

To the millions of people who voted for Jeremy Corbyn: you scare me

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12.8 million people voted for Labour on June 8, making Jeremy Corbyn one of the most successful leaders of the post-war era CREDIT: JONATHAN BRADY/PA WIRE

If I'd suggested to you before yesterday that [Jeremy Corbyn was on course to outperform every Labour leader since Attlee](#), you'd probably have thought me away with the fairies.

But that is exactly what happened. Under Jeremy Corbyn, Labour's share of the vote increased by 9.6 per cent – more than any other leader in any other election since Clem Attlee's 1945 landslide.

Forgive me if I don't congratulate him.

In fact forgive me, please, if I say this to [each of the 12.8 million people who voted Labour](#) on Thursday: you scare me.

For months on end – ever since he became leader in 2015 – Jeremy Corbyn's views and alliances have been rammed home.

You would have had to be living in a cave not to know that the [Labour leader described Hamas terrorists as his "friends"](#), that in a war between the IRA and Great Britain [he wanted the IRA to win](#), or that he laid a [wreath at the grave of one of the Munich Olympic's terrorists](#).

Jeremy Corbyn refuses to condemn the IRA six times

01:20

It has been repeatedly reported that he was, until becoming Labour leader, chair of Stop The War, an organisation whose senior members celebrate North Korea as a model society and defend any enemy of the West.

Then there's Labour's problem with Jews.

For a time, Mr Corbyn's decades-long ally [Ken Livingstone was barely off the news with his Tourette-like spouting](#) of the name Hitler. He might have turned Jew-baiting into a fine art, but that has not been enough for Jeremy Corbyn's Labour Party to expel him.

I could fill this entire page with examples of anti-Semitic hatred from Labour members and supporters, all of which have been constantly flagged up in newspapers and on broadcast media.

And I haven't even mentioned [John McDonnell's praise of violent rioters](#) or Diane Abbott's view that any defeat of the British state should be celebrated.

But none of this has made the least difference to 40 per cent of the electorate who were happy anyway to vote for Jeremy Corbyn's Labour Party.

A bit of Jew hate? Support for the IRA? Pah! Look at the inspiring manifesto.

Diane Abbott refuses to denounce IRA

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Try this thought experiment. Imagine that instead of having a problem with Jews, many Corbyn supporters were misogynists. Instead of tweeting about "Zios" they tweeted about "bitches" who had got above themselves. Get back in the kitchen! Know your place, wimmin!

And then imagine that instead of rooting them out, Mr Corbyn stood by and watched while they carried on. He mouthed some words about how awful misogyny was but did next to nothing to deal with it.

And then despite this being repeatedly pointed out during the election campaign, 40 per cent of every vote cast went to the party that was soft on misogyny.

Why should Labour's problem with women deter them! Of course it wouldn't – Labour was promising to end student debt. Hurrah!



John McDonnell speaking at a rally in front of Communist and Syrian regime flags CREDIT: JONATHAN BRADY/PA WIRE

Thing is, you can't imagine it. It's inconceivable. There would be uproar that a party leader could acquiesce in such bigotry and the vast majority of voters would consider it beyond the pale. But when it's a bit of Jew hate, it's not just conceivable – it's reality. And for 40 per cent of voters, it doesn't matter enough to stop them voting Labour.

That's why they scare me: because they show that we are not the country I thought we were.

Like most pundits, I called the election completely wrongly. I realised why on Thursday night. Having always thought I knew what makes my country tick, it's obvious now that I no longer understand it.

Because however bad the Tory campaign might have been, and however inept Mrs May might have been as a candidate, it never crossed my mind that in a straight choice between her and Jeremy Corbyn, with the baggage of his deplorable alliances and views, 12.8 million voters would decide that, yes, they really rather liked the idea of him in Number Ten.

It is a depressing thought. We now know that siding with terrorists, presiding over antisemitic hate speech, taking money from the Iranian government and denying the war crimes of Slobodan Milosevic – to throw in two other of Mr Corbyn's delightful attributes – are not considered a problem by 40 per cent of voters.

One has to wonder where the red line now lies that voters will not allow to be crossed.

Indeed, one has to wonder if there is a red line that voters will not allow to be crossed.

That is the truly frightening thought.





