



## Part One – Is the two-party system at a turning point?

[Leaders](#) | Electoral volatility

### Document 1 - Is British politics broken? Its centre is cracking

*The two traditional parties of government are under siege as never before*

**The Economist**, Sep 11th 2025

### Document 2 – Infographic - How unpopular is Britain's Labour government?

**Polling** <https://www.economist.com/interactive/2025-british-politics>

### Document 3 - VIDEO – TDLR News - Is the UK Still a Two-Party System?

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FNr\\_clZHrnc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FNr_clZHrnc)

**Analysis in the wake of the May 2025 Local Elections**

### The two-party system may finally be breaking

*The end of the two-party system has been prophesized many times before, but Labour and the Conservatives had held firm. This time, argues Tony Travers, things might be different. The local election results, the voters' aversion towards the two major parties, as well as global trends all point towards British politics entering a multi-party era.*

**Blogs.lse.co.uk**, Tony Travers, May 13th, 2025 (LSE = London School of Economics)

The outcome of the 2025 local elections in England has already had a massive impact on British politics. Reform UK's surge, pushing aside both the Conservatives and Labour suggests that the country's "two-party" system may be moving towards being a three, four or even five party system – or six in Scotland and Wales. Labour and the Conservatives both lost two thirds of the seats they were defending, while not only Reform, but also the Liberal Democrats and Greens took many new seats.

Is this perhaps just a "blip" in normal British politics? After all, in the early 1980s, the SDP appeared to be on the way to supplanting Labour as the second major bloc within the two-party system. This did not happen: the first past the post voting system saved Labour at the 1983 general election and the party under Neil Kinnock changed so much that by 1997, with Tony Blair as leader, it was able to win a landslide majority over the Tories.

There are powerful reasons to believe this time things are different. First, the Conservative-plus-Labour vote share has been in long-term decline. In the 1950s, there were two general elections when these powerful parties together won over 97 per cent of the vote. In the intervening period, this percentage has gradually been reduced, though the response to Brexit briefly re-inflated the two-party vote in 2017 and 2019. But at last year's election, Labour and the

15 Conservatives together won just 57 per cent of the vote. The “national equivalent vote” share for the two parties in this year’s local elections was 37 per cent. Nothing like this has ever happened before.

Overseas evidence suggests the recent advance of Reform UK in Britain is not an isolated case. The National Rally party’s increasing threat to the mainstream in France, AfD’s recent successes in Germany’s federal elections, Georgia Meloni’s premiership of Italy, Javier Milei’s economic revolution in Argentina and Donald Trump’s presidency in the United States, together imply that a form of revolt against the prevailing Establishment is under way in many countries.

20 Britain has long seen itself as holding out against the eccentric political change elsewhere. Conservative and Labour leaders have supported the first past the post voting system because, since 1945, it has generally produced majority governments of one or other of their parties. Having said that, the Lib-Lab pact in the 1970s, the Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition from 2010 to 2015 and Theresa May’s post-2017 reliance on the Democratic Unionists tell a rather different story. Indeed, Labour’s landslide in 2024 was little more than a quirk of the voting system and can now be seen as a harbinger of the current situation in the country’s politics.

30 Polling evidence suggests there is now significant antipathy (or worse) towards both the Labour and Conservative parties. Research will be needed to find out how these previously successful entities now generate such distaste among a significant portion of the electorate. No one imagines British voters ever loved their politicians. See Hogarth’s 1755 *Humours of an Election* paintings for evidence that satirists have long captured negative attitudes to the political class. But the current level of distaste appears to have hardened into something rather different. Support for liberal democracy has fallen in Britain and elsewhere.

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## Britain Is Manifesting Nigel Farage as Its Next Prime Minister

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By Sam Knight, *The New Yorker*, September 21, 2025



Nigel Farage, the leader of Reform U.K., speaking on Monday, in London. Photograph by Dan Kitwood / Getty

Nigel Farage’s Reform U.K. Party—the latest incarnation of the right-wing, anti-immigrant political movement that he has led for twenty years—has been atop the British polls for the past six months. It is currently polling at thirty per cent, ten points ahead of the Labour government. If there were a general election tomorrow, there is a plausible chance that Reform would win hundreds of seats in the House of Commons; that the duopoly of Labour and the Conservatives, which has ruled British politics for a century, would be broken; and that Farage, once nicknamed Mr. Brexit by his friend Donald Trump, would be Prime Minister. There are plenty of sane, sensible arguments for why this won’t happen. For one thing, according to the law,

15 there doesn’t need to be a general election until the summer of 2029. But British politics haven’t been sane or sensible for a long time—since Brexit, really, the last time that Farage jolted the country’s traditional two-party system off the rails. So, instead of looking upon the rise of Reform with resolve or equanimity (the Party currently has five members of Parliament, less than one per cent of the total), everyone is losing their mind. Whether out of shock, revulsion, or genuine affection—according to the polling firm YouGov, Farage is the most popular politician in the country—all that anyone can talk about is the unthinkable possibility of a Reform government, thus making it more thinkable by the day. The political center, occupied by Keir Starmer’s Labour

Party and what remains of the moderate wing of the  
30 Conservative Party, is the most morbidly mesmerized of  
all. Watching mainstream British politicians obsess over  
the threat of Farage is a bit like watching the video on  
the internet of the guy standing motionless on the beach  
in Thailand, the water draining around his ankles,  
35 waiting for the tsunami to arrive.

Farage, who is sixty-one, doesn't need the help. He is  
already the country's most capable politician by a mile.  
Earlier this month, I went to see him speak at a Reform  
Party conference in Birmingham. Britain's main  
40 political parties generally stage conferences in the fall,  
to debate policy, raise funds, and gird themselves for the  
parliamentary year ahead. In Reform's case, the  
gathering felt more like a celebration: the culmination  
of a long summer of Farage-led stunts, interviews, and  
45 speeches that had successfully bored their way into the  
nation's brain.

The Party's messaging isn't subtle. In July, while  
Parliament was in recess, Farage had staged a Lawless  
Britain campaign, during which he claimed, variously,  
50 that people were afraid to walk the streets of London  
after 9 P.M.; that "droves of unvetted men," a.k.a.  
asylum seekers, were loose in the country, posing a  
threat to women and girls; and that crimes such as  
shoplifting and cellphone theft now go unpunished by  
55 the police. Parts of the country, Farage warned, were  
facing "nothing short of societal collapse."

The following month, Farage announced Operation  
Restoring Justice, Reform's plan for the deportation of  
six hundred thousand illegal migrants. Caught on their  
60 heels, neither Labour nor the Conservatives particularly

objected to Farage's diagnoses of Britain's problems,  
just his methods for addressing them.

