



The Labour Party in Scotland hate the SNP, of that there is no doubt. It has got to the stage that whatever the SNP say or do Labour will attack and ridicule, even when it makes common sense and is for the good of the whole UK. Peter highlights the reasons for the anti SNP sentiment in *Waking the Giant*.

We have introduced an international perspective to the bulletin with an article by Sajjad Amin Bangash from Pakistan. It is interesting to read that Sajjad sees Westminster as no different to the old British Empire, as they are still using fear, divide and rule strategies to this day. Sajjad Amin Bangash is a Lecturer of International Relations, Economics and Politics, a Freelance Writer & Blogger, and a Political Activist for Imran Khan's Party, PTI .

We introduce you to John McTernan and Blair McDougall, two unsavoury characters hired by labour Scotland Branch manager Jim Murphy to help him win Scotland back to Labour in Scotland, and include a piece written in November 2014 by Alan McPhail.

Waking the Giant By Peter A Bell. The unseemly hysteria with which the British establishment responds to pretty much anything Nicola Sturgeon says (*Critics accuse Sturgeon of trying to 'bankrupt Britain' over £180bn public spending demand*) serves as a powerful reminder of the terror which is gripping the ruling elites of the British state as they face the very real prospect of disruption to the cosy arrangements which serve them so well, and the people of these islands so ill.

Let us be clear, it is not about the economy. The dismal science of economics is not definitive. It is merely a tool by which the powerful manipulate the powerless. For all the portentous talk of "bankruptcy", the real issue here is not money, but power. Had Sturgeon suggested spending £180 billion on some shiny new weapons of mass destruction; or to prop up some despotic foreign regime; or on some grandiose infrastructure project entirely for the benefit of London; or to indemnify the obscenely rich against the consequences of their own avaricious folly, then nary an unnaturally perfectly formed eyebrow would have been raised among the clique which considers itself divinely appointed to order our lives.

What concerns these ruling elites is not any threat to the economy - which would hardly touch them anyway - but a challenge to their power. Nicola Sturgeon and the Scottish National Party have come to represent a much wider political force which, as it gains momentum, poses the menace of meaningful, progressive change such as is anathema to conventional power. Every small success for the SNP is seen by the British establishment as bringing us closer to that tipping point at which the old structures of power and privilege are swept away by a tide of democratic demand.

For decades, the aspirations of progressives and reformers have been safely redirected into the "safe pair of hands" that British Labour has become. Or into fringe parties which are safely ineffectual on account of their eccentricities. But the mass political awakening occasioned by the Yes Campaign is different. To the considerable extent that the SNP is the manifestation of this new politics, it represents a force which the British establishment views with increasing trepidation. Not necessarily because the party itself poses a direct threat to the structures of power and privilege which define the British state, but because it offers encouragement to those who had long since retreated into apathy.

The British establishment certainly hates the Scottish National Party. But what they truly fear is that, by challenging the Westminster system from within in ways that can only be portrayed as extreme and irresponsible at the cost of looking foolishly hysterical, the SNP may set an example which rouses progressives in England from their torpor.

Thoughts on Gordon Brown, by Alan McPhail 23 Nov 2014. Brown was too cowardly to call an election when Blair resigned to give himself a mandate from the public to be PM. Brown's lust for power was all that mattered to him, and his record as PM did nothing to improve the lives of the Scottish people, the opposite is true. His Party's decision to ally themselves with the Tories was all about maintaining that power in Scotland. What was best for Scotland had nothing to do with it. It is obvious he has quit as an MP before being humiliated at next year's election, because being defeated by an SNP candidate would burst his bubble for good. He believes he is going out on high after fooling the public with his meaningless vow, and will no doubt one day join his fellow apostate, the smarmy Darling in the unelected Lords. Once there, they will bask in their treacherous glory and revel in the accolades from their English Tory friends as the men who saved the British Empire on these Isles.

Labour have gambled that between September and the next election in May we Scots will forgive and forget what they have done and will be persuaded once again by their old clarion call that they must vote Labour to keep the Tories out. How many times must the Scots be fooled by this before they realise that by voting Labour you achieve nothing for Scotland and only perpetuate the system that throws up people like Brown, Darling and the money grabbing Murphy? The SNP have outed Labour and shown them up for what they really are, a Party that is only interested in power at Westminster and whose Scottish MP's function is to provide voting fodder for their policies. For those who want to see real changes in Scotland supporting the SNP is the only way. It's time to rid ourselves of these Red Tory parasites and kick them out of every tier of government from councillors to MP's, only then will the rest of the UK stop taking Scotland for granted.

