

Written By :
Patrick Sullivan

Parliament Street
Partnership in Policy

WAITING FOR **SUPERMAC**



FEBRUARY 2022

INTRODUCTION

The Great British public have determined that now is the time for change, The question now is whether the Conservatives can deliver change from within, or whether voters will have to force change from without by voting for a change in governing party.

That change is on the way that much is certain. The will of the electorate can only be denied for so long in a modern, liberal democracy. What change may come is now largely in the hands of Conservative MPs who have it within their power to end the daily damage that their current leader is inflicting upon the country and their party, by replacing him with a new, improved Prime Minister.

Fortune favours the bold. This paper argues that the Conservative Party make a bold choice when picking their leader. It is time for a break with the recent past. As such, it would be best not to select our next Prime Minister from the line-up of exhausted volcanos which currently constitute the government front bench. They would do better to chose someone who has spent the Johnson administration on the backbenches and who has had no part in the fiasco that has been Boris Johnson's government.

They need to choose a new leader with inner strength and core convictions. Our next Prime Minister must be a fighter who is willing to take on the Westminster establishment - and win!



A REFORMER, WITH RESULTS

Our next Prime Minister needs to be the conservative outsider that Westminster insiders fear most. The Conservative Party is crying out for bold conservative leadership, whilst the general public is calling for a reformer who gets results.

Rather than being a populist standard bearer, Boris Johnson has been the most establishment politician of the modern era. His management of Downing Street resembles something akin to the French Royal Court, in days of old.

Our next Prime Minister needs to move away from Boris Johnson's big government conservatism and move towards a modern, smart government conservatism. With trust in institutions at an all time low, it's time to return power back to the people, so that we can all have more freedom, opportunity and control of our lives.



MEET THE PEOPLE

It is time for the political overreach to end and the political outreach to begin.

Our next Prime Minister needs to have their fingers on the pulse of the British people, in order to deal with the anxieties and frustration the public have at this challenging time.

Our next Prime Minister needs to empower the people, rather than restrain them. They need to rally the public as we establish a new normal together. One way to do this would be to hold a series of pop-up Town Hall meetings and barnstorm the length and breadth of the nation taking politics out of the Westminster Village and to each corner of the United Kingdom.





WASTE WATCHERS

The cost of living crisis is causing real pain to those who have already been pushed close to breaking point over the past two years. These great people should not be rewarded for their sacrifices during the pandemic by the government demanding they sacrifice yet further.

Our next Prime Minister needs to deliver tax relief to hard-working people within their first week in office. It is unconscionable that those under pressure are having the government pile on their burden when that same government is leaking tax payer money like a sieve

Our next Prime Minister needs to make eliminating wasteful spending a top priority for their new administration. Throwing other people's money at the problems of the day is hardly a solution.

The first item of waste that should be cut on day one is the money that is splashed out on over-priced, well-healed management consultants. Last year, the bill for third-party consultants came to a whopping two billion pounds. If we have to spend that much on them then the question must be asked "What is the Civil Service for?".

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Our next Prime Minister needs to lead the Great British revealal. Small and medium sized businesses are still reeling from the impact of the pandemic restrictions. Our next Prime Minister must stand shoulder-to-shoulder with them by freeing them from job killing regulations. This administration, and the one that preceded it, have been all to ready to add to the regulatory burden of British business.

The regulatory state works in the interest of big corporations who can afford the prohibitive costs of compliance which acts as a serious barrier to entry to entrepreneurial start-ups wishing to compete against the behemoths. The ultimate loser is the consumer as this keeps prices artificially high. With inflation on the rise, it is well past time for the number of regulations to fall.

The cost of living crisis is making life harder and harder on everyday Brits. Hopefully, help is on the way for hard-working people in the form of a new administration that scraps the rise in the rate of National Insurance contributions. Furthermore, our next Prime Minister should deliver significant tax relief which will allow our families to keep more of what they earn and encourage more British jobs. The time is now for a leader who will unleash the promise and release the untapped potential of all our people.



THINK
ABOUT
THIS



WHO'S THE BOSS ?