The conference in Birmingham was branded "The Next  
Step," and you could buy turquoise-and-white Reform-  
65 branded soccer shirts with "29" on the back (indicating  
victory in 2029), for forty pounds each. Up close, you  
are reminded how thin and gimmicky the Party still is.  
(Reform was formed in 2021, when Farage rebranded  
his previous electoral vehicle, the Brexit Party.) A lot of  
70 the conference booths in Birmingham belonged to  
blockchain or crypto businesses. The most eye-catching  
display, reaching upward to the conference-hall ceiling,  
was for Direct Bullion, a gold dealer, decorated with  
pictures of Farage clutching a gold coin.

75 And yet Reform possesses something that Britain's  
traditional political parties can only dream of. "It was  
weird to be at a party conference at the moment where  
people were happy," Luke Tryl, the executive director  
of More in Common U.K., a think tank, founded in  
80 2016, that explores political polarization, told me. As in  
the U.S., Tryl observed, the main fault line currently  
running through British politics is not to do with left or  
right but with whether voters feel pro- or anti-system.  
He said that More in Common's most revealing research  
85 question for understanding the British public was to test  
respondents' reaction to the statement: "When I think  
about our political and social institutions, I cannot help  
thinking 'just let them all burn.' " "Crudely, you've got  
about sixty per cent who are 'Preserve and improve,' but  
90 forty per cent who are 'Burn it all down,' " Tryl said.  
"Reform's popularity comes from the 'Burn it all  
down.' "

## Part Two – The Unite the Right Rally

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### Far-Right Rally in London Draws Huge Crowd and a Counterprotest

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By Mark Landler, Reporting from London, *The New York Times*, Sept. 13, 2025

Tens of thousands of demonstrators marched  
through central London on Saturday in a rally organized  
by the far-right activist Tommy Robinson, setting off  
sporadic clashes with the police and putting the British  
5 capital on edge.

Speaking to the crowd via video link, Elon Musk, who  
helped raise Mr. Robinson's profile last year, said that the  
left was "the party of murder" and urged protesters to  
"fight back."

10 Thousands of antiracism protesters massed in a  
counter-demonstration away from the far-right marchers.  
About 1,000 police officers set up barriers between the  
dueling protests near the Houses of Parliament.

Some far-right protesters battled with the police after  
15 trying to breach the barriers. The Metropolitan Police said  
that its officers had been assaulted and struck by bottles  
and that it had brought in reinforcements on horses to keep  
the crowd back. Video shared by the Metropolitan Police  
showed protesters skirmishing with officers, who said they  
20 had arrested nine people by 5 p.m.

Earlier, under the banner "Unite the Kingdom," they  
marched across the Thames and past Big Ben, a sea of  
Union Jacks and English and Scottish flags rippling amid  
sporadic gusty downpours. Some carried placards calling  
25 for the deportation of asylum seekers who cross the  
English Channel in small boats.

It was a muscular display of support for Mr. Robinson, whose real name is Stephen Yaxley-Lennon. A divisive figure who has roamed the fringes of the British right for 30 decades, he has served multiple prison sentences, most recently after being sentenced to 18 months in 2024 for defying a court order by repeating false claims about a teenage Syrian refugee who had sued him for libel.

Mr. Robinson, 42, was released in May after a court 35 reduced his sentence to seven months. He vowed then to organize a free-speech festival for his supporters, which took on greater resonance after the fatal shooting of the American right-wing activist Charlie Kirk this week on a college campus in Utah.

40 The organizers listed **Stephen K. Bannon**, former chief strategist to President Trump, as one of the speakers. On Thursday, however, Mr. Bannon said he had opted to stay in the United States to host his podcast, “War Room,” from Utah, before heading to Arizona, where Mr. Kirk 45 lived with his family.

Early in his career, Mr. Robinson founded the **English Defence League\***, a nationalist, anti-Muslim group known for its violent street protests in the late 2000s and 2010s. His profile has waxed and waned since then, but it got a 50 lift in the last year because of Mr. Musk, who has championed him on social media, pinning the slogan “Free Tommy Robinson” to his feed on X.

Mr. Robinson was barred from the platform in 2018, when it was still called Twitter, for breaching rules on 55 “hateful conduct.” The following year, his accounts on Facebook and Instagram were also banned.

After Mr. Musk bought Twitter and renamed it X, Mr. Robinson’s account was reinstated. On Saturday, Mr. Robinson boasted about the size of the crowd — 60 “MILLIONS,” he claimed — and posted a video clip of a young Frenchman, wearing a Union Jack bucket hat, who said he had attended in “homage to Charlie Kirk,” adding, “we support you across the sea.”

Mr. Musk was the rally’s biggest draw, appearing on a 65 large screen to tell the crowd that “there’s got to be a



Getty images

change of government in Britain.” British people, he said, are “scared to exercise their free speech.”

The police estimated the turnout at 110,000, according to *The Guardian*, though crowd sizes are traditionally 70 difficult to estimate, while the counterprotest drew about 5,000. Video footage showed the main protest surrounding a large movie theater in Waterloo and later stretching along several city blocks. (...)

The police came under pressure last weekend after they 75 arrested more than 800 people at a rally in support of the pro-Palestinian group Palestine Action, which has been banned by the British government under terrorism laws. Those laws criminalize the wearing, display or publication of anything that “arouses reasonable suspicion” of support 80 for a banned group.

The arrests sharpened a debate in Britain over free speech, which both Mr. Robinson and critics on the left claim is being suppressed.

[Mark Landler](#) is the London bureau chief of *The Times*, 85 covering the United Kingdom, as well as American foreign policy in Europe, Asia and the Middle East. He has been a journalist for more than three decades.

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## After the far-right mass rally in London, Britain must learn lessons from abroad – and fast

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Cas Mudde, *The Guardian*, Fri 19 Sep 2025

The size of Tommy Robinson’s “unite the kingdom” rally, as well as the violence of some protesters, should serve as a wake-up call for British democrats. It’s now time to abandon the failed fantasies and strategies. Time to accept that Britain, or more specifically, England – as the far right is much less prominent in Scotland and Wales – is not an exception to the global trend.

5 Here are some home truths from abroad. After this rally, the centre left should finally put to bed Labour’s illusion that it can compete with the far right on anti-immigration issues. As I argued in the Guardian in 2019: “Copying the far right isn’t going to save the left.” If decades of experiences in the rest of western Europe won’t convince Keir Starmer, then hopefully a recent authoritative study on his own policies will. Adopting nativist discourse and policies does not win back far-right voters. It leads to losses for centrist and leftwing parties. Moreover, it raises the salience 10 of the topic and the expectations of the government, which will always fall short in the eyes of far-right voters, as the “unite the kingdom” rally shows painfully.

