

Third party politics: a waste of time?

Preface

This essay is based on a 300-page book I wrote some thirty-five years ago entitled *Fed Up with Government? The Manifesto of the Reform Party*. Though praised by several prominent people, such as Margaret Thatcher's former economics advisor, Patrick Minford, the book was only reviewed once, some three or four years later, in the libertarian journal *Free Life*, where it was caustically dismissed as more or less pointless day-dreaming, or pure fantasy.

In 2016, the same set of ideas was republished in greatly abbreviated form as a thirty-page pamphlet, *Return to Freedom*, with some new material and inclusion of 'confederation' in the name of the proposed party. In 2022, somewhat modified and updated, the essay was republished a third time, as a series of ten articles in *Free Life*. The present essay, a fourth outing of the ideas – with some minor editing and additions – is presumably the last, I'm over eighty!

The late Chris Tame, former Director of the Libertarian Alliance, told me bluntly after *Fed Up with Government?* was published that "third party politics is a waste of time." Given the relative lack of progress by libertarian or free market-leaning political parties in the US, Canada, New Zealand, Germany and elsewhere he may well have been right. However, I choose to differ. In my opinion, because most people in the British Isles only think about politics in terms of parties and elections, forming a new British political party would be an effective way of spreading new, or reborn, political ideas. The undoubted influence of UKIP during the European referendum campaign would seem to support my case.

The British State has grown enormously in size, complexity and power since the 19th century. It continues to grow at an alarming rate. In the words of US economist Larry Sechrest – who, like Chris Tame, sadly died young – "if government exists, it grows." The totally unnecessary, seriously mistaken and immensely damaging lockdowns during the Covid pandemic in his own country and ours proved the point emphatically, they were grotesque displays of unjustifiable political power.

Which comes at immense cost. Most British taxpayers now spend nearly half their lives working to pay for the State. Taxation is so heavy that the Adam Smith Institute reported in 2021 that we spend 150 days working for the government. Not until May 31st do we start working for ourselves. Since ninety-odd per cent of what is currently carried out by government could be better performed at vastly less cost by private enterprise, it is just plain *stupid* to continue in this fashion. American libertarian Sy Leon put the matter succinctly: "... many of the things done by government are essential, but it is not essential that they be done by government."

That said, party politics is intensely time-consuming, very costly, and requires a huge input of energy and dedication. It is not a job for the old, infirm and poor, which is how I myself must be described.

The pages which follow are therefore presented in the hope that there are in Britain some libertarian free market advocates bright enough, young enough, fit enough, rich enough, hard-working enough, determined enough, articulate enough, thick-skinned enough and numerous enough to take on the enormous challenge of trying to set Great Britain to rights.

The Russian-American novelist-philosopher Ayn Rand wrote, very wisely, that power is a leash with a noose at both ends. Rulers are as firmly tied down as those they rule. The oppressor is nothing without the oppressed. Hence, the ultimate objective of the new party would not be to *attain* power, but to *abolish* it.

Herewith my manifesto, or my fantasy if you prefer. But, first, my borrowed motto and rallying cry:

"If submissiveness ceased it would be all over with lordship."

Max Stirner, 1845



CORE

**Manifesto for a new British
political party**

THE CONFEDERATION & *RADICAL* REFORM PARTY

Introduction

The Confederation & Radical Reform Party does not exist, but it is a party which *ought* to exist. Great Britain is like a grand old ocean liner heading for a reef. Not an invisible, submerged reef, a clearly visible and avoidable one. Visible, that is, to those with eyes to see and minds to think. If our course is not corrected, sooner or later disaster will strike. The British economy will expire, strangled by red tape and swamped by government debt; the country's paper money mountain will collapse, and there will be widespread starvation and internal strife.

Even more than a liner, however, the 'Ship of State' takes a lot of turning round. The like-minded people who might create The Confederation & Radical Reform Party would do so knowing that their efforts were strictly long-term and that, initially, they would probably be ignored or ridiculed.

Yet the prospect of a long struggle to gain attention and be taken seriously is no argument for inaction. Only by the constant presentation and reiteration of true alternatives to present policies and practices can change come about. The British Isles have the potential to be heaven on earth, an utopia. Successive governments have turned them into the opposite, a dystopia, and one with a capital D.

Why a new party? Because the Conservatives are an abject failure when it comes to restoring liberty and common sense. 'Me-tooism' has been their secret credo for a hundred years or more. Whatever socialists have introduced the Tories have adopted. Me too! Me too! They no longer *stand* for anything.

Why also attempt to form another 'reform party' when there is already a Reform Party in existence? Because, while many of that party's objectives are commendable, their platform is not nearly wide enough or deep enough and does not strike at the heart of the problem, which is dramatically to reduce the power of the State.

In brief, what is the solution to the ills Britain faces? The answer is simple: a return to individual freedom and individual responsibility. The Confederation & Radical Reform Party's goal is to persuade all rational Britons to accept this truth.

The Founding Principles of CORE

All human beings are ends in themselves, they do not exist to serve any other purpose. For this reason, each human individual has an inalienable right to his or her own life and equally inalienable rights to liberty, property and self-defence, without which human life is not possible.

In a civilised society, all citizens are obliged to respect the rights of others. If they do not, say by stealing another's property, they suspend their own rights until restitution is made.

In Britain today, government behaves as if no such principles exist. It rides roughshod over liberty and property and through its reckless actions threatens the very existence of both.

The collectivistic expression 'human rights' is a misnomer: there are only individual rights – only individuals exist. Nor can people have 'rights' to anything which implies provision of goods or services by others. A 'right to an education,' for example, would imply that somebody else is obliged to provide it, which is enslavement.

The central philosophical objective of CORE is to bring *individual* rights – the rights to life, liberty, property and self defence – back to where they belong, at the forefront of any political discussion.

At the same time, CORE intends to promote the concept that these British Isles of ours are not a single, uniform, consolidated block, but a free and voluntary union of four peoples: the English, the Welsh, the Scots and the Irish, living in many distinct, self-governing communities. True, in the past, the more numerous English have dominated their neighbours and sought to control

them by force. Those days are gone. The future belongs to persuasion, cooperation, and local independence, all tending towards two interrelated goals: mutual respect, and common security.

CORE'S Main Political Objectives

To free individuals from shackles imposed by the State.

Vastly to reduce taxation and to get rid of many particular taxes.

To free the economy from State regulation and control.

To dismantle the Welfare State.

To introduce constitutional measures that will in future prevent the State from being hijacked by self-serving politicians and their supporters.

To introduce competition into the administration of justice and law enforcement.

To pursue peaceful cooperation and unhampered free trade with all other countries and bring an end to protectionism.

To reorganise the government of the British Isles into a confederation of four countries – England, Scotland, Wales and (hopefully, eventually) Ireland – plus associated communities such as the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, and newly, the Orkney and Shetland Islands.

To end military interventions overseas, and to pursue worldwide disarmament, while ensuring that the defences of the British Isles are both superlative and adequate to face current dangers. We should no longer depend on allies to protect us but do the job as much as possible by ourselves.

The Immediate Stimulus

In order to revive the economy fully, a CORE government would institute certain policies immediately. Amongst these would be:

The minimum wage, a major contributor to unemployment, would be abolished.

Job seekers' allowance and unemployment benefit, two other major disincentives to employment, would be phased out.

All State-imposed business costs, such as paid maternity leave, part-time holiday pay, and compulsory redundancy payments, would be gradually eliminated. It would be up to individuals to negotiate their terms of employment.

No person would be forced to join a trades union as a condition of employment, and no person would be forced to pay union dues against their will.

Young people under the age of 21 would be exempt from income tax.

Road tax for lorries would be cut immediately, say to the lowest level found in Europe. Duty on petrol and diesel would also be cut substantially.

Income tax for adults would start on incomes over £10,000. Between £10,000 and £100,000 the rate would be 10%. On any amount over £100,000 the rate would be 20%. The tax would be levied on total income from all sources, including salaries, rents, dividends, interest, winnings, or any other form of income. There would be no exemptions.

Businesses collecting taxes via PAYE would be reimbursed for the costs involved.

