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INTERLIB

Journal of the Liberal International British Group



Turkey Taiwan Palestine

EVENTS

24th-26th April IFLRY – 47th General Assembly, Kyiv, Ukraine. **Suspended**

27th April LIBG Forum: How to and how not to stop Deforestation. 6.30pm **See page 3**

22nd -24th May Scottish Liberal Democrats' Spring Conference. Peebles Hydro, Peebles. **Postponed**

25th-27th June 63rd Liberal International Congress, Sofia, Bulgaria. **Postponed**

26th-29th September Liberal Democrats' Autumn Conference, Brighton.

For bookings & other information please contact the Treasurer below.

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Photographs: Adrian Hyyrylainen-Trett, Stewart Rayment,.



Mark Wallinger's *The World Turned Upside Down*, within the campus of the LSE - the London School of Economics, on Sheffield Street, London, seems an appropriate image for the times. It is not without controversy – Chinese students, no doubt anxious to please their embassy, protested that Taiwan was coloured as an independent country rather than part of the People's Republic – it is an independent country, of course, whether the UN and UK recognise it or not. Lhasa is shown as the capital of Tibet – an occupied and as such, illegally colonised country, whether the UN and UK recognise it or not.



HOW TO AND HOW NOT TO STOP DEFORESTATION



The Liberal International British Group welcomes four speakers to share their ideas on how to and how not to stop deforestation.

Duncan Brack is an environmental policy analyst focused on forest issues. He is an Associate Fellow at Chatham House, and an associate of Forest Trends. From 2010-12 he was Special Advisor to Rt. Hon. Chris Huhne, UK Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change.

Paola Despretz is an Economist at Vivid Economics. She leads Vivid's statistical and spatial analytical work on the application of Earth Observation and economic risk analysis for the prevention of deforestation in Côte d'Ivoire.

Jon Shepard is a Director at Global Development Incubator, where he is overseeing the Emergent Forest Finance Accelerator to overcome barriers for both buyers and sellers on the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) credits market.

Yulia Stange is Senior Manager of the Climate & Forests Programme at Client Earth, which works to improve forest governance, support forest legal reform, and reduce global trade in illegal timber. The programme also advocates for regulations that address the overseas impact of forest-risk commodities such as palm oil, soy, cocoa and beef, and strengthens forest provisions in EU free trade agreements.

Please note that due to coronavirus restrictions this will now be an online forum.

Directions for joining the meeting:

To attend, please register yourself a free account on the event website prior to the event, which commences at 6:30pm on Monday 27th April. This website is:

<https://www.brighttalk.com/webcast/1035/396571>

To register, you will need to provide your name, email address and state your organisation, for which you can use 'LIBG'. You will need to create a password but can omit the 'job title' box.

Enquiries: generalenquiries@libg.co.uk

International Solidarity and the need for global responsibility not national egotism is paramount now more than ever!

Adrian Hyyrylainen-Trett

As we live through this global crisis, none such have I lived through before (and pray never to live through again), we must learn crucial lessons as a global community, and the fact that we are interdependent on each other and over recent years creating global schisms between powerful nations has in doing so possibly split the world irrevocably for the foreseeable future.

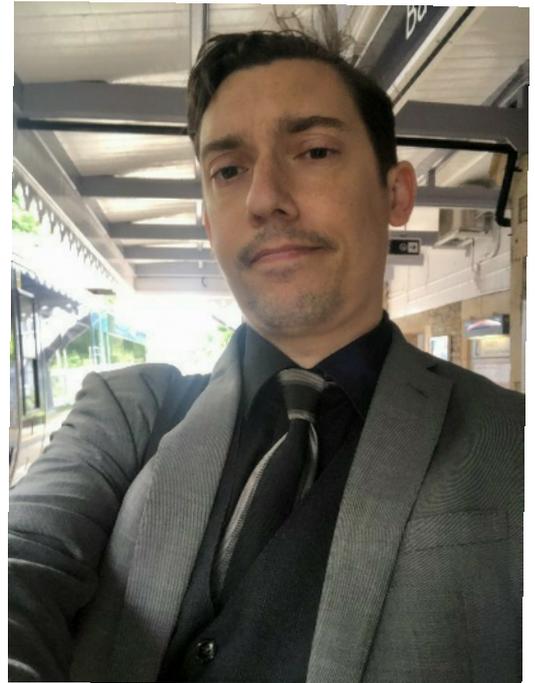
What might I be suggesting here? Well the UK is in a perilous position, since deciding (in my view catastrophically) of rejecting our European partners and leaving the European Union which as at the time of writing we are still in the transition phase (something we might never leave at this governments painfully slow recognition that because of COVID-19 it is essential that it is delayed for both our own health and economy).