For the centre right, the rally should end its fantasies that Brexit has prevented the rise of the far right in the UK. Obviously, that didn't happen. The "unite the kingdom" rally follows a summer of anti-immigrant rallies, while Reform UK has been polling first for months now, not just replacing the Tories as the party of the right, but also eclipsing Labour. This is not surprising, as Nigel Farage's various parties were never mere single-issue parties. In fact, Farage had already moved on to the immigration issue before Brexit, while immigration was the key issue for Brexit supporters in the 2016 referendum on European Union membership.

Moreover, it is high time for Britons from the left and right to shed their "British exceptionalism" and accept that the UK, and England in particular, is very much part of the fourth phase of the far right in the postwar era. This phase, which started at the beginning of this century, is characterised by the mainstreaming, radicalisation and globalisation of the far right – all of which were on display at the "unite the kingdom" rally.

It was already evident, not just in the continuous anti-migrant rhetoric and policies of the Starmer government, but also in the media coverage of the "unite the kingdom" rally. Notably, rightwing media such as the Spectator and the Telegraph exaggerated the number of protesters, while bending over backwards to emphasise that this was a "normal" rally and that the protesters were "no racists".

Several years ago, Tommy Robinson, or more accurately, Stephen Yaxley-Lennon – an extreme-right activist with multiple criminal convictions – was too toxic for anyone with something to lose in British politics and society to associate with. Today, he is the major challenger to Farage for the voice of the nativist right. That also explains, in part, why Farage continues to keep his distance from him.

Finally, the rally clearly illustrated the increasing globalisation of the far right, with speeches from international figures such as French politician Éric Zemmour and South African-US billionaire tech bro Elon Musk. (Steve Bannon from the US was slated to speak, but did not.) Musk is of particular importance here, as he has repeatedly expressed his preference for Robinson over Farage. Musk has been weighing in on far-right politics in various European countries, including Germany, where he made online appearances at meetings of the extreme-right Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) party, even claiming that "only AfD can save Germany".

In short, Britain is not exceptional and Brexit did not solve its far-right problem. If there is one thing that British democrats should learn from the activities of the far right, it is to look for lessons and support beyond the UK's shores.

They should heed the mistakes of others. Both Labour and Tories must see that copying the far right does not work. And Labour has to accept that it has not lost most of its voters to Reform but to the Liberal Democrats and Greens.

Moreover, given the increased fragmentation of British politics – again, a broader phenomenon evident in other countries – democrats must accept that they will be increasingly dependent on coalition politics. The natural coalition partners of Labour are the centrist and leftwing parties, particularly as long as the Tories continue to try to out-Reform Reform. So Labour should think ahead. Continuing its nativist, authoritarian policies and rhetoric will not only lose the party more voters to those parties, but it will also make coalition formation with them more difficult. In the future, the ability to do that may be crucial.

- Cas Mudde is the Stanley Wade Shelton UGAF professor of international affairs at the University of Georgia, and author of *The Far Right Today*

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### The truth about the 'Unite the Kingdom' march

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*The Spectator*, 15 September 2025 by Jonathan Sacerdoti

On Saturday morning, I skipped synagogue and went to the Tommy Robinson march instead. By the time I arrived at Whitehall to collect my press pass for the Unite the Kingdom rally, the sun was shining and the stage was still being set up.

I had optimistically planned to go straight to Shabbat prayers and return by 1 p.m., when the march was expected to reach its endpoint. But that proved unrealistic. So I stayed put, somewhat overdressed in a suit, and spoke with two Scottish women setting up tables of homemade cakes and snacks backstage. One told me she had been

volunteering for Tommy Robinson ever since she first heard him speak about the Pakistani Muslim paedophile rings. Years earlier, her daughter had been raped. She hadn't realised it was part of a broader pattern until she saw his work.

I had come with some apprehension. The media had warned that this would be a far-right, racist march. I wanted to see it for myself. To talk to the people there. To listen to the speeches. And quite soon, as volunteers arrived and the crowd began to swell, it was clear this would be a day unlike any I had experienced. (...)

The event itself was a varied mix of speeches, patriotic songs, short film clips and a black gospel choir. It  
25 culminated in a surprise live Zoom call between Tommy Robinson and Elon Musk, in which Musk called for a dissolution of parliament and fresh elections – a suggestion met with cheers. Robinson, in turn, praised Musk for restoring free speech on X, which had allowed much of his  
30 work to reach the public once again. There were tributes to Charlie Kirk, including a solemn minute's silence that ended with bagpipes. Among the thousands of Union flags, some held photos of Kirk, visibly moved by his assassination.

35 Most speeches focused on recurring themes: British identity, Christian heritage, the damaging effects of Islam in Britain and Europe, unassimilated immigration, and the scourge of paedophile rape gangs. The rally was framed as a defence of free speech, and on that point, it undoubtedly  
40 delivered. Many of the views expressed were met with rapturous applause and cheers. Countless people I spoke with expressed the same sentiment: people felt seen, heard, and less alone. They had long been told their views were racist, bigoted or ignorant. Now, they stood among  
45 thousands who were unafraid to speak freely, and proud to do so. (...)

Yet not all speeches sat comfortably. While the multiple calls to reaffirm Britain's Christian foundations were understandable, one New Zealand preacher went too far,  
50 calling for the banning of non-Christian places of worship and halal food. A stranger behind us tapped my shoulder and joked, 'Don't worry, not you lot!' I laughed, but the speech left a sour taste. Later, a formidable Māori troupe performed a fierce haka, ripping apart flags of the Palestine  
55 Liberation Organisation and a jihadi banner. They ended by waving the flags of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to a roaring ovation. One sensed the crowd had tired of the *other* kind of march London has seen repeatedly over the last two years.

60 It should not be surprising that a festival of free speech would include opinions that some find disagreeable. That is the point. For the most part, the speeches were serious and stirring, delivered by well-known figures of the right-wing internet. Katie Hopkins gave a characteristically  
65 expletive-laden address. Visibly emotional, Tommy Robinson delivered a carefully crafted speech, one that was both defiant and hopeful, addressing the social ills that had drawn the crowd together. Whatever one's view of Robinson, it is hard to deny his determination. Again and  
70 again, he has faced formidable obstacles. Still, he endures,

and the crowd adores his mettle. Victims and families of the rape gangs spoke with heartbreaking candour. A little girl who had been sent home from school on 'culture day' for wearing a Union Jack dress captivated the crowd.  
75 Throughout the day, a steady procession of right-wing political figures delivered variations on the same message: frustration, anger, defiance.