VAT would be renamed Sales Tax and levied on all retail sales at a rate of 5%. Those collecting it would keep an agreed portion to cover the cost of collection.

In future, no civilian employed by government, at any level, except for (temporarily) senior medical personnel in the NHS and some senior military officers, would be paid more than the Prime Minister.

Daily interest at 10% would become chargeable automatically on business invoices not paid within the agreed time.

Goods paying excise duties, such as petrol, alcohol and tobacco, would be exempt from Sales Tax. The current practice of levying tax on duty is as discreditable as it is avaricious.

Duty on alcoholic beverages would be charged at so many pence per degree of alcohol per standard unit of sale. For instance, were that 10p, beer or cider at 4%ABV would pay 40p per pint; wine at 12%ABV (whether sparkling or not) would pay £1.20 per 70cl bottle; spirits at 40%ABV would pay £4.00 per 70cl bottle.

Tobacco, in whatever form, would be taxed at so many pence per ounce of untreated leaf, or some other equitable rate.

Stamp Duty on house purchases, Capital Gains Tax, Inheritance Tax (or death duties) and Petroleum Revenue Tax would be abolished immediately, along with many other particular taxes, such as that on insurance premiums.

Profits from the National Lottery would be entirely devoted to paying off the National Debt. When current contracts had expired, running the lottery would be handed over to Mr Richard Branson, if he still so wishes, who once offered to do the job for free.

Constitutional Reforms

The House of Lords would be renamed the House of Peers and would be entirely elected. Hereditary and Church of England seats would be abolished. There would be approximately 100 Peers, elected specifically to represent the counties and large cities. The Commons would represent the citizens as individuals. The two houses would be equal in authority. Commons' constituencies would be reorganised to make them as nearly as possible equal in number of citizens.

Aristocratic titles would cease to have any legal significance but those who inherit them would be free to continue using them if they so chose.

A national competition would be held to rename the House of Commons, which name smacks of the old class system. The chamber would be enlarged so that every member had a place to sit.

To become law, a measure would have to be supported by two thirds of the members of both houses. All members would be required to vote, no abstentions or absences would be permitted. To obtain a seat, a candidate to either house would have to have the backing of 51% of the registered electors in that constituency, and at least three quarters of the electors must have voted in the election.

Seats would be held for six years. Elections would be held every two years, but staggered, one third of members being elected at a time. No member could serve for more than two terms. Election day would be fixed, say May 1, the Prime Minister would no longer set the date. MP's would cease to have salaries and pensions. Parliamentary business would be so greatly reduced that members could continue to earn their livings in their chosen profession.

The Prime Minister would be elected by the members of both houses acting together, and would need to win the support of 51% of the members of each house. He or she would have to be at least 40 years old; to have a proper university degree; to have worked successfully for at least fifteen years in a business or profession outside government, and be fluent in a second language. The position would be held for five years, and would be for two terms only.

Constitutional changes would be established by referendum.

Law-making functions would no longer be delegated to State agencies.

Subsidisation of bars and restaurants inside the Palace of Westminster would cease. All such facilities would be franchised out and would charge the same prices as similar establishments outside Parliament.

Parliament would be constitutionally forbidden from interfering in the economy. Deficit spending and government borrowing would be prohibited. The Budget would not only balance, but produce a substantial annual surplus dedicated to paying off the National Debt.

All departments of government, at every level, would be prohibited from giving taxpayers' money to private charities.

Confederation

In order to satisfy the natural desire for independence amongst peoples of preponderantly Celtic rather than Anglo-Saxon descent; to preserve the many ties that bind us together; and to acknowledge and honour the mutual respect that our diverse peoples owe each other, CORE would pursue a reorganisation of the political structure of the British Isles into a confederation of four nations.

No longer would citizens be 'governed' from Westminster. Rather, the four countries forming the confederation would take care of their own affairs from their own capitals. Westminster would house the headquarters of the confederation alone – the Confederal Parliament – its main roles being to co-ordinate the defence of the British Isles and any other matters requiring inter-governmental cooperation. No doubt too, for convenience, London might continue to be home to the English Parliament, though there is no reason why Parliament should not move from major city to major city in a regular pattern: Bristol, Birmingham, Manchester, York, etc. The Confederal Parliament might rotate between the four capitals in similar fashion.

To be sure, the Irish have already achieved independence and many of them will no doubt look askance at any suggestion of reunion. Yet unity among the four peoples of the British Isles is a highly desirable goal which should be pursued vigorously. The practical and economic advantages of common defence, for example, are enormous. While the Irish may think they threw off the British yoke, they have landed themselves with the far more burdensome and far more threatening yoke of the self-created, self-aggrandising, 'European Union.'

In order to demonstrate that the new arrangement was truly amongst equals, and to dispel historical memories of dominance by one, attention might be given to finding a new name for the associated countries, for example, the British Isles Federation, but that is something for future discussion.

Confederation would be along the same lines as Switzerland, wherein each canton is self-governing and where there is a high degree of independence and local control even down to village level.

An historical example can be found in the American Articles of Confederation – the original treaty between the Thirteen Colonies of North America after independence from Britain – that is, until the *coup d'état* carried out by the so-called 'Founding Fathers' laid the groundwork for the political monster that the USA has become.

The Welfare State

The Welfare State is the worst thing that has ever happened to Great Britain. It is a system for robbing Peter to bribe Paul. It was devised by politicians purely to serve their own interests, enabling them "to assume a halo of virtue by practising charity with wealth that they do not own" (Ayn Rand), in other words, by giving their supporters other people's money – taken by force through taxation.

For an act to be good it must be voluntary. Where coercion begins, goodness ends.

The Welfare State is a grossly immoral system, made more so because in order to pay for it, politicians have borrowed trillions of pounds which they can never hope to repay, thereby burdening our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren with immense debts.

The politicians and their functionaries have also continuously inflated the currency in order to avoid repaying what they have borrowed, in so doing hugely increasing business costs and destroying the value of savings and fixed incomes.

The consequences of Welfare State policies are dire. They have drained initiative, substituting a dependency culture, and created a subclass of spongers and parasites. Further, the Welfare State has attracted people from abroad who come to Britain in order to live at the expense of others.

The Confederation & Radical Reform Party is dedicated to a gradual dismantling of the Welfare State. The following sections outline the sort of programme that would be instituted.

Child Benefit

This would be phased out over a period of years. Initially, the maximum number of children supported in a family would be cut to eight in the first year, six in the second, four in the third, two in the fourth. Simultaneously, the maximum age of the children to be supported would be cut to fourteen years old in the first year, twelve years in the second, ten in the third, eight in the fourth. After five years the benefit would cease entirely. Families with less children would continue to receive the benefit for the number they have until it ends.

School leaving age would be cut in similar fashion; to fifteen in the first year, fourteen in the second, thirteen in the third, twelve in the fourth. After five years, compulsory school attendance would be abolished. The value of education is so obvious there is no need for it to be enforced by the State.

By exempting young people from income tax, whole generations of new young entrepreneurs would be encouraged. Besides, a large percentage of children are unsuited to the regimented form of education imposed by the State. They will fare far better if left alone to make what they can of their lives by themselves.

All other welfare benefits, such as Housing Benefit, would be phased out. While benefits were still being paid, a married man could claim for one dependant only. Incapacity Benefit and similar State assistance would be closed to new applicants and would cease when existing claimants passed away. Private charities or their own families would take over responsibility for those in need.

There would be no hindrance to those wishing to help the less fortunate, but they would have to do so by means of voluntary contributions or with their own money. It is clearly immoral to do otherwise. State aid can only be given by first seizing the money from those who own it or earn it, or by printing paper money, which devalues all money via inflation.

Pensions

The State pension scheme would be slowly wound up. Existing pensions would continue to be paid though those able to manage without would be asked to give up their pension. Their generosity would be publicly acknowledged.

The pension scheme would continue to operate for those over 40 years old, unless they chose to opt out. It would however be closed to those under 40, who would be expected to make their own pension arrangements. Once the last State pensioners had died, the scheme would be closed down permanently.

