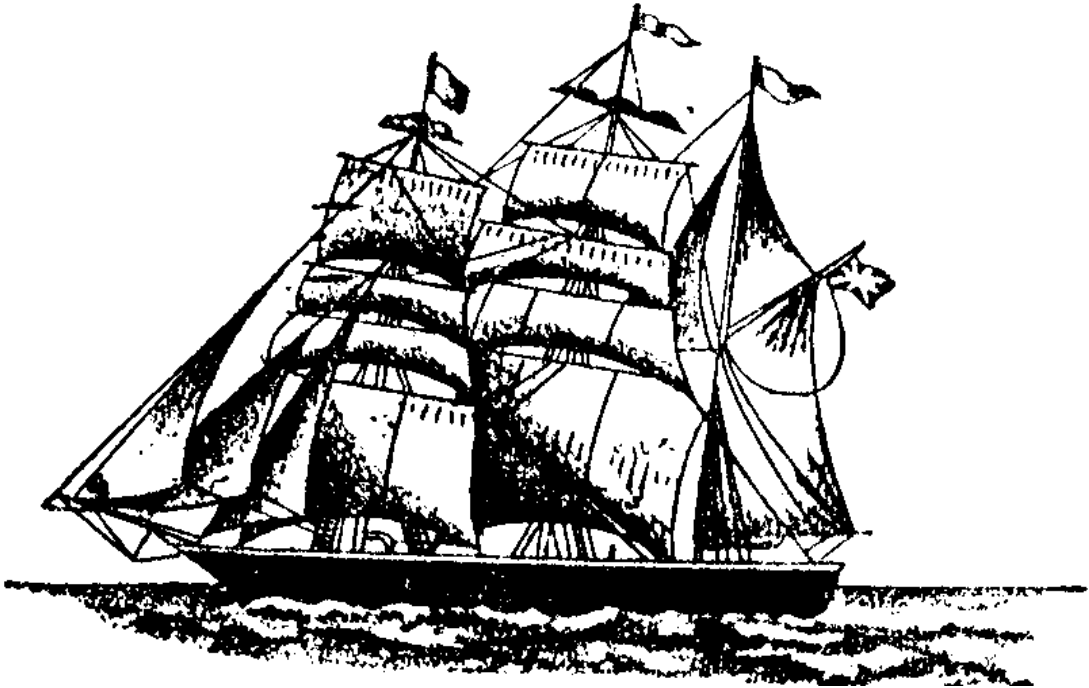


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QUOTE.

From the Swedish actor Stellan Skarsgård:

“ My father told me something when I was very small to instill confidence in me: ‘Nobody in the world is worth more than you, but nobody’s worth less.’ It is an egalitarian view that I’ve carried around in my life. That’s why I am for free schools, free universities, free health care, and free babysitting. Because our society could afford it. In America, people think social democracy is some kind of communism. They think capitalism is freedom. It’s not. It’s only freedom to exploit people.”

TWO STRONG WOMEN.

The Nelson Institute Review No 45 December 2019 in an item on crystallography included information on the UK Nobel Prize winner, Dorothy (Crowfoot) Hodgkin. She became a Fellow of the Royal Society, President of the International Union of Crystallography, President of the Pugwash Conference in 1976, won the Lenin Peace Prize in 1987 in recognition of her work for peace and disarmament, appointed an Order of Merit, was the only woman to receive the prestigious Copley Medal, became a foreign member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, awarded the Lomonosov Medal of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, elected a Foreign Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and was refused entry to the USA in 1953.

She was a tutor to Margaret (Roberts) Thatcher who was studying chemistry. In spite of diametrically opposite political positions, Thatcher had a painting of Hodgkin in No 10 Downing Street while she was Prime Minister.

Mrs Thatcher became a competent chemist who did some useful chemical work for her early employers. However she was very political. Her father was a businessman owning two shops. She was active in the Oxford University Conservative Association and was influenced at University by political works such as Friedrich Hayek's "*The Road to Serfdom*" (1944), which condemned economic intervention by government as a precursor to an authoritarian state. She is said to have carried the book with her and it encouraged her extreme individualism, (and authoritarianism).