There was confusion over the size of the crowd. Helicopter and drone footage suggested a vast turnout, possibly over  
80 a million. At one point, an organiser claimed three million were present, though no one could explain where that figure came from. News outlets reported between 110,000 and 150,000, but that estimate did not match the enormous overflow of marchers filling adjacent streets, eventually  
85 surrounding a rather dismal-looking 5,000-strong counter-protest by PLO flag wavers.

Whatever the number, it far exceeded expectations. Police maintained control for the most part and eventually guided the hard-left marchers out via Trafalgar Square. By day's  
90 end, at least 26 police officers had been injured by protestors throwing planks, bottles and a traffic cone. At least 25 people were arrested.

None of this was visible from where I stood. The atmosphere throughout was mainly jubilant, though at  
95 moments, palpably angry. The most frequently heard spontaneous chant was 'Keir Starmer's a wanker', sung to the tune of Seven Nation Army. Putting aside the more extreme voices, the day was, at heart, a powerful expression of justifiable anger. Anger at political leaders  
100 who have dismissed the concerns of millions on matters that are neither fringe nor abstract but urgent and real.

The government's response the following day offered little reassurance. Peter Kyle called Musk's comments 'incomprehensible' and 'totally inappropriate'. Keir  
105 Starmer said Britain 'will never surrender' the flag to those using it as a symbol of violence, fear and division. Friends and family asked me, wide-eyed, what it was like, as though I had returned from some exotic expedition. But I had not been on safari. I had gone to Whitehall to meet a  
110 crowd of fed-up fellow Britons.

This was a day of pride and dissent, of flags and forthrightness, of people who refuse to be silenced or shamed. That patriotic songs, open speech, and the waving of our national flag are now seen as dangerous by many in  
115 our parliament only ensures this will not be the last such march. I left the rally as the gospel choir sang *Jerusalem*, the anxiety I'd felt on arrival replaced by a warm sense of British pride and a quiet feeling that something is shifting.

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### What Elon Musk gets wrong about Europe's hard right

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Leader, *The Economist*, Sep 17th 2025

"You either fight back or you die," Elon Musk told a big crowd in London on September 13th at a rally organised by Tommy Robinson, a convicted criminal who preaches anti-Muslim bigotry. Mr Musk has cultivated ties with insurgent hard-right parties across Europe. The continent is being overrun by Muslims, he claims, and faces demographic disaster

and oppression by corrupt elites. It can be saved only by disruptive, MAGA-like parties that represent the true voice of citizens (take it as read: white, Christian ones).

In fact, to lump together Europe's hard-right forces is a mistake. They all dislike immigration and wokery, and are fond of conspiracy theories and social-media pugnacity. But their paths are different. In France the hard right appears to be moderating as it gets closer to power. In Germany the [Alternative for Germany \(AfD\)](#) is radicalising further, but remains distant from power. Britain is in flux: as the rally showed, extreme views are becoming normalised, and the electoral system could yet propel the hard right into office.

Giorgia Meloni in Italy is actually in power. When she first soared in the polls, liberals panicked. Here, they feared, was a future prime minister rooted in post-fascist politics, who might unleash culture wars at home and an economic crisis in the European Union. Yet since winning office in 2022 Ms Meloni has proved pragmatic. She has been firm but not xenophobic on illegal migration. She has not waged a culture war, beyond trying to restrict surrogacy. She has cleaved to fiscal discipline, backed Ukraine against Russia and avoided open conflict with the EU. Her calculation is clear: Italy's economy depends on European largesse, its companies on the single market, its bonds on the European Central Bank's support.

In France [Jordan Bardella](#) shows early signs of following a similar script, positioning himself as the moderate face of Marine Le Pen's National Rally ahead of a probable tilt at the presidency in 2027. (Ms Le Pen is currently barred from standing.) Mr Bardella is trying to reassure French business that a hard-right president need not mean fiscal ruin or a euro crisis. Whether he can honour that promise is doubtful. But even the act of wooing the establishment marks a shift.

Contrast those two cases with the AfD. It thrives in Germany's east, where disaffection with the state runs deep. Its rhetoric is xenophobic and pro-Russian. Nonetheless a "firewall" put up by mainstream parties which refuse to work with it has so far blocked it from national or state-level office. It did well last year in state elections in the east, but without coalition partners failed to turn protest into power. And local elections in North Rhine-Westphalia, outside its eastern base, on September 14th showed its limited appeal west of the Elbe: it increased its share but failed to break out of the poorer areas.

Britain is the new battleground. Nigel Farage, leader of Reform UK, has been careful to distance himself from Mr Robinson and the violent right: he was wisely absent from the rally. But Reform's rhetoric has grown more radical, with proposals for mass deportations. It is polling at around 30%, far ahead of any other party. Britain's first-past-the-post system means that vote share could be turned into a parliamentary majority, although the next general election is not due until 2029.

Even if the hard right is moderating, it still poses threats. Mr Bardella still rails against immigrants. The solution to many of Europe's problems—weak defence, declining competitiveness, a lack of innovation—is further European integration, which makes all its hard-right parties bristle. Yet there is a difference between wreckers and pragmatists. In Italy, and perhaps France, the hard right is realising that to win and then govern is to compromise. Europe is not being overrun by the hard right. Its politics are being reshaped—unevenly, and, we hope, less catastrophically than Mr Musk would like. ■

## More Reactions

“What I saw at Saturday's rally was racism, pure and simple. Labour won't tackle it until we can call it what it is

Diane Abbott



“Robinson and Farage's 'civil war' narrative is warping voters' minds. How is any government supposed to counter it?

John Harris



# Far Right / Hard Right / Radical Right In the UK– The Case of Reform UK



Soutien à Tommy Robinson, fondateur du mouvement d'extrême droite English Defence League, lors d'un rassemblement à Londres, le 27 juillet 2024. HENRY NICHOLLS / AFP

## Terminology

- Far right / Radical right / hard right
- Nativism
- Patriotism
- Nationalism – Ultranationalism – Ethnonationalism
- Fascism – Authoritarianism – Neo-fascism – Protofascism
- Anti-Islamism - Islamophobia
- The Great Replacement Theory
- (White Supremacy > U.S.)
- The Manosphere
- BUF (British Union of Fascists) Oswald Mosley
- Enoch Powell
- Tommy Robinson
- EDL English Defence League
- British National Party ( / National Front)
- Britain First – Patriotic Alternative – Homeland – British Freedom Party

## ● Cas Mudde's *The Far Right Today*, Polity, Cambridge, 2019

▪ Interviewed by [Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona | CCCB](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8rLvPO7CTM&t=224s&ab_channel=CCCB), assessing the Far Right today.