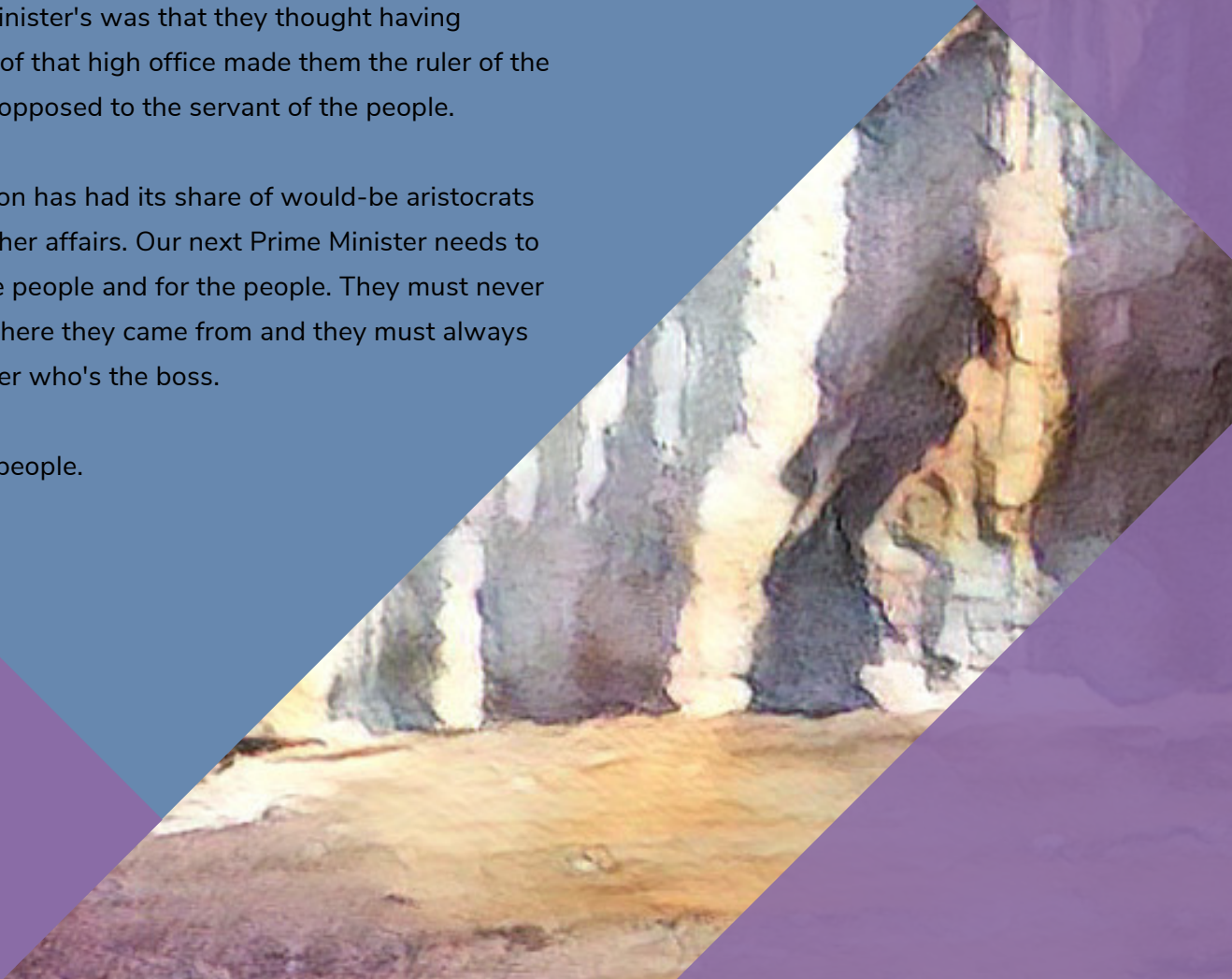
SERVANTS OF THE PEOPLE

There has always been an air of complacency about Boris Johnson, and David Cameron, before him. At Eton and Oxford it was drummed into them that it was their birthright to rule. The self-belief this installed within carried them both to the highest office in the land but they did not and do not have servant's hearts.

Both would find their arrogance to be their undoing, as hubris invites nemesis. The problem with both Prime Minister's was that they thought having custody of that high office made them the ruler of the land, as opposed to the servant of the people.

The nation has had its share of would-be aristocrats running her affairs. Our next Prime Minister needs to be of the people and for the people. They must never forget where they came from and they must always remember who's the boss.

We the people.



BACK TO THE FUTURE

Sometimes, we need to glimpse into the past in order to gaze into the future. The Conservative Party has not been in this exact situation before but a historical parallel can be drawn between the situation the party finds itself in today and the situation the party found itself in following the Suez debacle in 1956.

In May 1955, the new Prime Minister, Anthony Eden won a 60 seat majority for the Conservatives. The party was grateful to Eden, as the sizeable majority was due in large part to his popularity in the country. Then came Suez. In the Summer of 1956, the Egyptian President, Colonel Nasser nationalised the Suez Canal Company which had been owned by British and French shareholders. Eden felt action had to be taken. The American President Dwight Eisenhower disagreed.

In the Autumn of 1956, British, French and Israeli troops invaded the canal and were met with swift international condemnation and passionate anti-war protests at home.. Eisenhower threatened to sell all the US government's pound sterling bonds if the British did not back down. As this would have caused the UK economy to go into freefall, Eden had little choice but to order a ceasefire and all British forces ended up being withdrawn by Christmas. The whole ordeal was viewed as a national humiliation and many at the time thought that this spelt the end for Britain as world power.

The country swiftly turned against Eden and he lost support from a previously friendly press. The Conservative Parliamentary Party was ready to get rid of the man who less than two years earlier had delivered them a great victory. The pressure was too much for Eden and his health rapidly declined. His doctors informed him that if he remained in the high pressure job of Prime Minister, he would surely die. So, in January 1957, Anthony Eden resigned and was replaced by his Chancellor Harold MacMillan.

MacMillan was able to quickly turn the page from the Suez Crisis. A friend of Eisenhower's from World War II, MacMillan quickly restored the special relationship, albeit with Britain now very much as the junior partner. MacMillan was a savvy media operator and beloved by the press who christened the new Prime Minister, "Supermac." In October 1959, MacMillan won a thumping 100 seat majority at the General Election which was the third successive General Election victory for the party.

If the Conservative Parliamentary Party acts now it can replace Boris Johnson with a later-day "Supermac" and potentially replicate the original's 1959 electoral triumph in 2024. However, if they fail to act now and impose Boris Johnson upon a nation that has decisively turned against him, they likely will be consigning their party to a 2024 disaster that will make the shellackings they received in 1997 and 2001 seem like picnics in the park.