Present State pensions would be substantially increased to compensate for the depreciation of the Pound Sterling. The State's policy of continually inflating the currency has hugely reduced Sterling's buying power. Hence, the money taken from pensioners during their working lives – supposedly to pay for their pensions when they retire – has greatly diminished in value by the time they need it most – when they stop earning.

Education

The State should never have become involved in education, the falling standards so evident everywhere are the inevitable consequence, not necessarily of poor or inadequate teaching, but of bureaucratic management. The only way to produce excellence in any sphere is through profit-oriented private ownership and free and open competition. The Confederation & Radical Reform Party would end all government involvement in education.

Thus, all State-owned schools, from kindergarten to university level, would first be reorganised to run as businesses, that is, all schools will become fee-paying. They would then be privatised by free share distribution to all citizens. All citizens have paid for them through taxation, regardless whether they have children, so the institutions belong, singly and collectively, to all citizens. Anyone who wished to set up their own school would be free to do so without let or hindrance from the State.

The Student Loan Company would be privatised, possibly as a charity, but would remain in business offering low-cost loans to those seeking education but lacking the means. It might be included with other former State agencies – e.g. the Met Office, Civil Aviation Authority, and Land Registry – in a general services corporation privatised by free share distribution.

The practice of giving Ritalin, or other such drugs, to hyperactive schoolchildren would be banned. Non-medical approaches must be sought for a condition which, while inconvenient for parents and teachers, is usually caused simply by an energetic child *being a child*.

Once the transfer of ownership of educational establishments was complete, the Ministry of Education would be wound up and all State attempts to control or influence education will stop.

The divide between public and private education would thus be dissolved at a stroke. All education would be private, as it should be.

Privatisation

The so-called ‘privatisations’ of the Thatcher era were characterised by some as ‘selling the family silver.’ They would have been more aptly described as ‘fencing *stolen* family silver.’ The Conservative governments of the day merely sold to a wealthier few what properly belonged equally to everyone.

The State is not and was not a corporation that owns, or owned, utilities, etc. These belonged to the people who had paid for them, the citizens of Great Britain. Hence, they should have been given back to their rightful owners in the form of free shares, not sold off to swell State coffers.

Health

As with education, the State should never have become involved in healthcare. Without denying the wonderful work done by the vast majority of those employed by the NHS, hardly a week goes by without some new horror story involving State medicine. This is due to the nature of bureaucratic management in which the interests of State employees automatically take precedence over the needs of those whom they are supposed to serve, and to the fact that the NHS is a near monopoly, monopoly status inevitably resulting in greater costs, lower quality, and sluggish service. The inability of the NHS to cope during the Covid pandemic clearly exposed the wrong-headedness of placing something as important as health in the hands of a single organisation.

Britons could very easily have the best health care in the world but they will only get it if they get the State out of it.

Too often, the NHS has become a political football, with rival political parties competing for votes on the basis of how much they claim to have done, or claim that they will do, to enhance the health service.

Health care reorganisation

A Confederation & Radical Reform Party government would begin by separating health *insurance* from health *care*. All persons currently paying national health insurance would automatically become customers of, and shareholders in, a new insurance company, the British Isles Health Insurance Corporation, BIHIC. However, customers would not be obliged to stay with BIHIC and could sell their shares if they so wished. Other insurance companies would be free to offer competing policies. They would also be free to acquire and operate their own medical facilities.

Buying health insurance would no longer be obligatory. But those who neglected to pay BIHIC premiums or take out a policy with another company could find themselves without medical care in time of need. No doubt though, hospitals would return to the former practice of running charity wings, and kind-hearted GPs and dentists would no doubt accept payment in kind as some did in the past.

While the separation of health insurance and health care was being accomplished, all State hospitals and medical establishments would be reorganised to run as businesses, charging fees for their services. Once this was completed, ownership of all government-owned health facilities would be transferred to the citizens as free shares.

The need for hospitals and doctors to be, and to be seen to be, excellent, in a competitive environment, would quickly eliminate the ills that beset the NHS.

NICE (the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) would lose any legal authority, but might remain in existence as an advisory body for doctors – run jointly, and paid for, by British providers of health care. Too often NICE’s dictats are based on non-medical concerns, such as costs, or on dubious science: for instance, reliance on incomplete statistics, or drawing conclusions from reports of other scientists’ work rather than from engaging in actual scientific research.

Ways would be sought to privatise matters of ‘public health’. For instance, insurance companies could very well carry out the inspections of food preparation establishments currently

undertaken by local councils. Potential restaurant customers would avoid places with no liability insurance.

Criminal Law Reform

The Confederation & Radical Reform Party has two main goals in criminal law reform: 1) to shift the emphasis of law enforcement to crime *prevention* and, 2) when crime occurs, to shift the emphasis from punishment to *restitution*.

Sending criminals to prison is more or less pointless. It often has no deterrent effect; it is extremely costly (each prisoner costs taxpayers the same amount as the annual fees of Eton School); and it does nothing at all for the *victims* of crime. Parents whose child is murdered by a gang of thugs gain no compensation for their loss when the gang members are imprisoned; householders get none of their stolen property back when the thief gets a few years in jail.

A CORE government would see to it that all the possessions of a murderer were seized to compensate the family of the victim. Lifers without means would be required to earn money to repay victims' families. If no family exists, the amounts raised would be deposited into a fund for the victims of unsolved crimes.

Likewise, convicted thieves would be required to account for everything they had stolen, returning it where possible. Their possessions would be seized to replace what they could not return, and future earnings would be sequestered to the extent necessary to compensate those robbed. Thieves would be tagged and closely monitored until such time as they had returned all the stolen goods, or equivalent value, for life if necessary.

The reintroduction of birching for crimes of physical violence such as rape, wounding, unprovoked assault, and injuries inflicted on others during the commission of a crime, would be the subject of a referendum. The deterrent effect of the penalty is proven: 'no man ever came back for a second birching' it used to be said.

Criminals injured during the commission of crimes would have no claim against the persons who injured them. Persons defending themselves or their property against attackers or intruders would be exempt from any charges, even if the intrusion results in the death of the intruder.

Crime Prevention

In the field of crime prevention, the first step of the Confederation & Radical Reform Party would be to decriminalise all 'recreational' drugs, including so-called Class A ones. The current prohibition is a total failure – the drugs are readily available everywhere. There is plainly no point in expending huge amounts of money and manpower on what is effectively the flogging of a dead horse.

All those currently in prison purely on drugs charges would be released.

Just as alcohol prohibition did in the USA, drug prohibition has merely created a new criminal class. It has also turned many young people into criminals, and led to an enormous increase in crime such as petty theft, muggings and housebreakings. The illicit drugs are expensive, leading users to engage in crime to fund their habits or pastimes. Far better control would be achieved by leaving individuals fully responsible for the results of their actions; by better education on the dangers of some drugs; by exclusion of the bad consequences of drug usage from health insurance, and by letting a free market bring prices down.

All other 'victimless crimes,' such as prostitution and illicit gambling, would be decriminalised. Individual behaviour is not the responsibility of the State.

The second major initiative of the Confederation & Radical Reform Party in preventing crime would be to encourage cities, towns and villages to hire private companies to provide security

and solve crimes against persons and property. In other words, the State monopoly on crime prevention and resolution would end.

Private companies, on limited contracts and vying to preserve and enhance their reputations, can be expected to do a far better job than existing police forces which, despite being staffed for the most part by brave, honest and willing men and women, are all too often hampered by rules and regulations and excessive paperwork, and by the natural consequences of being a monopoly. Hence they frequently fail to prevent crime and some of their clear-up rates are abysmal.

The third major initiative would be to turn large areas of the law over to private arbiters or arbitration companies. Commercial law, for example, was once managed very successfully by the Law Merchant, that is, by the merchants themselves. There is no reason why it should not be so again.

All solicitors and judges would be free to offer private arbitration services, and since the purpose of arbitration is to find a solution to which both parties can agree, one can expect that disputes will be *resolved*, not drag on endlessly as they so often do now. Plaintiffs would be the persons who considered themselves to have been harmed.