July 18 2023 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8rLvPO7CTM&t=224s&ab\\_channel=CCCB](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8rLvPO7CTM&t=224s&ab_channel=CCCB)

▪ Longer, but complete, here is Cas Mudde presenting his thesis, the content of his book, with slides and all!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vISpZGRchg8&ab\\_channel=CCCB](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vISpZGRchg8&ab_channel=CCCB) This video has chapters, yeah, so I advise you to pay attention to “Key Argument”, “Terminology” and “Post Fascism” in which he defines the “Four waves of postwar right wing extremism”, knowing that for him we are currently going through “the Fourth wave”.

● **Hope not Hate** – <https://hopenothate.org.uk/> See in particular their State of Hate 2025 Report (Reform Rising and Racist Riots)

<https://hopenothate.org.uk/state-of-hate-2025/>

At HOPE not hate, our mission is to work tirelessly to expose and oppose far-right extremism. Our work focuses on the organised far right, the communities who are susceptible to them and the issues and policies which give rise to them. We build skills and resilience across communities and civil society organisations, creating an alternative narrative of togetherness and unity.

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## A contemporary history of Britain's far right – and how it helps explain why so many people went to the Unite the Kingdom rally in London

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*The Conversation*, September 24, 2025

Aaron Edwards, Honorary Research Fellow, University of Leicester

The recent “Unite the Kingdom” rally in London shows how easy it is for the radical right to mobilise a mass protest by repackaging a perennial issue as a moral panic. It did so by fusing together fears of migration and crime with a rising distrust in government.

There were calls for “remigration”, mass deportation and even the dissolution of parliament as well as violent clashes with police. There was also a level of confusion among some of the thousands of people who attended as to whether they were protesting for freedom of speech or lending their voices to a racist cause.

Although the scale of the demonstration was surprising to many, far-right activism has a long history in the UK.

In the contemporary era, it dates back to the British Union of Fascists in the 1930s. But it was the increase in immigration in the 1950s – the Windrush era – that saw a new generation of far-right activists emerge.

In the years that followed, Britain's far right switched its focus from antisemitism to opposing migration from the country's colonies and former colonies. This was captured best, perhaps, in the infamous “rivers of blood” speech delivered by Conservative MP Enoch Powell in 1968.

By the 1980s, the British National Party (BNP) emerged, growing to make considerable electoral headway in the 1990s and 2000s before its base ultimately crumbled due to its toxic image.

In its wake, the far-right morphed into street protest movements like the English Defence League (EDL) and the Football Lads Alliance. Extremist “direct action” groups like Combat-18, a neo-Nazi group that grew out of the BNP in the 1990s, would also be replaced by National Action and the Patriotic Alternative.

These violent fringe groups were banned but others have replaced them and grown in influence. They include the cultural nationalist movement coalescing around former EDL leader Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, known popularly as “Tommy Robinson” – the man behind the Unite the Kingdom rally in London.

Extremism expert Chris Allen has noted how the re-emergence of radical right protest activism had its medium-term origins in the 2016 Brexit referendum. This relates to how some pro-Leave politicians promoted issues that had “a clear resonance with the traditional and contemporary radical-right” – such as border security and sovereignty.

Rightwing extremist activity ranged from the murder of Jo Cox MP a week prior to the Brexit referendum to street agitation whipped up by other fringe far-right groups, like

Britain First. According to the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, these groups attempted to “dominate the narrative on key political and social issues, including immigration, Brexit and Islam”.



Protestors on the Unite the Kingdom march, organised by the far right, block the path of counter-protesters in London. Alamy/Leo Bild

The anxiety around immigration had already found its way into mainstream political discourse on the doorsteps during the 2015 general election. Narrative tropes about “taking back control of our borders” became part of everyday political rhetoric. In the aftermath of the election of that year, prime minister David Cameron made cracking down on immigration a priority.

As antagonism towards the EU began to recede in the years after the Brexit referendum, the fear of irregular immigration came much more to the fore. So too did a rise in racism and race-related hate crimes.

Many of these hate crimes happened in the wake of Islamist terror attacks in 2017, though the arrival of the COVID pandemic superseded fears surrounding terrorism. And as the UK re-emerged from COVID lockdowns, little consideration was given by the British state to the growing security challenge posed by irregular immigration.

It was in this context that a tipping point was reached. In July 2024, after the murder of three children in Southport, radical-right social media influencers and other bad actors stirred up riots across 27 towns and cities in England and Northern Ireland. Thousands of people were radicalised by the language of a moral panic, played out in the new domain of social media.

### Illegal immigration as a form of moral panic

Sociologist Stanley Cohen coined the term “moral panic” in his important 1972 book *Folk Devils and Moral Panics*. He described how a “condition, episode, person or group...emerges to become defined as a threat to societal values and interests” and is then presented in a stereotyped fashion by the media.

Perhaps the most famous of these moral panics came in the immediate aftermath of a huge 1964 brawl in the seaside town of Clacton between mods and rockers, two rival youth counter-cultures. Cohen's argument was that the reaction ended up being wildly disproportionate to the severity of the original incident. Local authorities in towns and cities as far away as Belfast were forced to issue statements reassuring the public they did not have a "hooligan problem".

In 2002, Cohen demonstrated how the same phenomenon was being playing out in relation to immigration. He remarked that the once morally untouchable category of political refugee was becoming "deconstructed". In Cohen's opinion, British governments were starting from a broad consensus that "we must keep out as many refugee-type foreigners as possible" and that "these people always lie to get themselves accepted". To be accepted, they must be "eligible" and "credible".

It was in the ensuing decades, one could argue, that moral panics centring on the triumvirate of migration, crime and security began to emerge in Germany, Italy and the UK.

The British tabloid media led this new moral panic, greatly aided by two intersecting and overlapping empirical realities: the rising tide of concern over increasing immigration in the UK – and Europe more broadly – and the repackaging of ethnically competitive politics as a new form of everyday reality. In the far-right worldview,

politics is about the zero-sum nature of power relations between different ethnic groups.

### Old tropes, new moral panics

What we are now seeing is a new politicisation of a long-running issue. Humanitarian responses to asylum seekers have been replaced with the trappings of a moral panic about irregular immigration.