She was enthusiastically active in the Conservative Party and attempted standing for the party while quite young. She married Denis Thatcher who was also a businessman.

Encouraged by her husband, she studied law, specialising in tax law. She had real enthusiasm for politics and although not a dynamic speaker, she was always well prepared and a fearless campaigner getting selected for a safe conservative seat and entering Parliament.



Margaret Thatcher said the problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other peoples money. **Wrong.** Because the countries money is the creation of the Government it can not go bankrupt but it can create more money. However in creation of money and funding public good, it must have available resources to be mobilised so excess money circulating does not cause inflation. It is only Government money not the peoples money.

Margaret Thatcher said that there was no free lunch. **Wrong.** Everything depends on the energy coming from solar radiation and it comes free. Ancient solar radiation gifts provide coal, gas, and petroleum as a free gift of nature. The water cycle that provides water free is also created by free solar energy.

Margaret Thatcher said that there was no magic money tree. **Wrong.** For every country that has its own fiat currency, it has a source of money. The Government's Reserve Bank creates the money and backs its value for the country. That trust in the money's value enables the transactions of the citizens. The cost of any Government funded activity should be conditional of available labour, energy, and material resources used in production not the money.

Margaret Thatcher said that there was no such thing as society; there are individual men and women, and there are families. **Wrong.** Humans are social beings that gather together in social groups such as families, Churches, sports clubs, political parties, choirs, hobby clubs, social clubs, support groups, and amateur dramatic groups. The people willingly contribute to the group for them to function as social entities.

Margaret Thatcher said that the Government had to work within its income just like a household. **Wrong.** Because the countries money is the creation of the Government it can not go bankrupt but it can create more money. However in creation of money and funding public good, it must have available resources to be mobilised so excess money does not cause inflation.

Margaret Thatcher said that there is no alternative (TINA) to her policies. **Wrong.** There were alternatives but they were not acceptable to her. She would not discuss them.

Margaret Thatcher said at a conference that the environmental challenge which confronts the whole world demands an equivalent response from the whole world. Every country will be affected and no one can opt out. **Correct.** As a chemist she understood the reality of climate overheating and the economic chaos caused.

MISINFORMATION

Rules for global warming deniers and science deniers in general (in no particular order of significance):

1. Never ever try to make an argument with actual data, unless you know your audience has no idea what it means.
2. Always use appeal to emotion arguments.
3. If you are forced to argue about actual data, use one-off anecdotes against it (source and veracity is irrelevant).
4. Ignore the entire field of science unless it backs up your claims in any way, shape or form.
5. When someone with actual understanding of the topic tries to debunk you and you don't know how to respond, cry about freedom of speech, conspiracies against the average person and the dogmatic scientific establishment.
6. Never fact check anything, your personal belief and understanding is enough. You are a smart person and it's the scientists that are clearly in the wrong.
7. If for whatever reason you need to back up your claims with data, and you can't find any, make up your own. Simply writing for random blog sites on the internet and then

referencing them is the best option.

From science podcaster 'Potholer' comments regarding an attack on the UK Met Office.

SAFETY AT SEA.

The Herald of Free Enterprise provides a catalogue of safety mistakes that ought to have been avoided. MS Herald of Free Enterprise was a roll-on/roll-off (RORO) ferry which capsized moments after leaving the Belgian port of Zeebrugge on the night of 6 March 1987, killing 193 passengers and crew.



The ship had a bow door and a stern door for vehicle access. It had a clear deck for vehicles where any water entry could flow to one side to cause such instability the ship would capsize. There was no means of confirming the closure of the entry doors to the Captain. The ship had been sailing across the English Channel with the bow door sometimes open. There had been complaints and suggestion that the bridge should have a signal that the doors were closed but management ignored this obvious safety measure.