A fourth initiative would be to clean up the statute book. There are a host of matters which successive governments have labelled illegal, or 'crimes', or 'criminal offences', which are in fact nothing of the kind. A crime is an act which harms persons or their property. Acts do not become crimes by government say-so, yet throughout our history that is exactly what has happened. Often minor clerical errors are labelled 'crimes' or 'serious offences', such as late filing of some licence or other. This is pure tyranny, the sole purpose being to terrify people into *obedience* which, at the end of the day, is all the State is really interested in.

A CORE government, motivated solely by the desire to protect persons and property would become the 'party of repeal' replacing innumerable 'crimes' or 'serious offences' with simple, civil penalties such as interest on unpaid fees or charges.

The Confederation & Radical Reform Party would take the State out of the marriage business. Its record therein is hardly a success story. Instead, local solicitors would offer marriage contracts with clear provisions for disposition of property, care of children, etc., in case of marriage breakdown, plus insurance against such happening, or against multiple births, etc. Solicitors would also act as advisors, encouraging young people to avoid matrimony until such time as they could afford to raise children.

People of the same sex who aspired to 'marry' would have to find a solicitor willing to write their contract. The present law would be repealed.

Current laws against the unspeakably vile practice of female genital mutilation would be rigorously enforced. CORE would also promote the establishment of a new charity-cum-safe shelter organisation to protect young women or young men who were being pressurised into marriage against their will, or to a marital partner they had not chosen themselves, and for women being beaten by their husbands.

The archaic practice of wearing Eighteenth century wigs in court would end, it makes the proceedings appear farcical. Barristers would lose their quasi-monopoly on court appearances. Defendants and plaintiffs would be free to appoint the representative of their choice.

The Economy

The State is an interloper in the economy, its presence a massive burden which does nothing but harm. All the great economic catastrophes in history have been caused, not by 'market failure', but by State interference. The crash of 2008, for instance, was caused initially by US government interference in the mortgage market.

An economy runs itself, it does **NOT** need management or regulation from outside. The Confederation & Radical Reform Party is dedicated to creating a truly free market economy in the British Isles, a market which is just that, *free*.

To this end, the following measures would be taken:

Insider trading laws would be repealed, and all other laws of that ilk. We managed without them for centuries, until very recently in fact. The motivations behind such laws are uniformly disreputable; including such factors as ignorance of economics, arrogant paternalism, power lust, games of political football, jealousy, 'jobs for the boys' or, through fines and fees, outright looting. Those who impose and enforce them don't understand how markets work and don't like other people getting rich. As soon as any enterprise succeeds it immediately becomes a target for politicians and others bent on pandering to envy, "the most anti-social and evil of all passions" (John Stuart Mill).

All regulatory agencies would be wound up, such as the Prudential Regulation Authority, the Financial Conduct Authority, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, the Office of Fair Trading, the Competition Commission, the racist Advertising Standards Authority, etc., etc., etc., plus all agencies devoted to regulating particular businesses or professions, such as Ofwat, Ofgen, Ofcom, Solicitors' Regulation Authority, etc., etc., etc. Ordinary laws against theft and fraud could easily take care of most matters controlled by these unnecessary and pernicious agencies with their myriads of imaginary 'crimes' or illegalities.

The Treasury would be stripped of any regulatory functions and drastically slimmed down, becoming a simple collection agency: receiving tax money from those who collect it, investing it for maximum return, and paying out when requested to do so by Parliament.

As long as Income Tax exists, taxpayers would be urged to register with a reputable local firm of accountants who would submit a simple, single page, annual statement to the Treasury to the effect that "Citizen A's income from all sources was X amount, tax owing Y, cheque enclosed." Tax evasion would become a civil, not a criminal offence, naming and shaming in local papers being the sole penalty.

The long term goal of the Confederation & Radical Reform Party is to dispense with Income Tax entirely. We survived for centuries without it, there is no reason why we should not do so again.

The Bank of England would no longer have any regulatory powers, such as setting a base rate, and would cease to control the money supply. It would become an ordinary bank and would be privatised by free share distribution.

The base rate is typical State hypocrisy. It blithely fixes rates itself, but if private institutions do the same, government officials puff themselves up in jealous outrage and start screeching about 'crimes'.

The Banking Act would be repealed. The Bank of England would lose its monopoly on the issuance of banknotes in England. All banks would be free to issue their own notes backed by deposits of gold or other precious commodities. The Industrial Revolution occurred under just such a monetary system. There is every reason to expect that taking the State out of the economy and returning to gold money (or possibly some form of privately issued Bitcoin) will bring about a similar explosion of wealth creation.

The Royal Mint would be instructed to begin producing sufficient gold coinage for a modern economy. Embedded electronic coding could record ownership of new gold coins – if thought necessary – while acrylic or other such coatings could protect against wear, shaving or clipping. Private minting companies would be free to compete with the Royal Mint which would be privatised, or be included in the aforementioned general services corporation.

Royal Mail would lose its monopoly on first class mail. In return, any universal obligations re delivery and price would also be cancelled. Any other monopoly created by the State would be abolished: e.g., the BT monopoly on telephone landlines. This should never have been granted, but since the monopoly was created by the State, it is perfectly acceptable for the problem to be

resolved by the State. The monopoly would be ended, landlines being briefly renationalised then broken up into a number of companies and given to the citizens via free share distribution.

Numerous new shares in private hands can be expected to lead to new stock markets emerging all over Britain. Job Centres would be privatised.

Trademark, Patent, and Copyright laws would be examined to make sure they are actually necessary and do not inhibit innovation. If necessary, they would be overhauled or reduced in scope.

With the cooperation of neighbouring countries, the waters surrounding the British Isles would be divided up into privately-owned fisheries. As economist Leon Loew has observed, the seabed is merely a continuation of the land. If one can have ownership of land one can have ownership of the sea.

The new fisheries would police their own waters and could be relied on not to overfish – in order to remain in business. Ownership would come about via free share distribution to the general population.

Waters close to shore, say up to a mile from land, would be open without charge to individuals (local fishmongers and sport fishers) for small catches for local sale or private consumption, or for lobster and crab catching, a right written into the articles of the new fishing companies.

Transportation

All roads would be organised into private companies on a city and county basis and privatised by free share distribution. Motorways would be privatised in a similar fashion.

The new road companies would obtain their income from annual fees, mileage charges and tolls. Motorists paying an annual fee in any one company's area would be free to travel in all. The companies would be allowed to widen and straighten roads and build bypasses and tunnels without planning permission, the only proviso being that they must obtain the agreement of, or compensate, all those affected by any improvements.

The companies would police their own roads and would be empowered to ban, for suitable periods, dangerous, drugged or drunken drivers, and those who throw litter from moving vehicles. The roadsides of most British highways are disgusting.

In urban settings, the companies would be similarly empowered to ban people for suitable periods who allowed dog-fouling, threw litter (including cigarette butts), urinated in the street, spat gum on pavements, sprayed graffiti, etc. The prospect of being unable to leave their own homes would be an effective cure for all such anti-social behaviour. The ban might be enforced by spraying the faces of those found guilty with a short-lived blue dye.

The road companies – using as much force as necessary but no more – would also be empowered to clear obstacles to the free flow of traffic created by protestors, parked cars or crowds. Since roads would no longer be 'public', being rather privately owned by the citizens, persons who blocked roads or pavements would be committing trespass and would be dealt with accordingly. People wishing to hold fairs, markets, political demonstrations, etc., would require prior permission or payment of fees to road companies.

The DVLA would become a joint endeavour run by insurance companies. However, these might prefer to examine drivers and vehicles and issue licences themselves since they bear the brunt of the cost of motor accidents.

The vastly expensive and virtually pointless HS2 project would be cancelled in favour of upgrading existing railway tracks. Network Rail would be given piecemeal to existing franchised railway companies. They have already paid enough in fees to cover the purchase price.

Former shareholders of Railtrack would be compensated by a CORE government for any losses occasioned by the creation of Network Rail.