Moral panics do not, as Cohen reminds us, necessarily reflect the reality of the situation, only the anxiety of those who spread it. That does not mean there are no serious concerns underpinning these issues, only that they have been magnified and, importantly, amplified by the far-right's sophisticated embrace of new technology. This situation is, at its core, a crisis in confidence between a section of the population and the government.

As we move towards towards the next UK election, further disillusionment is more likely to manifest itself in increased electoral support for parties like Reform UK and Advance UK, particularly if they continue to play to hardline supporters. In a recent YouGov survey, 44% of those surveyed said Reform's immigration policy, which includes mass deportation was about right or not tough enough.

While radical-right demonstrations promoting the totemic policy of "remigration" remain largely peaceful, there is a danger that the mainstreaming of such extremist rhetoric will only serve as a driver towards radicalisation for a new generation of far-right extremists.

## • The Guardian Lexicon

### Populist, nativist, neofascist? A lexicon of Europe's far right

[Jon Henley](#) *Europe correspondent*, Tue 18 Jun 2024

They are known, variously, as far right, national-conservative, radical right, anti-Islam, nativist, and Eurosceptic. Also as extreme right, populist, "alt-right", neofascist, anti-immigration, nationalist, authoritarian, and assorted combinations of the above.

As the dust settles on the results of this month's [European parliamentary elections](#), it is worth examining what some of the terms routinely used to describe Europe's wide array of far-right parties mean – and whether they are always the right ones.

#### Radical right

Based on the work of [Cas Mudde](#), an expert on populism and the far right at the University of Georgia, **radical right** parties are defined as those that espouse two core ideologies: **nativism** (seen as the most significant), and **authoritarianism**.

**Nativism** is the belief that "states should be inhabited exclusively by members of the 'native group', and that 'non-native elements' fundamentally threaten the homogeneous nation state".

That explains the core focus on immigration of radical right parties such as Marine Le Pen's National Rally (RN) in France, Freedom Party (PVV) in the Netherlands, Vox in Spain or Fidesz in Hungary.

Nativism is a prominent form of **exclusionism**; radical right parties are typically also exclusionist towards other "outgroups" besides non-natives, including people of different religions (Muslims, for example) or gender and sexual orientation.

**Authoritarianism** is "the belief in a strictly ordered society" in which infringements are "punished severely", hence a second key focus of the far right: a hardline approach to law and order, as seen, for example, in Germany's AfD or Austria's FPÖ.

Unlike **extreme right** parties, **radical right** parties generally operate within the boundaries of the democratic framework: they are not working actively to subvert the democratic system, and they tend not to approve the use of violence.

## Extreme right

**Extreme right** parties share the same two central ideologies of radical right parties, but unlike them, their ultimate objective is to overthrow the existing democratic order, and they have no objection to violence in achieving their ends.

While it participates in elections, the Dutch Forum for Democracy (FvD), which promotes conspiracy theories and the establishment of a “countersociety”, is generally considered **extreme right**, as too is Greece’s neo-Nazi Golden Dawn.

### Far right

Many political scientists, including those involved in The PopuList, use the term “**far right**” as a catch-all descriptor for parties considered **radical** or **extreme right**. This can be because there is a doubt about which category a party falls into – for example, because some elements within a party may be more extreme than others so its messaging is inconsistent, or because a party’s position has changed or is changing.

“In practice, it’s often difficult to decide,” said Matthijs Rooduijn, a leading member of The PopuList team. “Some party members may make multiple extremist dog-whistles, but in its formal statements it may just be radical.”

Parties that are only moderately far right, or whose positions have moderated over time, may be described as **borderline far right**.

### Populist

**Populist parties**, again using the definition proposed by Mudde, are defined as those that “endorse the ideas that society is ultimately separated into two homogeneous and antagonistic groups, a ‘pure people’ v a ‘corrupt elite’”.

**Populist parties** also argue that politics should be “an expression of the will of the people”. Anything that stands between “the will of the people” and policymaking they dislike and, in power, may try to weaken: a free press, an independent judiciary.

Many, but not all, far-right parties are obviously also populist. When that is the case, however, said Rooduijn, “it’s always best to say so. Just ‘populist’ can make them seem more moderate than they are.”

(Populism is not, of course, confined to the far right: many leftwing and far left parties are also considered populist, such as the Smer (Direction) party of Slovakia’s prime minister, Robert Fico, or France Unbowed (LFI), led by Jean-Luc Mélenchon.)

### Hard right

**Hard right** is a term that has been widely used by media outlets, including *the Guardian* (and *The Economist*). Rooduijn advised against it. “I think it’s more confusing than anything else,” he said.

Often, the term is used to describe parties that may have moderated their tone or stances while campaigning for an election, or once they are in government. “Parties do

change over time; they can become more, or less, moderate,” Rooduijn said.

“But we avoid changing parties’ classifications when they’re in government. Parties have to compromise if they’re in a coalition with more moderate partners, they have to be less radical. But once they’re out, often you see their identity hasn’t changed.”

## Conservative, Eurosceptic, climate-sceptic

To a greater or lesser extent, Europe’s **far-right** parties – besides their core focus on **nativism** and other **exclusionary** ideologies and, in most cases, their **populist** approach – can share a multitude of other ideological stances.

To differing degrees, many are **Eurosceptic**, with beliefs ranging from “outright rejection of the entire project of European political and economic integration”, and of one’s country’s membership, to “contingent or qualified opposition”.

Some, particularly in central and eastern Europe, are socially **ultra-conservative**, promoting the concepts of duty, patriotism and traditional values, family structures, gender roles and sexual relations.

Increasingly, many are also **climate-sceptic**, either rejecting the science of climate change entirely or resisting and seeking to delay efforts towards the green transition.

Many are also **illiberal** – setting out to capture the judiciary and media, usurping constitutional bodies, attacking civil society – and “**anti-woke**”.

But what matters most, said Rooduijn, is that core ideology. Is it **nativist, exclusionary of outgroups, authoritarian**?

Then you have a far-right party.

### So which parties qualify?

By these criteria, Alternative für Deutschland (AfD), which finished second (ahead of all three members of the governing coalition) in the European parliamentary elections in Germany, can be classified as far right, populist – and with an extremist element.

RN, which finished first in France with a victory so crushing it prompted Emmanuel Macron to dissolve parliament, is far right and populist, although relatively leftwing – albeit nationalist – in socioeconomic policy.

Despite its relative moderation as regards cooperating with the EU and running national economic policy, Giorgia Meloni’s Brothers of Italy, whose roots are widely considered neofascist, qualifies as far right, populist and socially conservative.