The EU, our close neighbours could have been the saviour on many levels (but sadly when our government fails to attend eight meetings on ventilators and PPE – personal protection equipment) or on the other hand, we could fall into the egotistical hands of

President Trump and his desire to rule the world and by doing so relegate other nations to obscurity (and take our away NHS for which if we needed any reason after this pandemic to remind us that is a terrible idea and why we should invest in, tax more and pay staff more).

Oh and by the way which nation was USA at war with on trade? Oh, that's right – China and where did this pandemic originate from? Well, contrary to misinformation promulgated from Chinese and Russian sources, it certainly seems to have begun at a wet market in Wuhan – and that is incontestable. Did China do this deliberately? – knowing that China has the largest worldwide population, kept in secret for at least three weeks, and kept it basically in one place not allowing to burden the rest of China (how did Shanghai and Beijing have hardly any cases), refusing to allow Taiwan to give evidence to the WHO and banned honest doctors from telling the truth, I could go on- (the list is endless and will require a Global inquiry into the country's actions)- which gives me the impression that though it may have been an accident, rumours surround their actions because of their attempt alongside the Russians to engage in major anti-democracy actions to subvert Western governments is alarming.

Liberal International are concentrating their efforts on preventing this mid information from imperialist anarchies of Russia and China's with their own national egotism to destroy the US primarily because they knew the current US President was thick enough not to see the seriousness and would act too late for the US to end up with the highest number of deaths – followed by the weakest European economies of Italy and Spain and France plus of course that plucky little country who thought it could rule the waves again, be that independent island in the middle of nowhere and go it alone – The United Kingdom.



So my conclusion says that if we are ever going to learn lessons (and fast) – not just having a national inquiry into our preparedness for this pandemic, but a worldwide inquiry into the actions of all countries and whether the global structures WHO (World Health Organisation) in particular (who've given far too much latitude to China), and the UN (United Nations) which has also been infiltrated by a number of senior representatives from China etc... are suitable for today's world.

This means that all countries have to come together in solidarity – US, China, the Russians (who somehow have kept very quiet on the Coronavirus crisis), the EU, United Kingdom if it's still on it's isolation journey etc.. to stop aggressive national egotism and change on to a journey to a more harmonious global solidarity

– nations helping each other not deliberately obstructing each other's progress or development and a recognition that at global leader level this kind of warfare- arms, biological, information, nuclear or any other kind has to stop now, the global climate, health and environment has to come first in order that the earth continues and international solidarity revived.

Adrian Hyyrylainen-Trett

International Abstracts

Turkey-Syria

A thriller-like Syria and Muslim Brotherhood story, by Dr. Behlül Özkan.

Insight into the complexity of Syrian-Turkish relations through the dimensions of the Kurdish PKK and the Muslim Brotherhood.

This article has been published in the 62nd issue of the Journal of International Relations, in English, as a much wider and more comprehensive academic article.

<https://yetkinreport.com/en/2020/03/02/a-thriller-like-syria-and-muslim-brotherhood-story/>

Liberator 400

Gosh!... 50 years of Liberator, whether there have been 400 issues or not. When they moved from tabloid to magazine format in 1979, the first such issue was given the random number of 96 so that they could have issue 100 shortly after – probably the 1979 Assembly issue. The magazine had appeared more or less monthly since 1970, so that was a reasonable guess. The British Library of Political & Economic Science at the LSE has the most complete run, starting from 1971. Issue 400 has brought the news that Liberator is going digital in the Autumn; the Brighton Liberal Democrat Conference will see the last print issue and it will be free thereafter.

Internationally, Rebecca Tinsley's article Respect for Culture, or Respect for Women? And Steve Yolland's article on Australia's bush fires are included (both interLib 2020-02). Martha Elliott urges Democrats to unite behind Joe Biden to beat Trump – Anyone but Trump. Amongst the selection of articles from past issues of the magazine, Rebecca Tinsley features again, with Africa's Leaders Saints to Thugs? A familiar theme... probably dating from 2010 – how little has changed.

LI and Covid-19

Liberal International has published a wealth of material on what liberal governments around the world are doing in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic and has warned that measures taken to combat the disease must not become permanent restrictions on civil liberty.

If you would be interested to see this visit: <https://liberal-international.org>

Soylu waiting in the wings?

A. Balkan

As we scrape around for news under the Covid-19 pandemic, Turkey watchers may be fascinated by the recent developments in the career of Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu. Soylu's resignation as Interior Minister was announced following a mishandled curfew. Soylu had earlier announced a 48-hour curfew across 31 of Turkey's cities to check the spread of the virus, but had only given two hours' notice, causing chaos and panic buying. He took the honourable decision to resign. Thereafter, the story becomes Byzantine, President Tayyip Erdoğan refused to accept the resignation and Süleyman Soylu is back in post. Murat Yetkin¹ is, as usual, incisive on the events. Health Minister Fahrettin Koca, who also heads the Science Board to meet the Covid19 crisis, was had been demanding a curfew much earlier. Erdoğan had thought that it was "not necessary" but the rapid April 10th decision caused "disarray."