The Highway Code would be further amended to protect pedestrians, especially country walkers, from cyclists. Cycling has become increasingly popular but modern cyclists often seem to lack the decency and common sense of yesteryear, they either do not have bells or fail to use them.

Bicycles are very silent and in olden days cyclists always warned pedestrians of their approach. No longer. Modern bicycles easily reach 30 or 40mph and are capable of inflicting serious injury. Road companies would be empowered to ban riders who failed to use their bells or caused accidents. The law would also be amended to make cyclists financially responsible for any injuries inflicted on pedestrians.

Road companies would be empowered to close country lanes to motor traffic at certain times, say Sunday afternoons, so that walkers – who pay as much for the roads as motorists – could enjoy the countryside without danger.

Once these programmes had been carried out, the Ministry of Transport would be wound up, any remaining functions being privatised or shut down.

Local Government

With so much that is presently done by the State in private hands, local government would be vastly reduced and its authority and powers greatly curtailed. Local councillors would be unpaid. Council Tax and business rates would be abolished; refuse collection would be privatised, and voluntary means would be sought to fund any remaining tasks.

The vitiation of local government by the Conservatives in the 1970s would be reversed. Local communities would be free to form their own councils and would be free to ignore edicts from more remote institutions created by the government in Whitehall. However, new councils would have no power to tax, nor power to coerce. They would have to rely on persuasion to implement local initiatives, and would have to fund these themselves. Local planning would be in accordance with local covenants, mutually agreed amongst property owners.

Public libraries do a splendid job, but can be expected to do an even better one when they are privatised and no longer a drain on taxpayers.

Council houses would be formed into housing companies, and given to local citizens via free share distribution. Councils would henceforth be constitutionally prohibited from playing any role in the housing market, either by building or owning residences or by attempting to fix, lower or in any way influence rents.

Immigrants or others found living on the streets or on other private property would be rounded up and deported or moved on immediately. Charities would house the homeless.

So-called ‘travellers’ would require clear permission in advance to park temporarily or stay longer from the owners of the land. Any of them failing to do so, or refusing to pay rent or fees, would be treated as trespassers, evicted immediately, and required to pay compensation for any inconvenience caused.

A national commission would be set up to expose past corruption in local government. There is evidence to suggest that local officials have accepted inducements to smooth the path for certain petitioners.

All departments of government, including local councils, would be forbidden from employing interpreters or translators or printing documents in foreign languages. Persons requiring such services would be required to pay for them themselves.

The Environment

The notion that burning fossil fuels harms the planet is, as Canadian ecologist Dr Patrick Moore has demonstrated, “patently false.” Humanity’s contribution to ‘global’ warming is minute. It is also beneficial, not dangerous, contributing to a ‘greening’ of the Earth. CO₂ is in fact a ‘trace element,’ constituting less than 0.05% of the Earth’s atmosphere. It is nonetheless essential to life. Just as

mammals require oxygen to survive, so plants require a minimum of 150 parts per million (ppm) of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to survive.

The amount of atmospheric CO₂ had actually been declining for centuries and had fallen as low as 280ppm until human activity began to return CO₂ to the atmosphere in the 19th century. Dr Moore's book *Fake Invisible Catastrophes and Threats of Doom* makes these facts clear. It should be required reading in every high school and university in the Western world. The Chinese and the Indians have more sense. They have ignored the idiotic predictions of climate alarmists.

The Earth's climate is indeed changing, as it always has. But these changes are due to influences human beings cannot affect, such as sunspot activity and alterations in the Earth's orbit round the sun. Currently, we are in an interglacial period. 'Global warming' is an inaccurate description. Only the climates of the northern and southern hemispheres are warming, the tropics remain largely unchanged. This is nothing new. In previous eras the Earth has been both much hotter and much colder. Britain has had both tropical and arctic climates. Therefore, there is nothing to be alarmed about.

Yet people are alarmed. The hysteria over environmental issues has been generated almost entirely by ignorant, self-serving pressure groups; by those who like bossing other people around, and by politicians jumping on a convenient band wagon to further their own ends. Fortunes are being spent on totally unnecessary preventative measures and ludicrous – and potentially catastrophic – goals such as 'zero carbon.' What will nutritious plants such as wheat and vegetables survive on if we remove carbon from the atmosphere?

A CORE government would withdraw Britain from entangling treaties or agreements which call for huge expenditure with little apparent gain; cease to encourage the building of wind farms; urge the dismantling of those which have spoiled beauty spots, and end all subsidies for electric cars, wind farms or home solar installations.

CORE would also urge research into new types of nuclear energy. Thorium reactors, for example, show considerable promise for our future energy requirements. The fuel needed is abundant; the reactors are both efficient and safe and, importantly, unlike uranium fuelled plants, free of harmful radiation.

A CORE government would vigorously enforce the law of nuisance against polluters at home and take the lead in organising clean-ups of the oceans, say by satellite observation catching ship owners or operators who dumped garbage overboard. Denying access to ports of those found guilty should end such obnoxious practices very quickly.

CORE would also urge investment in private companies to clean up space. Decades of rocket launches by various States have littered the once pristine skies above us with huge amounts of potentially hazardous waste material. British space exploration companies would be encouraged to salvage whatever they could and bring it back to Earth, much of it being very valuable. Claims of ownership to the material by foreign governments would be disregarded. When property is abandoned, 'finders keepers' is the applicable principle.

The possible issuance of false climate data by such agencies as NASA, or by university climatology departments, would be vigorously investigated and might bring about law suits.

The Countryside

The ban on hunting with dogs would be lifted, barbaric though the sport may be. What people get up to on private land is no business of government. Opponents would have to rely on persuasion, shaming, boycotting, etc.

Feudal tenure would cease. At some point in the future, say upon the death of the current landowner, tenant farmers would become the owners of the land they farm, past rents being deemed a sufficient purchase price. Present owners would be allowed to retain sufficient land surrounding their main residence to practice farming themselves if they so desired.

Much of land ownership in Britain is a hangover from the Norman Conquest, during and after which the invaders and their successors seized the land, parcelled it out among themselves, and forced the defenceless inhabitants to pay 'protection money,' first in produce, later in cash.

In order to protect and preserve the countryside, Countryside Trusts would be established in each county. Their initial bases would be any land presently owned by central or local government: for example, royal estates (to the extent the royals agreed); land owned by the Church of England; Forestry Commission land; property owned by National Parks, or land acquired by local councils in settlement of tax demands.

The purpose of the Trusts would be to preserve the countryside as countryside. To this end, they would persuade farmers and landowners to sign up to covenants, preserving farms as farms in perpetuity. The trusts would derive income from leisure parks, camp grounds and picnic sites; from building and renting discreet country cottages; from granting paid access to hikers, etc. They might also encourage landowners to bequeath their properties to the Trusts. Once fully functioning, ownership of the Trusts would be passed to the citizens via free share distribution.

The 'listing' and grading of historic buildings in town or country would cease. Conservation is only valid when it occurs through private ownership. Constraints imposed on those who live in 'listed buildings' or in National Parks would be lifted. Owners of 'stately homes' would be free to divide them up into apartments for rent or sale, or to demolish them in order to build more practical residences. No permission would be required.

Ways would be sought to wind up DEFRA and other such agencies, transferring their activities to farmers' associations or insurance companies.

Covenants would be established among private owners to preserve areas of natural beauty, scenic villages, old town centres, historic sites, etc. Planning by local councils would cease.

In order to reduce road congestion and rail overcrowding, owners of office buildings and shops in cities and towns would be free to convert upper floors in their building into apartments for staff, or to build new work places with that in mind. No planning permission would be needed.

Any and all agricultural subsidies would end.

Protection of seagulls would cease for inland urban areas. Cities, boroughs or towns where the birds have become major nuisances would be free to exterminate them.

Shotgun licensing would end for farmers, landowners, organisers of shoots, or anybody who used a shotgun in the course of their work, or for recognised leisure activities such as clay pigeon shooting. Ridiculous non-crimes such as being late paying for a shotgun licence would be struck from the records and any fines imposed returned – with interest.

Ownership of handguns would be permitted for members of pistol shooting clubs and sporting teams. The clubs and teams themselves would ensure responsible ownership, safety training and secure storage.