The Finns, currently constrained by being in coalition, are far right and populist; the Sweden Democrats, also with extreme-right roots, are now far right and populist; the Danish People’s party is far right – although arguably more moderate than many.

Vox in Spain is far right and populist as well as anti-feminist and economically rightwing. Chega

in Portugal is far right and populist, with a strong focus on immigration, Islam, and “political correctness”.

Austria’s FPÖ is far right and populist, as are PVV in the Netherlands (with an emphasis on Islamophobia), Viktor Orbán’s Fidesz in Hungary (also illiberal, and with strong anti-LGBTQI+ views) and Poland’s Law & Justice (PiS). Finally, a number of Europe’s mainstream centre right parties, including France’s Les Républicains (LR), the

Netherlands’ VVD and Britain’s Conservatives, have adopted nativist policy platforms, most notably on immigration.

In The PopuList’s 2023 iteration, only the fact that exclusionism was not a core component of their ideologies prevented the academics from classifying them as borderline far right.

## The changing face of the British far right

Alice Sibley, Blogs.Ise May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

*This blog post draws on the research article “Behind the British New Far-Right’s veil: Do individuals adopt strategic liberalism to appear more moderate or are they semi-liberal?” published in the British Journal of Politics and International Relations. HERE*

*The British far-right narrative is changing. Although the far-right is often equated with fascism, recently some far-right groups have moved towards certain liberal values. But where might this lead? Alice Sibley explains what these changes in far-right rhetoric might mean and why we need to research the far right now more than ever.*

Far-right activity is now considered a major threat in most Western liberal democracies. In the UK alone, the far right is the fastest-growing form of extremism according to the most recent counter-extremism Prevent report. Moreover, this threat is not restricted to the violent Extreme Right (ER). The Populist Radical Right (PRR) influences the ER and vice versa.

PRR groups are far-right groups that are non-violent and support democracy. They differ from the ER, normally associated with fascism, who use and endorse violence and oppose democracy. The PRR and ER often share similar concerns related to immigration, globalisation and Islam, among other themes, but have a different view on fascism and violence. What’s more, the Populist Radical Right narrative is changing, as my research, drawing on 15 interviews with supporters and leaders of the British far right, illustrates.

Some far-right groups in the UK have evolved to become more compatible with liberal democracy. Researchers have highlighted the PRR’s adoption of some liberal values. Some British far-right groups support women’s rights, LGB rights and animal rights. Some argue that this adoption is strategic, and their pro-liberal rights stance is a front to appear more moderate. Certain supporters may adopt some liberal values to appear more democratic, moderate and less of a threat. However, other research suggests that this is not necessarily the case. This research found that while some supporters did strategically adopt some liberal values to appear more moderate, these individuals originated from the authoritarian-right side of the political spectrum and were

therefore strategically liberal, while others were driven by different motivations.

Although not representative of the British far right generally or far-right groups specifically, an example of the adoption of some liberal values is the use of women’s rights by two PRR leaders: Tommy Robinson and Anne Marie Waters. The quote below from an interview with the English Defence League’s Tommy Robinson highlights this appropriation of women’s rights to convey a liberal ideology:

“I’d say, my opposition to Islam comes from my liberal views. I am a liberal... People say, you are against immigration. Nope, I would open the British embassy tomorrow and get every woman out of Saudi Arabia. Every single one of them. And just leave loads of cavemen scratching their heads going, what... is going on, all the women have gone”.

The above quote is an example of femonationalism; the deployment of some women’s rights arguments to position so-called British values (perceived to be pro-women’s rights) as superior to so-called Islamic values (perceived to be anti-women’s rights).

In contrast, supporters and leaders that originated on the left side of the political spectrum but who moved over to the PRR still held some authentic liberal views, and were therefore, semi-liberal. In an interview, Anne Marie Waters talked about the difficulties of being the leader of a political party that was positioned as far-right. As the leader of the For Britain Movement, she mentioned that within her area of politics, sexism is still present:

“You’ve got to contain yourself, ’cause if you get angry, they’ll be like, oh hysterical woman... it’s relentless. If you speak out about sexism, she’s pulling the sexism card. If you don’t, you just have to sit there and take it. Which I do a lot of the time. If you do say something, you have to make sure you say it in a certain way so that they don’t dismiss you as a hysterical woman, probably has her

75 period. Believe me, women still face this and in politics, it is everywhere.”

Anne Marie Waters’s women’s rights argument is unrelated to nationalism, nativism or Islam. She discussed the treatment of women within all aspects of politics. This argument, therefore, is not strategic and is semi-liberal. While Robinson’s argument was strategically liberal, Waters’s was semi-liberal. This shows the varied narratives in the British PRR.

Due to their changing rhetoric related to supporting some liberal values and opposing fascism, the PRR are attracting a new type of supporter, one that previously would have been deterred by the fascistic elements of the far right. This new type of supporter is usually referred to as the sexually modern nativist supporter: a higher-educated, pro-LGB rights woman who might also be part of the LGB community themselves. Anne Marie Waters fits this typology as a university-educated, lesbian woman. This highlights not only the change in the narratives of the British PRR but also how this translates into a new type of person being vulnerable to far-right recruitment.

***The Populist Radical Right are attracting a new type of supporter, one that previously would have been deterred by the fascistic elements of the far right.***

#### **From The Great Replacement to The Great Reset conspiracy theories**

Along with the shift towards a more moderate, liberal-based position, there has also been a shift in some corners of the British far-right away from The Great Replacement conspiracy theory towards The Great Reset conspiracy. The Great Replacement conspiracy is infamous. Even if you do not know it by name, you know the idea it propagates; White Europeans are being replaced by (Muslim) non-Europeans leading to white genocide. This was the main rallying cry for the British far right until recently. In my interviews, although concern about Islam and The Great Replacement was still a main theme, there was a shift in argument following the COVID-19 pandemic. In my interview with Tommy Robinson, he said:

“So now as I’ve progressed, I believe that all these things... is to divide. Everything that happened with Islam [The Great Replacement], everything that happened to me [perceived persecution], all the censorship, then COVID, it’s all part of the same thing under different names, different banners. The same objective, the objective is to divide... this is The Great Reset... they’ll destroy everything so much... that people will be crying out for a basic credit system... for more law and order... for more freedoms to be taken away, more cameras, more facial recognition.”