On the fatal occasion the ship was not at its usual port and had to take on water ballast to lower the ship for the linkspan to function. The ballast was not pumped out before departure with the bow door still open so the ship was to sail lower in the water. It was the duty of an assistant bosun to close the door and an officer report to the Captain on the bridge of the closure. The Bosun was asleep as he had been working an 18 hour shift and was not aroused when the harbour-stations call sounded. The officer left the deck assuming the bosun would close the door. Another sailor did not do anything because it was not his job.

The ship did not go far in the four minutes before water entered the vehicle deck and the ship capsized. Rescue action was immediate and many people were rescued even people trapped in air pockets. The water was cold and some people died of hypothermia. A case when so many people from management down could have taken actions to prevent this tragedy but in spite of much blame nobody went to prison.

Murder, Mayhem, and Megalomania: The rise of authoritarianism in Ancient Rome.

A couple of years ago, a question was asked: How often do you think of the Roman Empire? It became a viral craze on Tiktok, and while that is now dated, the question itself remains important. However, I would ask a different question: Why are you being asked to think of the Roman Empire? And who is doing the asking?

In recent years, many of the world's technocrats have evoked Rome and its past but none of this is new. For centuries, even millennia, political figures have used the memory of Rome to legitimize their own political power, imperialistic aims, or military conflicts.

Names of key figures from Rome's past like Sulla, Julius Caesar, and Augustus are remembered for their major constitutional changes and, in the case of Augustus in particular, for bringing peace to the Mediterranean and securing Rome's dominance over the region for centuries.

But history is like a coin: it has two sides. When we only look at the shiny "heads" we don't see the corroded "tails". Each of these men gained power as a result of civil conflict which cost the lives of tens if not hundreds of thousands of people. They took advantage of failing government systems to further their own individual political goals. Each leveraged a societal shift towards factionalism and competition to dismantle traditional checks and balances thereby securing unprecedented powers for themselves at the expense of those who opposed them.

When we are asked to consider the enduring legacy of Rome, we must remember that its success was built on blood. Rome's "republic" didn't endure because a few "great" figures kept restoring it. It transitioned to autocracy because ambitious and competing individuals repeatedly fought over it, until it was deemed better not to fight. Their world was only "safe" when there was no more political opposition and when they had killed everyone who thought differently from them.

And yes, Sulla, Caesar and Augustus were skilled politicians, orators and leaders, but they each marched their armies on Rome; getting what they wanted through threats of violence. They broke laws and customs with impunity and had their fellow citizens put to death. Their victories came at a heavy human cost.

It should not come as any surprise that those who praise autocrats are those that stand to gain the most from them. We should be very weary of those who seek to laud them as examples to be emulated.

Assoc. Prof. Gwynnaeth McIntyre (University of Otago | Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka)

FRAUD

Journalist, corruption researcher, and author Paul Holden last year wrote the book "*The Fraud*" (Keir Starmer, Morgan McSweeney and the Crisis of British Democracy). This is an expose of manipulations and machinations which helped bring Sir Keir Starmer into political power. It is a big book of 546 pages. It presents something new. To avoid making the book even bigger the notes, characters, and references have been made



Figure 4 Morgan McSweeney.

available in the internet website www.thefraud.info so there is full justification of the content. Holden got access to internal e-mails which provide the background for the book.

Based on Labour Party files, including some never see before the "*The Fraud*" reveals Starmer as the front-man for a ruthless Morgan McSweeney who became Chief of Staff in

No 10. The investigation reveals the intrigues, stratagems, dirty tricks, and deceits which delivered Starmer eventually to No10 Downing Street and PM of the UK with a large majority.

When old time socialist Jeremy Corby became leader of the UK Labour Party in opposition there was a surge in people joining the party. A campaign followed to undermine the Labour Party from within with Corbyn smeared as an anti-Semite because of his support for Palestinians and also turn the party to the right. In the 2019 UK election the Conservatives were returned so the Labour Party needed a new leader. Keir Starmer took the opportunity to step up.