John McTernan is the Chief of Staff to Jim Murphy, he is not a very nice man and doesn't have much nice to say about Scotland and its people. In 2002 McTernan had branded Scotland as being "narrow" "Presbyterian" and "racist". In an email to the then Labour MSP Karen Gillon, who was about to embark on a trip to Sweden, McTernan wrote, "If you've not been to Sweden before, I think you'll really like it – it's the country Scotland would be if it wasn't narrow, Presbyterian, racist etc. etc. Social democracy in action." The email was obtained by The Sunday Times under FoI legislation. In 2008 The Australian wrote "It shows why Labour lost the election. They seem to have developed a unique contempt for the Scottish people. But it's not Scotland that is narrow; it's the Labour party." Has McTernan or Labour changed since he wrote that email? Not one bit is the answer. McTernan is also quoted as stating that "should Scotland gain independence England should take Scotlands oil by force", he also supports privatisation of the NHS, says the UK subsidises Scotland to the sum of £20-£30 billion per year (blatant lie), believes Scotland is nothing but a beggar Nation, wants to sell off Scottish Water and Forestry, believes in the Tories Austerity Policies and of course supports Trident.

Murphy thinks this man is going to help him make Labour the main Party in Scotland again, does he think we are total fools and that we will vote for a party that agrees with and employs a man like McTernan, whose views and opinions of Scotland are all derogatory and negative? But that's not all, Murphy has went a step further and also hired the man behind "**Project Fear**", Blair McDougall, as chief Advisor. As head of the BT Campaign he admitted that "*Scotland might have voted for independence in last week's referendum if our campaign had made a positive case for the union, rather than "scaremongering" about economic risks.*"

On top of employing McTernan and McDougall, Jim is out and about in Scotland campaigning for a lifting of the ban on alcohol at football matches. A policy that has seen dramatic falls in violence against women, in the streets and of course at the game itself, a policy that Police Scotland support, "*Police Scotland believes we should maintain the position of a no alcohol at football policy*". Don't forget calls for the *Offensive Behaviour at Football Act* to be repealed. This cannot be from a party that cares about the welfare of Scotland and her people, this is purely a drive for votes from the football community in the hope they will swing the polls back into Labours favour. Football is a family sport, we don't want the scenes witnessed in the 80's where violence at football was commonplace to come back, for all our sakes I hope this never happens.

One of the obvious and repeated tactics of conventional politics, is the application of certain strategies such as 'intimidating the public through media, pressure groups and several fear policies to manoeuvre the psychological behaviour of voters, and to spread fear in the minds of the people. Military overture, creation of artificial economical and political turbulence and destabilization will keep voters discouraged, intimidated and manoeuvre their mental capabilities to hamper confidence and trust, resulting in achieving their Parties targets. These are short and medium term political strategies for maintaining hegemony and the attainment of set outcomes with minimum damage. They apply different strategies to change the minds of the people, utilise mass media for their orchestrated ambitions and bribe the key players of the system. If you ever want to evaluate the performance of any Political Party in regards to addressing and solving people's concerns then we must analyse the replication of their policies; economic prosperity, income level, employment, infrastructure, development etc.

Scotlands oil is a key factor in the current political play ground, it is highly lucrative for Westminster and the economy, therefore, Westminster will always have a keen interest in the oilfields of Scotland. However, it is wrong to assume that Scotlands economy is largely dependent on oil. Economies are stabilised and restructured on several economical and fiscal measurements such as Foreign Investment, Energy and Power, Human Resource, Tourism, Agriculture and several other natural resources which Scotland has in abundance. Media hype on oil has intensified during Jim Murphy's political campaigning for May's General Election. Largely, because that's the barometer for his political campaign, where he will have to point to Scotland reliance on oil (and current fall in price per barrel) in the hope of winning support at the Ballot Box. This is a crucial tactic being applied by Labour in Scotland in order to demean the SNP, to gather support and gain ground in the polls. In business terms, this is called '*Marketing Strategy, Targeting and Segmenting*'.

There is another point to be addressed here, the Divide within Society. This is one of the more traditional formats of political campaigning. The history of British occupation and colonisation proves undoubtedly that they have always applied the 'Divide and Rule Strategy' on the inhabitants of the territories and countries they conquered and ruled. Now, this divide among the people of Scotland will definitely be used to Westminster's advantage they will dramatise it for political gains. The majority of opinion polls are showing the advantage is with the SNP and if the polls are realised at the ballot box they will win the majority of Scottish seats in May's Election. Knowing the doctrine of 'Divide and Rule', all the Unionist Parties standing in Scotland, will use this strategy to their full advantage in the hope of disintegrating the SNP poll lead.

Scotland needs more autonomy to have the power to legislate for the good of the country, which will directly affect the well-being of the population and aid true democracy to flourish in Scotland. A powerful and autonomous parliament is the sole guarantor of socio-economic, judicial, political, administrative and geographical decisions for any democracy. For Scotland the SNP is the only viable and practical Political Party which has the weighted advantage over other contemporary Parties to sincerely address the issues related only to Scotland instead of waiting for 'Masters' at Westminster to issue orders. **Sajjad Amin Bangash.**

An Ipsos MORI poll has shown that **56% of Labour voters in England would support** a post election coalition deal with the SNP and only 25% oppose such a move. This poll carries on from the accolades received for Nichola Sturgeons Anti Austerity agenda, laid out in last week's University College London speech.