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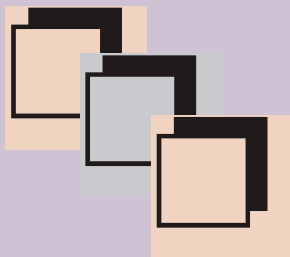
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Comment

In 1947 Winston Churchill said: “Many forms of government have been tried, and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed it has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time...”

So it was fun to watch the 'democratic' establishment turning cartwheels when the system returned a member of parliament of which it did not approve. The options, it seems are 'meat or fish with a vegetarian alternative'. If you want anything else, well, you are just wrong!

But the good people of Rochdale did want something else and George Galloway became the honourable member representing the constituency in the House of Commons.

Now I do not know what the man stands for or what he told the voters but around 12,000 of them liked it enough to elect him, leaving the big establishment parties looking very sorry in third and fourth place.

Listening to the leaders of the Conservatives, Labour and Lib Dems one thinks of the divine right by which kings of old ruled. They are the parties which form governments, them and no one else.

It has been suggested that Galloway used Gaza to manipulate the voters, not something the other parties want to talk about. Me neither so we won't be going there in this column, but the good people of Rochdale obviously do and George spotted a gap in the political market.

Nor would the establishment ever be guilty of manipulation. Or telling downright lies to get the votes they want, would they? I mean the NHS is now enjoying cash flow of £350m a week isn't it? You remember, the money we no longer send to the EU? Then there is 'the will of the people'. The PR slogan from the Brexit camp to keep remainers in line. Necessary because the difference between the leave and remain vote was statistically insignificant. That campaign effectively disenfranchised 47% of the voters who turned out. The will of the people of Rochdale is much clearer. They don't like what the establishment has to offer.

As I said, I don't know much about George Galloway aside from the fact that he was originally from the Labour Party and has represented several constituencies in parliament and founded more than one political party. But I suspect that he is a maverick, so the House of Commons should be a livelier place from now on. Every establishment needs a maverick, remember Dennis Skinner, the beast of Bolsover? I think he was the last one until now.

We will watch with interest. Meanwhile, with a general election due soon, what to do about the voters of Rochdale? Clearly they cannot be trusted to vote correctly. Perhaps the party managers need to get together, organise a clear-out and bring in a whole new electorate to do their bidding.

Meat, fish or vegetarian if you like, but we don't serve vegans.

John Roper

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