A new group, 'Labour Together' had been set up within the Party as a vehicle to get donations from the wealthy. Gerald McSweeney became the organiser. Starmer became the front-man for a ruthless, right-wing political project headed by McSweeney. Labour Together was taking large donations but not disclosing them as required by the Electoral Commission. Even when the Commission said they required it, the donations remained secret. Four men from this group formed a list of acceptable candidates for selection making sure that left-leaning and Corbynites were not included for the 2024 election.

Starmer had used a 10 point plan which included changes to the House of Lords and nationalisation to support his leadership of the Labour Party. After his selection as leader and getting elected PM he dumped his promises. He stopped Jeremy Corby from standing as the Labour candidate in his long standing electorate. Corby stood anyway and was

elected over the official Labour party candidate. The Labour Party got a big majority of 63% of the constituency seats in the 2024 general election while getting only 33.7% of low total votes because the Conservative party had become so toxic. Conservatives lost while many safe Labour seats became marginal. The Green Party came second in those previous safe



Labour seats. During the 21st century, of all the Labour leaders in an election Jeremy Corby actually got the highest vote tally.

The book has a chapter on the "Real Keir Starmer". The book includes specific examples of dirty tactics and the way they removed certain people of selection for becoming a candidate. Anyone going right through this book needs to keep a list of acronyms to follow the machinations laid out in the book. An investigation was done called the Forde Report and Aljazeera made a film about the scandal.

Since the book was written Gordon McSweeney has lost his job and Starmer is in trouble over the selection of an ambassador to the USA. A recent bye-election in a Manchester

constituency has changed to Green beating Reform instead of the usual Labour versus Conservative battle. Labour came third, Conservatives losing their deposit and the Green candidate winning with a good margin. The Mayor of Manchester, Andy Burnham, had been an MP but the Labour officials would not let him stand in the bye-election as he was seen as a threat to Keir Starmer. This is seen as the reason for the collapse of Labour in what had been a safe seat.

Now there is a strong movement to get rid of Starmer but there is a problem about who should replace him. Another Labour MP in the Manchester area has resigned so that Burnham could (if selected) stand in a new bye-election and hopefully be elected so he can be an option for getting rid of Sir Keir Starmer.

WHAT CAN WE AGREE ON?

There has been an increase in disagreeableness over time. Factions are more uptight and vocal in their disagreements. This is not a formula for progress. What if we concentrate on what we agree on?

The Wall Street Journal reports that since 1976, the top 0.001% of US households have seen their wealth increase by 3,500%, versus 2,200% for the top 0.01%, 1,200% for the top 0.1%, and just 200% for the average household. This is a case of the power law that applies to earthquakes. Few large, graduating down to many small cases. This distribution applies to wealth and income. Instead of an average earthquake or wealth we should consider the **median** earthquake or wealth. Can we agree that there is a mal-distribution of wealth here in NZ? Can we agree that some people lack the basic essentials of life?

Einstein is said to have quoted "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results,". Is that the way our economy is functioning? If we care for others, is this not proof that we must make some significant changes? We will have to find some agreement on the changes, tinkering around the edges, setting up a new modified domain, or having a real overhaul. Can we agree?

We need to agree where the flaws are. Are they; neoliberalism, privatisation of essential provisions, capitalists total reward of surpluses, the role of competition, the dogma that a 'free' market' will fairly share necessities, a parasitic financial sector, governments not benefiting all citizens, and/or debt increases. What can we agree on which items are the problem?

HISTORY REPEATS.

According to Herodotus, Croesus (King of the Lydians) consulted the Delphi Oracles and was told that he would "destroy a great empire" should he attack Cyrus. The Empire that was destroyed was his own.

On April 7, 2026, Donald Trump posted a threat on Truth Social regarding Iran, stating: "A whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again". The civilisation to die might be the US civilisation. "Slowly at first then all of a sudden." (Ernest Hemingway)

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