party for its avid pro-Israel during the current war, as well as smaller parties such as the Green Party (4 MPs) and the far-right Reform Party (formerly Brexit Party - 5 MPs).

- However an analysis of the elections warns against simplistic assessments of the durability of the Labour Party's support.

Labour's support was demographically broad but shallow, amounting to about 1/3rd of the vote and representing a decrease in Labour's raw vote share since its unsuccessful 2017 and 2019 election showing.

Its wins included some very fragile gains in very marginal seats, the turnout was the second lowest voter turnout for a General Election in the last century and embodied a general disaffection with mainstream politics - including a lack of enthusiasm for Labour's offer.

Meanwhile when combined, the Conservatives and Reform amounted to 38% of the vote at the election - significantly more than Labour, and a political threat when divisions between the two parties (or their respective vote bases) are resolved - even if not in time for the next election.

- The results for the election ultimately reflected a stronger anti-incumbency feeling against the Conservatives than support for Labour per se, in what has been termed by some in the British media as a 'loveless landslide'.

This anti-incumbency was also strengthened by the last minute entry of far-right leader Nigel Farage into the race as leader of the

Reform Party, which took votes from disaffected Conservative voters and ensured their defeat with Britain's First-Past-The-Post voting system.

Charm offensive on the British establishment

- The leadership of the Labour Party has been held by Prime Minister Keir Starmer since 2020.

Starmer's leadership represents an alliance of various rightwing and centrist factions of the Labour Party who stood in direct opposition to the politics and programme of Jeremy Corbyn and have sought to put clear distance between them.

This includes a number of figures from the inner circle of Tony Blair and Gordon Brown's leadership who are now close counsels and advisors to the Labour government, including Peter Mandelson, Tony Blair's 'spin doctor', central to legitimising the Iraq invasion and Varun Chandra, managing partner of Hakluyt, a '*corporate consultancy founded by ex-MI6 officers that gleans information for clients from its network of powerful individuals worldwide*', as well as Nick Boles, former Conservative minister and co-founder of the rightwing thinktank Policy Exchange.

- Since his ascension to leadership Starmer has actively sought support from the British establishment by presenting himself, in an early slogan of his leadership, as a "safe pair of hands", while aggressively quashing dissent within his party, especially from its left, to win establishment favour.

The deeply fractious relationship between the media and Conservative Party leaders since Boris Johnson's fall from grace in late 2021, with his mounting scandals, and then Liz Truss' disastrous subsequent premiership, indicated fatigue within influential circles with the Conservative Party that Labour could tap into.

- Starmer's charm offensive with the British establishment paid off at this election - Labour was backed by a large swathe of its press, including liberal papers like the Independent to the hard-right The Sun, major players in finance, such as CEO of international asset manager Blackrock Larry Fink, while garnering praise from David Omand, former head of British intelligence agency GCHQ.

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- Concurrent with this external relations strategy, Starmer's leadership has seen the Labour Party remoulded in its image through a recomposition of the Parliamentary Labour Party and the parachuting-in of allied individuals into MP posts.

[According to The Times](#), 'Almost a third of Labour's new MPs [as of the election] have worked for businesses set up to influence policymakers and the public on behalf of wealthy clients in industries including gambling and property investment' while *Declassified* has revealed that just over half of the new Labour cabinet [received donated from Zionist organisations](#), including Labour Friends of Israel.

- Luke Akehurst, former director of the lobby organisation *We Believe in Israel* and a major Starmer backer from Labour's rightmost factions, was also [selected as an MP for a safe seat](#) for this election, while Health Secretary Wes Streeting, often touted as a future Labour leader, also has a [long history of working with Zionist organisations](#).

Labour's programme in power

- Security and Immigration has often been placed high on the agenda of the Labour Party leading up the election, and they have consistently supported or demanded further counter-terror and pro-securitisation laws while in opposition.

[Their manifesto included the pledges](#) to:

- Launch Border Security Command, cross-agency unit which will use 'counter terror style powers' to tackle organised immigration crime';
- Bringing in 'Martyn's Law' (the Protect Duty) for implementing counter-terror provisions in public venues;
- Updating the rules around counter-extremism, including online, to stop people being 'radicalised and drawn towards hateful ideologies'
- Building on the Online Safety Act with further proposals to manage the online space

In recent years Labour have also promised to

- [Proscribe Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps unit](#);
- [Implement a new parallel CONTEST](#) (Counter Terrorism Strategy) for 'State threats';
- Criminalise people who 'purposely train chatbots to spout terrorist material' and to 'stop radicalising chatbots that are inciting violence or amplifying extremist views'

- It is their establishment supporters that Labour will govern in mind, by offering a semblance of 'stability' that was lost under recent Conservative governments, while being able to rely on the press to launder their reputation.

To liberal-minded 'middle England' and former Conservative voters, Labour will also offer a veer of technocratic professionalism to buttress their support for Labour and present themselves as a largely 'non-ideological' force committed to restoring Britain's prestige domestically and internationally.

This was confirmed by the appointment of non-MP experts to ministerial roles such as [Prisons Minister](#), [Attorney General](#) and [Science Minister](#).

- Combined, these indicate a fundamentally conservative political orientation for the new government that is unwilling to grapple with the tasks at hand facing Britain.

With a far-right poised to capitalise off Labour's failures in power and having its Reform allies within Parliament, and the Labour government enjoying an arsenal of deeply authoritarian powers inherited from its predecessor to use against popular discontent, this suggests difficult times ahead.