The Great Reset is a conspiracy theory which posits that the global elite are “resetting” the world-wide system to gain global totalitarian control. This highlights the

potential shift away from conspiracies about Islam and Muslims gaining global control towards conspiracies about elites and global governments. For some corners of the far-right, COVID-19 represented a shock that led them to position the global elites as the enemy who are restricting our freedoms (COVID-19 restrictions) and taking away our rights (COVID-19 vaccinations). This is particularly worrying as research suggests that young people have lost trust in the British government because of COVID-19, making young people in particular potentially vulnerable to believing in this conspiracy theory. As The Great Reset is connected to antisemitic conspiracy narratives, this could also indicate a change in focus from one out-group, Muslims, to another, Jews. This narrative moves the PRR closer to the antisemitic ER, potentially leading to some alignment between the PRR and the ER.

Although, the adoption of some liberal values is moving the PRR away from the stereotypical fascistic narrative, the shift towards The Great Reset may move these groups closer together. It is, therefore, more important than ever to monitor these potential changes in the British far-right.

Alice Sibley is a PhD candidate and Lecturer at Nottingham Trent University. Her PhD focuses on the British anti-Islam far-right and her research interests include the Populist Radical Right, the Extreme Right, Fascism and Terrorism.

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Robert Kenrick embodying the radicalisation of the Conservative Party

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### The real threat to Labour isn't bumbling Corbyn – it's the Greens

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Your Party's obsession with democracy has led to implosion, giving Zack Polanski an opportunity to win the hard Left

Tom Harris, *The Spectator*, 20 September 2025

The latest opinion poll makes grim reading for both the main establishment parties, which, according to Find Out Now, enjoy less than a third of voters' support between them.

5 For those hoping that the recent Reform UK conference represented a turning point for Nigel Farage's party, that media exposure of some of its more... colourful characters might cause voters to think again about supporting them, the poll will be  
10 disappointing. Reform is at 34 per cent: exactly the level of support Labour won at last year's general election.

What's also notable is that two months after Zarah Sultana unilaterally announced her and Jeremy Corbyn's new Your Party to the world, it still doesn't  
15 figure anywhere in the polls. Granted, it has yet to have a formal launch and there have been a few surveys that have concluded it might have attracted a sizeable proportion of existing support away from both Labour and the Greens.

20 But the key phrase there is "might have". For the whole project could not possibly have got off to a worse start, with sniping between the two putative leaders over the original announcement and then Sultana attacking Corbyn over his record as Labour leader. The tensions  
25 within the new party reached a new nadir yesterday when Sultana authorised the launch of a formal membership system, with emails to supporters asking for monthly contributions, swiftly followed by a public disavowing of her actions by Corbyn himself.

30 The consensus over on X (formerly Twitter) seems to be that this has been a gift, not only to Labour but also to the Greens, who are mercilessly exploiting the recent election of their new leader, Zack Polanski, an accomplished media performer who is making the most  
35 of his status as the leader of a tiny party to bravely say whatever his supporters want to hear.

Why is it that the British Left so frequently performs a swing and a miss, while Farage's party goes from strength to strength, winning another formerly safe  
40 Labour council seat in Wales in a by-election last night? Part of the answer lies in the policy solutions and priorities chosen by each party. By all means accuse Farage of cynicism and opportunism, but his favoured

political ground on which to fight – immigration and  
45 woke identity politics – resonate, particularly among that sizeable (and growing) segment of the electorate that has grown volubly disenchanted with the traditional parties.

Compare and contrast with Your Party's priorities –  
50 Gaza (naturally), welcoming refugees and opposing any and all removals from our shores, high tax and measures to combat climate change. All of which are important, of course, but rarely feature in the top five policy areas most likely to engage and – more importantly – infuriate  
55 voters.

But the larger problem Your Party and all its many and varied Left-wing vehicles have historically faced is its obsession with democracy. It claims to eschew top-down political leadership, castigating the likes of Keir  
60 Starmer for his alleged tyrannical approach to policy-making and the lack of democratic processes that produce policy solutions. Your Party is envisaged (or at least was envisaged until yesterday's entertaining bust-up) as a member-led party where nothing gets decided  
65 without the maximum involvement of the members.

The problem is that political leadership doesn't work like that, as Corbyn should have learnt from his chaotic and ultimately failed period as Labour leader. There needs to be unity, first of all, and having a dozen  
70 Trotskyite and Islamist factions arguing over policy is hardly going to bring that about. Similarly, discipline is an obvious prerequisite to electoral success, but that demands compromise, something that is alien to modern day Marxists who regard purity in ideology and policy  
75 as indispensable. (...)

Now that the Greens seem finally to have rid themselves of the self-indulgent nonsense of having two co-leaders, it has the opportunity to present exactly the unified, top-down Left-wing programme with the kind  
80 of articulate and clear vision that Corbyn is simply incapable of providing. That could prove more of a threat to Labour than Your Party could ever have presented. The question is whether Polanski's party will allow him free rein to lead or will seek to clip his wings  
85 with unnecessary exhibitions of democracy and vote-repelling "people power".

- **Corbyn and Sultana's New Party Explained**

TLDR News, July 8 2025

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2DOKvxHDBH8>

About TLDR News (Wikipedia)

**TLDR News** are a British news outlet primarily hosted on YouTube. Most of their video reports focus on political issues in the United Kingdom and abroad. The abbreviation in their name stands for *too long; didn't read*.<sup>[2]</sup>

TLDR News were founded in April 2017 by computer science graduate Jack Kelly (born August 1996), with the aim of making the news engaging to young audiences. Kelly credits some of the channel's early success to having been started during the Brexit negotiations, which drew attention to it, as well as a lack of competition from traditional outlets on YouTube. Kelly was motivated to create the channel while studying at university for marketing. He observed multiple US news outlets publishing infographic news aimed at young people on social media and noticed that there was no similar ones in UK. Kelly views himself as a content creator rather than a journalist.

TLDR News are owned by Three26 Ltd, of which Jack Kelly is the CEO and sole owner.

The network are based in Clerkenwell, London. As of August 2025, have a staff of twelve full-time employees: Kelly revealed in a 2023 digital summit held by *Financial Times* that all employees are between the ages of 20 and 28, and having young staff is important for him. Their income largely derives from a mix of YouTube advertisement revenue and from sponsorships set up by their network Nebula, as well as their physical magazine *Too Long*. They have multiple channels and publish videos across them each week. TLDR News have an annual turnover of around £1 million and targets audience aged under 35.

- **The new Leader of the Green Party**

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**Is Zack Polanski the Left's answer to Nigel Farage? Channel Four News Sept 2, 2025**

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The Green Party in England and Wales has a new leader and by an overwhelming majority members picked the candidate from the radical left-wing of the party - Zack Polanski.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1KsgxOrgbOA>