Alcohol licensing laws would be greatly simplified, and licenses made much cheaper. The Beer Orders of 1983, which caused so much mayhem in the brewing trade, would be repealed. Beer brewed on the premises of individually-owned, single pubs, would be exempt from excise duty. Eventually, licensing would be abolished.

The stranglehold on distilling currently exercised by the State would cease. One could expect an immediate, rapid growth of new distilling industries.

Fracking would be permitted under private land as long as the companies took responsibility for, and made good, any damage caused – such as by subsidence or tremors – and shared the profits with those living above their operations, right down to owners of small houses or flats.

Immigration

Foreigners would continue to be welcome to settle in Britain regardless of nationality or place of origin. However, new rules would apply:

Anybody wishing to immigrate to Great Britain would be required to demonstrate that they had sufficient funds to live on for their first year of residency. They would also be tested to make sure they had sufficient command of English to be able to obey traffic signals, read street signs, and understand simple commands such as: “Stop!” “Watch out!” “Leave immediately!” “Silence!”

Newcomers would be required to submit to a full medical examination and would be required to demonstrate that they had a comprehensive medical insurance policy from a recognised British insurance company. Anybody unwilling or unable to fulfil these requirements would be refused admission.

The Coast Guard would be considerably enlarged in order to spot and arrest anybody who attempted to enter the country by abnormal means in order to avoid the above requirements. Any person already here who is suspected of so doing and who is unable to prove they met the requirements would be deported immediately.

No immigrant would qualify for any State benefit, as long as such exist. They have not contributed, so why should they expect, or be given, help?

Any immigrant found guilty of a crime against persons or property would be stripped of their possessions to the extent necessary to compensate their victims, immediately deported whence they came, and banned from further entry. Any appeal would have to be conducted from their place of origin. Non-existent ‘rights’, such as to a family life, would no longer be recognised as a defence against deportation.

All cases where foreign-born criminals have been allowed to remain in Britain on such spurious grounds would be reviewed and the original judicial findings overturned as necessary. Law has often proved itself to be an ass, but nowhere more so than in recent judgements of this nature.

All deportees would be DNA tested, extensively photographed and x-rayed and their details published in newspapers and on the Parliamentary TV channel to discourage any from attempting to re-enter Britain secretly or in disguise.

Refugees from foreign conflicts or dictatorial regimes would be allowed entry without the above requirements but only into the care of charities established for the purpose – which would be required to make good whatever was missing, for instance, medical insurance.

The length of time needed to obtain British citizenship would be extended to seven years. It would be raised as a matter of public debate whether those seeking citizenship should be required to demonstrate a reasonable command of the English language.

Society

The age of majority would be returned to 21 years for all legal matters and for voting. Poor quality education has resulted in many youngsters being too ignorant of history and common sense to exercise mature judgement on important matters. Many children leave school with an inadequate command of arithmetic, unable to write legibly, and hardly able to speak or write English properly. How can young people be expected to make adult decisions when so poorly-equipped?

The tyranny of so-called ‘health and safety’ would end and the agency responsible wound up. Thereafter, the matters currently dealt with by the agency would be left up to insurance companies and common sense.

So-called ‘social services’ would lose the power to abduct children without having first demonstrated to a judge and jury that a child was clearly in danger. Said judges and juries would be organised in advance to be available in emergency cases. All other activities of social services departments would be reevaluated for their value or necessity.

The Charity Commission, that great enemy of charity, would be wound up and replaced by a voluntary organisation run by the charities themselves. The British are a very charitable people.

They don't need arrogant, authoritarian bureaucrats telling them how to behave. Any fraudulent 'charities' would be dealt with under ordinary laws against fraud and theft.

Any State involvement in, or subsidisation of, sport would end.

Under a CORE government people would naturally be free to wear whatever clothes they liked. However, it would be enshrined in law that any business owner or owners would be equally free to deny admittance to persons whose faces are concealed. Veils have already been used as disguises in the commission of crimes, so it is plain common sense for the owners of shops, malls, markets, department stores and theatres, or the operators of taxis, buses, trains, ferries or aeroplanes, to refuse entry when faces are invisible. Should they welcome people wearing balaclavas?

Businesses, including pubs and restaurants, would be free to set up well-ventilated smoking areas indoors, as long as these were isolated from non-smoking areas.

Sellers of fruit and vegetables, other comestibles, and makers of consumer goods, would be free to sell produce and products in former Imperial measures if they so choose. Insurers would validate scales and measures.

A statute of limitations would be introduced for sexual offences. Parents will be encouraged to explain matters to their children and, when or if an offence occurs, to tell children to report it immediately to parent, school or police. Unfortunately, such offences do occur but they should be dealt with quickly. The spectacle of old men being persecuted for alleged misbehaviour decades previously is a disgrace to reason and justice. Human memories become notoriously inaccurate or suspect with the passage of time and it is a sordid but well-known fact that some people are willing to tailor or embroider incidents from long ago in order to climb on compensation bandwagons.

Obviously, leniency would be balanced by proper restitution where cases can be clearly proven, particularly where children are involved. Children are neither physically, mentally nor emotionally equipped for sexual activity. Adults who seek sexual gratification with minors are plainly mentally ill. They should be required to undergo psychotherapy, and to pay compensation if need be, rather than be incarcerated.

Irrational or intrusive aspects of the Equalities Act would be repealed. For example, the absurd requirement that adoption agencies give children to homosexuals; the equally absurd demand that all buildings have wheelchair access, or the tyrannical insistence that B&Bs admit same-sex couples regardless of the owners' beliefs or desires.

Such couples are grown-ups and must accept that they have no right to force their lifestyles on those who may dislike or disapprove of them. Their money is as good as anybody's but if someone else doesn't want to take it, so be it. The 'politically correct' bigotry behind such tyrannical laws has no place in a free, decent society.

All 'equalities' commissions would be abolished. People are perfectly capable of dissolving prejudices and resolving differences amongst themselves. Laws such as the Equalities Act merely make matters worse: "those who attempt to resolve everything by law will exacerbate not cure the evils of mankind" (Spinoza).

The BBC would be given to those holding current TV licenses and would become responsible for funding itself. TV licensing would end.

The Online Safety Bill would be revamped or repealed. In all probability it is not necessary, merely serving some particular interests and people who don't like being criticised. Basically, it is censorship by the back door.

The prison populations would be evaluated. Convicted thieves would be offered release if they agreed to reimburse and compensate their victims. They would also be required to swear in public that they will never steal again. Similar offers would be made to other categories of prisoner. Conjugal visits would be allowed – except for those convicted of rape.

Male and Female

Like all animal species, humanity is composed of two complementary halves, male and female, arrived at via evolution over countless eras as the most effective means for the procreation of a species. Thus, there are only two sexes: each human is born either a boy or a girl and grows into a man or a woman. The above is irrefutable, objective, biological fact – which in normal times shouldn't need stating. The notion that gender is a spectrum, or a range of variables, is patent nonsense.

Alas, these are not normal times. An intellectual trend called 'transgenderism' has arisen, underpinned at its distant root by the totally mistaken Kantian belief that human minds create rather than perceive reality. Numbers of people now believe that it is possible to change their sex. Unfortunately, the trend has been latched onto by a small group of fanatics who have persuaded a scattering of young people, and some deluded adults, that the not uncommon youthful fantasy, 'I wish I was a boy/girl,' could be made real – by dress, by self-identification, through hormonal medication, or by surgery.

This is blatantly false. In the first place, such fancies are usually short lived. Second, male and female bodies differ radically – not merely in their genitalia – differences made obvious when biologically male 'transgender' athletes compete in female sporting categories. Claims to 'identify' as a member of the opposite sex are meaningless, and are usually put forward by persons of lesser talent who seek the glory of winning by pretending to be from the opposite gender. It is related to the practices of the former communist regimes who developed Olympic doping. In other words, it is just plain cheating.

There does indeed exist a genuine psychological problem (or so we are told) that is called 'gender dysphoria' – the conviction that one is a member of the opposite sex – but this is a very rare mental health disorder, a serious delusion, akin to believing that one is God, a giraffe or a gooseberry.

