

TORIES OUT – FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY

TURN THE FIRE ON THE TORIES

It's time to turn the fire on the Tories. People up and down the country have been outraged at the government's latest move to shut down the parliamentary process in order to shore up their chances of securing a Tory Brexit. Johnson's strategy of bypassing parliament is high risk and based on an assessment that he can monopolise the Leave sentiment and ride roughshod over a divided opposition. Avoiding parliamentary debate and scrutiny is a sign of weakness not strength; weakness that is exposed by Ruth Davidson's resignation.

CONTEMPT FOR DEMOCRACY

The Tories said Brexit was about bringing power back to the people and to the British parliament. In truth they hold democracy in contempt and at times of crisis they have always looked to use extra-parliamentary power. Their lasting commitment is to their privileged class; their commitment to democracy has always been skin deep. They are led by an arrogant old Etonian who owes his place to a Tory electorate that is entirely unrepresentative of the British population. The Tories are in office as a result of the June 2017 election

in which they were supported by fewer than 3 in every 10 eligible voters.

HISTORIC CRISIS

However, division over Brexit runs deep through the Tory party. With the elevation of Johnson to the leadership, the traditional party of big business is at odds with most business leaders who would prefer to stay in the EU. This represents a historic crisis for the main party of British capitalism and provides a unique opportunity to build a movement that can shift the agenda in the interests of working people.

OBSCENE INEQUALITY

Both wings of the Tory party have been united in the pursuit of austerity; both are comfortable with obscene inequality and enthusiastically pursued the hostile environment policy. Those that oppose no deal will not be our allies if Johnson gets the chance to drive through attacks on wages, conditions, health and safety, food standards in his vision of a US oriented Tory Brexit.

THE REAL FAULTLINES

Brexit is primarily a symptom of a deep-seated economic and political crisis of the British State but it is also accentuating that crisis. To

grasp the opportunities that exist to build opposition to the Tories, we will need to expose the real fault lines in our society. We need to pin the responsibility for the state we are in on the Tories. For too long now members of the elite, Tory journalists like Boris Johnson and bankers like Nigel Farage have claimed to speak for ordinary people. It was always nonsense, but they got away with it because no one was articulating the anger that many people feel. The state of the NHS, the drawn out misery of being old and poor in 21st century Britain, the lack of housing and the vindictive racism of the hostile environment. Now is our chance to nail them as the cynical toffs and chancers that they truly are.

ON THE STREETS

Now more than ever we need to build a movement. People on both sides of the Brexit divide oppose Johnson's onslaught on democracy. A mass campaign on the streets and in the workplaces can win. But we need to be clear about what winning means. Rejecting 'no deal' is not enough. Johnson may still get a deal but under his government; it would be a vicious Tory deal and represent a huge setback for working people. To avoid this requires No Tory Brexit, Tories Out and a General Election.

NO TORY BREXIT

rs21 Scotland believes that to turn our fire on the Tories our movement will need a sense of what we are for. In our view this includes an end to austerity coupled with massive public investment in response to the climate emergency, free movement of labour, no hostile environment and another independence referendum in Scotland. We are not supporters of the EU; it is an undemocratic neo-liberal club. Until now all that's been on offer has been versions of a Tory exit from the EU. Through an insurgent movement that rids us of the Tories we will genuinely be able to take back control, debate and determine our future.

READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE

WWW.RS21.ORG.UK

CONTACT US BY EMAIL

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Forthcoming meetings:

'What do we mean by system change – politics of climate crisis'

Edinburgh Weds 18th Sept
7.30pm: Augustine Church, George
4th Bridge, EH1 1EL

Glasgow: Thurs 19th Sept 6pm:
Hillhead Library, 348 Byres Road
G12 8AP