A CORE government would strive to make the truth fully known and would actively oppose any person or group of people who tried to promote 'transgenderism.'

Under a CORE government, as long as the State was involved in medicine, 'sexual reassignment' surgery would be forbidden in NHS hospitals. CORE would further press for any surgeons or doctors outside the NHS who engaged in such operations, or prescribed drug treatments with the same intent, to be struck off the medical register.

From the time of the Ancient Greek Hippocrates – during some twenty-five hundred years – doctors have abided by a medical oath: 'first do no harm.' There has never been a clearer breach of that oath than 'sexual reassignment.'

Foreign Affairs

A CORE government would actively oppose any efforts to take Britain back into the European Union. Joining it was the worst foreign policy decision Britain ever made. The vast majority of the people forming that union have submitted to dictatorial government in the past, some very recently. During their periods of tutelage, they inevitably acquired habits of obedience towards central authority. It is therefore vital for the future freedom of these islands that we never saddle ourselves again with treaty obligations over which we have little or no control.

Nor should we have been expected to abide by a treaty signed by a non-elected Prime Minister, whose signature never had any legal validity. 'Brexit' was the only option. We must be eternally grateful to the people who campaigned across the years in the Anti-Federation League, Referendum Party and UKIP, led by men like Alan Sked, Lord Rothschild and Nigel Farage. A heartfelt thanks to them all! But we must not let our guard slip. Lacklustre implementation of Brexit has put the outcome in doubt. We must not let the siren call of defeatism lead us back into serfdom.

An Omnibus Bill would eliminate any law or regulation derived from dictatorial European 'directives.'

Although Britain is no longer in the EU, a CORE government would nonetheless seek free trade agreements with all European countries and do everything in its power to steer the EU away from its bureaucratic, protectionist, regulatory, tariff-focussed mind-set.

A CORE government would withdraw diplomatic recognition and close embassies in all countries in the hands of dictators, or where elections have been 'fixed,' arranging with neutral countries such as Switzerland to look after any British citizens foolish enough to travel to places like Belarus, Iran, Cuba, etc., etc.

An agreement to do away with passports will be sought with all countries with which Britain has full diplomatic relations. The passport agency would be privatised.

A CORE government would initiate legal proceedings in the International Court against the government of Sri Lanka on charges of genocide against the Tamil population in the north of that country. All sporting contacts with Sri Lanka would be discouraged until those responsible were brought to justice, right down to the individual squaddies, artillerymen and pilots who murdered so many prisoners, women, children and old people in cold blood.

Diplomatic relations would be suspended with Russia until those suspected of murdering Alexander Litvinenko were handed over for trial in London.

A suit would be launched in the International Court for compensation from Russia for the shooting down of a Malaysian civilian airliner by Russian troops in Eastern Ukraine.

Diplomatic relations would stay suspended until Russia agreed to compensate Ukraine for all damage inflicted during its unprovoked attack on that country in 2022, the most despicable act by a European State since Hitler's invasion of Poland in 1939.

Diplomatic relations with China would be suspended until those responsible for the Tiananmen Square massacre were brought to trial. If necessary, a case would be lodged on behalf of Chinese refugees in the International Court.

A similar case would be brought on behalf of the people of Tibet, so long oppressed by the Chinese invaders of their country.

Diplomatic relations would stay suspended until all Uighurs were released from captivity and the persecution of Falun Gong had ceased.

Business enterprises or other institutions, owned, set up, or controlled by foreign governments would be forbidden from owning property or businesses in Britain. They would be free to pursue business activities but only in rented property owned by British subjects, or through British agents or agencies, and would be required to divest themselves of any property currently owned.

A CORE government would recommend that Britain withdraw from the United Nations, which organisation has granted too much recognition and influence to dictatorial regimes. A referendum would be held to decide the issue.

The possibility/advisability of establishing an alternative organisation, The League of Free Nations, would be explored.

The current extradition treaty with the United States would be amended to make clear that it cannot be used for alleged offences of an ordinary civilian nature, or for alleged offences which occurred in Britain.

Foreign governments seeking the arrest of a British subject or resident would be required to prove their case in a British court prior to any extradition and, should extradition be granted, to confirm that the accused would be tried immediately, not held in detention pending trial.

Visitors to Britain would be required to demonstrate that they had valid travellers' insurance covering all adverse eventualities for the full length of their stay.

British State aid to foreign countries would cease. Those wishing to help the less fortunate overseas would be free to do so, but they would have to implement their generosity through private charities. As already stated, for an act to be good it must be voluntary. Politicians attempting to

gain kudos by giving away taxpayers' money to foreigners destroys the whole concept of benevolence.

All British registered ships will be authorised to carry armed men, or to have sailors trained in the use of appropriate weaponry. 'Shoot first and ask questions afterwards' should be adopted as the official policy for ships passing through waters where pirates operate. Britain will ask other maritime countries to join us in taking offensive action against pirate bases.

Punitive fees for registering ships as British, and excessive regulation of shipping, would end.

Negotiations would begin immediately to bring about some form of reunion of Ireland with the rest of the British Isles, and a reunion of Northern Ireland and Eire. A prerequisite of any such reunion, however, would be the elimination of certain features of the Irish constitution, such as the ban on divorce. Obviously, these moves would depend on agreement of those involved.

As an inducement to reunion, and as proof that any historical conflicts or wrongdoings by either country had been laid aside, it would be proposed that the national debt of the Irish Republic be amalgamated with that of Great Britain and paid off jointly.

Great Britain would cooperate fully with other free countries, and help fund, any and all initiatives to combat international terrorism, cyber crime, jihadism, etc.

Defence

War is the end of reason. Even though it is often the occasion for great ingenuity, courageous stoicism, astonishing daring and admirable heroism, it is the most anti-human of all activities. Sometimes, alas, it is necessary for self-defence, but it should always be absolutely the last resort.

The main purpose of Parliament in future would be deciding the level of threat to the British Isles and hence the amount necessary to spend on defence.

All men between the ages of sixteen and sixty, and such women as chose to be involved, would be regarded as members of the Territorial Army. However, conscription would be permanently outlawed. Military training would be entirely voluntary and would be encouraged according to the perceived level of threat.

GCHQ would become a purely military establishment run by the three services jointly. It would be broken down into its component parts and distributed around Great Britain. Surely no country ever set up a more tempting target for potential enemies than the present GCHQ. The existing site would be sold for redevelopment, the proceeds paying for the relocations.

A portion of the monies saved from scrapping the Welfare State would be devoted to expanding and improving the defences of the British Isles. Eire would be invited to join in a programme of common defence.

Private security companies would be free to establish defence industries and cadres of armed men, perhaps with a view to selling their services to Parliament, or to countries overseas.

Old-established regiments with long histories of expertise in arms, such as the SAS or SBS, would be ideal candidates for transformation into security companies offering high quality services on long-term contracts. An outfit called Black Watch Security, say, would surely command immediate respect, although it could only retain its reputation by being superlative in its field.

Conclusion

The Western world is confronted by many grave dangers, some from within, some from without. Possibly the biggest threat comes from the cult of environmentalism. Under the misappropriated banner of 'science,' environmental alarmists have captured the imagination of the political classes

and countless journalists by braying about a non-existent ‘climate change crisis,’ allegedly brought about by man-made global warming. False as it is, many of those in positions of authority have embraced it wholeheartedly because it offers them an opportunity to pose as the caring saviours of humanity – or of ‘the planet’ – while savouring what they relish most, the exercise of political power.

Some vital points must be stressed:

Climate change has occurred throughout the existence of planet Earth. It is caused by such factors as variations in sunspot activity and changes in the Earth’s orbit around the sun, matters over which human beings have absolutely no control.

Some warming of Earth’s atmosphere has indeed occurred over the last couple of centuries but ‘global’ is a misnomer. Even during the last ice age, only the northern and southern hemispheres were affected. Likewise, present warming is taking place only in the more northern and southern latitudes. The climate in the tropics is largely unchanged.

It is also true that an increase in the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere – currently 0.0415%, a trace element, yet vital to the growth of plants – does contribute to warming, but the amount produced by human activity is *minimal*.

The whole ‘climate change crisis’ is a fabrication which has been debunked by many insightful thinkers with a genuine concern for humanity. Among them philosopher Alex Epstein, whose books *The Moral Case for Fossil Fuels* and *Fossil Future* should be read by every educated Briton; scientists like Michael Schellenberger and Matt Ridley; and especially Canadian ecologist Dr Patrick Moore, co-founder of Greenpeace. The last-named’s work *Fake Invisible Catastrophes and Threats of Doom* is reviewed elsewhere on this website. A ten-minute reading of the review will alleviate any concerns anyone may have about Earth’s climate. The book itself covers many other topics and is a richly rewarding read.

As for the doom-saying predictions of climate alarmists, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [the IPCC], stated in May, 2018: “The climate system is a coupled non-linear chaotic system, and therefore the long-term prediction of future climate states is not possible.” So, if anybody tells you we’re all going to be boiled alive in our baths or drowned in freezing water from melted polar ice, just laugh and tell them to go and read Dr Moore’s book. Man-made global warming is a fraud.

Alas, climate alarmism is not the only baseless nonsense we have to be concerned about. Academia has been captured to a large extent by various irrational philosophies – chiefly Kantian at root – many influenced by variations of an utterly discredited Marxism, but all put into the heads of impressionable young people and ‘sold’ to them as valid theories or goals to pursue when they are the opposite.

A typical modern absurdity which has emerged from the debased academy is the overtly racist ‘critical race theory’ [CRT] which defies logic and ignores a mass of evidence from history and contemporary life which refutes it utterly. Yet it is being solemnly taught to children in US schools as fact. A short critique of CRT will be found on this site under ‘essays.’

The consequence of absorption of such rotten mental rubbish – of which CRT is only one illustration – is what has been dubbed ‘woke;’ a debilitating, thought destroying, Marxist-oriented, ‘politically correct’ uniformity in which opposing views – and rational criticism – are ignored, abused or censored. The Enlightenment might just as well not have happened.

‘Woke’ thinking, derived from poor or one-sided education, pervades the ‘mainstream media’ – old-established newspapers and broadcasting outlets – which focus almost entirely on news which supports their current world view and ignore everything that does not. A classic case is the *New York Times*, which used to boast that it brought to readers ‘all the news that’s fit to print.’ Nowadays, as one of its former editors wrote – many years ago, when the rot first set in – it would be more accurate to say that the NYT only prints ‘all the news that fits’ – although occasionally it does present real news to its readers. Another classic case is the BBC, much of whose news reporting has such a pronounced left-wing bias that some commentators have maintained that ‘the BBC’ actually stands for ‘the Bolshevik Broadcasting Corporation.’

Another result of perverted education underlies the unholy alliance between business and government, a direct consequence of impertinent government involvement in the market place. State licensing of some sort – which boils down to the refusal or granting of permissions – is now almost universal in most branches of industry and commerce. It has brought with it an inevitable accompaniment, corruption. If doing business depends on State sanction, businesses will do whatever they can to obtain it. Bribery follows as night follows day.

This was shown most clearly during the Covid 19 pandemic. The US ‘alphabet agencies’ charged with regulating the drug industry – the FDA, CDC, NIH, etc., long since suborned by those they are supposed to control – joined forces with ‘Big Pharma’ to suppress, downplay, or sideline cheap, off-patent, safe drugs like hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin which had been amply proven effective against the virus. They did so in order to promote or even enforce the use of very expensive, inadequately tested, but highly profitable ‘vaccines’ which have turned out not to be vaccines at all. They fade quickly, do *not* stop one from catching the disease, and are potentially very dangerous besides. Reports of adverse effects are multiplying, from disability to death. At the same time, places free of these baleful US influences, such as the Indian State of Uttar Pradesh, eliminated Covid with ivermectin at minimum cost and without danger to its populace.

The ‘woke’ mainstream media dutifully went along with this government-Big Pharma collusion, mocking ivermectin as a horse de-wormer and ignoring the fact that its parasite killing properties had been ‘re-purposed’ to kill the parasitic Chinese-created virus, SARS-Covid-2. Even once reputable medical journals like our BMJ have become compromised; rejecting or delaying favourable, peer-reviewed studies of non-vaccine treatments of Covid. The objectivity and competence of the BMJ and other leading medical journals thus immediately became suspect. Hundreds of thousands of lives might have been saved had they published the studies. Nothing can excuse them. Eternal shame on them.

Outside the realms of academia and state economic interference, other krakens have awakened. Revived Islamic militancy has brought unspeakable horrors such as mass murder, honour killings and female genital mutilation to our shores. Throughout the world, but especially in the West, the Chinese Communist Party is inveigling its way into positions of influence, intent on achieving world domination. One of its techniques is exploiting its huge resources of cheap labour to entice Western companies into China to produce their goods. Another is stealing Western ideas and patents, then using that same cheap labour to sell our own inventions back to us at temptingly lower prices.

In Switzerland, a large group of rich individuals – some of them multi-billionaires – masquerading as economists under the grandiose title of The World Economic Forum, is bent on creating a world government under its own control. Hiding behind vague, high-sounding generalities; heavily larding their literature with superlatives and comforting words like ‘trust, integrity, morality and stakeholder;’ they have dressed up their totalitarian intentions and crackpot ideas – which include a reworked Malthusianism, and blind acceptance of spurious climate change – as a ‘great reset’ when in fact its ‘catalysing integration’ of business, government and other economic groups much more resembles the National Socialism in force in Germany between 1934 and 1945. Their slogan, “Entrepreneurship in the global public interest,” disguises a plain, old-fashioned power grab, though this time aimed, not at a single country or race, but at the entire world. The WEF battle cry, “One Forum, One Culture, One Mission,” strikingly echoes “*ein Volk, ein Reich, ein Führer.*”

As an indication of their reach, and of their ambition, the WEF has already used its enormous wealth to beguile at least one Western country into introducing digital ID cards, which can be turned with the greatest of ease into instruments of total control – in imitation of the obscenely dictatorial ‘social credit’ system already in place in China.

In sum, the dangers to Western civilisation – to Europe and America, sources of so much that has proved beneficial to humanity – are great, and they are many. However, we must never succumb to *che sera, sera*. “The secret of success is to manufacture your own destiny” (Ayn Rand).

The future is ours to make, we should never just wait and see, or wait and hope. We must act. And if we don't start acting soon to counter the dangers just outlined the future will be bleak indeed.

Final notes

The draft manifesto of The Confederation & Radical Reform Party has been prepared by one person. Were CORE to be launched, its members would of course decide which policies to concentrate on, which to add, and which to postpone or drop. All involved should bear in mind that: "The best way to show that these things can be done is to do them." (David Friedman)

Fed Up With Government? was published in 1991. However, I began to suffer from a disabling and incurable back condition shortly afterwards and perforce had to abandon the original Reform Party project, whatever its merit or feasibility might have been.

A comprehensive elaboration of the ideas behind CORE can be found in *Old Nick's Guide to Happiness: A Philosophical Novel*, which I published in 2008. It can be bought from Amazon in two volumes as a Kindle reader or as a quality paperback.

Though naturally now quite dated, a few copies of *Fed Up With Government?* are still available – should anybody be curious or interested – priced at £2.95 plus £1.50 postage. They can be obtained by contacting me directly. To order a copy, or to write to me about anything else, I can be reached by email via my website. The address is: nick@nicholasdykes.com

Finally, I hope readers have enjoyed my manifesto. Myself, I veer from pessimism to optimism like a pendulum. Putin's invasion of Ukraine plunged me into depression, Elon Musk's acquisition of Twitter raised me back up, albeit cautiously. While in many ways an entertaining maverick with several admirable qualities, some of his business choices have made me wonder, even a bit suspicious. The 'richest man in the world' will have to do a great deal of positive good to gain my trust.

Time will tell. I cannot. Nonetheless, I wish all of you the very best for the future.

Nicholas Dykes, November, 2022.