Formerly a member and leader of the centre-right conservative Demokrat Parti, Soylu was invited to join the ruling AKP by Erdoğan in 2012. He became Minister of Labour and Social Security in 2015 and Interior Minister in 2016, under which guise, one might question if he was ever a democrat. Soylu was responsible for removing several mayors from office, those of the Partiya Demokratik a Gelan – the Peoples' Democratic Party, on the grounds that they were affiliated to the Kurdish PKK.

So, Soylu has revoked his decision to resign. There is a large-scale power sharing conflict going on inside the government circles. Soylu is representing the nationalist front and now they have accumulated more



power because of these events. Erdoğan has lost some ground against them. • we might see more evidence of infighting quite soon.

There is also an unconfirmed rumour going around that Devlet Bahçeli, the leader of the ultra-nationalist Milliyetçi Hareket Partisi, •MHP, has died. He is 72, and nothing is confirmed as this was written. However, it is very important because he is the glue that is keeping Erdoğan in power. If his death is officially acknowledged, the current coalition will certainly run onto the rocks. The MHP still has quite a large influence over the army (ultra nationalist). Again, according to the unconfirmed news there are about 20 thousand Turkish soldiers stationed in Idlib, Syria. As far as we know, high ranks of armed forces are very

unhappy about this present de facto war.

So maybe Erdoğan averted a major crisis on Sunday but there are bigger ones on the way, I am not even counting the coming economic problems (unemployment numbers, sudden stop of whole economy, immediate need of fresh credits from overseas, nearly zero reserves of central bank and approximately 170 billion dollars of debt which need to be serviced in until the end of this year).

Under these difficult conditions, President Erdoğan is probably aiming to win an early general election sometime in 2021. This goal is coming to look more and more hard to achieve. However, Erdoğan has successfully overcome any hurdle in past 18 years so there may be more tricks in his bag that we are not aware of yet. There are predictions that lack of food and money would cause riots and uprising particularly in the poor areas of Istanbul as well as some other parts of the country. Simply Nothing is looking good at all for the Erdoğan administration. In theory if there is a new government then there is a chance of finding fresh money either from IMF or using the swap channels, but that is not going to happen under this administration. Erdoğan's advisors have formally announced that there will be no talk with IMF.

Against all odds Erdoğan will not leave his throne up until the last moment, if he loses next coming election the opposition should form a wide front and should save the people's choice; they had failed to do that in past but coming elections would be the last chance to save the country.

One of the big questions has always been 'who next after Erdoğan?' So now, as Murat Yetkin concludes: Soylu has got even stronger both in the cabinet and the AKP. We will start observing the results of Soylu's move and Erdoğan's reaction to it starting from April 13.

A. Balkan

¹ <https://yetkinreport.com/en/2020/04/13/why-did-minister-soylu-resign-and-erdogan-rejected-it/>

Nicholas Danforth's Washington Institute article it contains a lot of information about Turkish politics and its actors at present

<https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/uploads/Documents/pubs/PolicyNote77-Danforth.pdf>

LI Calls on WHO to resist political pressure and recognise Taiwan's success in the fight against Covid-19

Over the past months, Covid-19 has killed thousands of people and ravaged the world's economy. Supporting the countries most affected by the virus and circulating good practice to all relevant authorities takes precedence over any geopolitical interest or political divide.

It is why Liberal International notes with deep concern the World Health Organisation's wilful disregard for the remarkable success of Taiwan in the battle against Covid-19 and, in the same breath, congratulates the Taiwanese government on their excellent leadership.

Liberal International reminds the World Health Organisation that its own constitution states that "the achievement of any State in the promotion and protection of health is of value to all" and that public health should be prioritised over any distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition.

Thus, we call on the World Health Organisation to shed the spectre of political influence guiding its action and instead re-focus efforts on supporting our global health without agenda or discrimination. The guardians of our global health must not allow geopolitical machinations to infect international responses to a pandemic that transcends borders and threatens all of humanity.

In a time of global crisis we must ensure that leaders commit themselves to enacting measures that are in the public interest. As LI President, Dr. Hakima El Haité, has repeatedly stated, the maintenance of public health must take precedence over any and all political, geographical and historical divides; only through deepening multilateral cooperation and openly sharing information can we successfully prepare and defend our global community against this crisis and those that are still to come.

Liberal International therefore urges the World Health Organisation to recognise the achievements of the Taiwanese State in countering the spread of Covid-19 and call on all of the organisation's members, including China, to refrain from impeding the circulation of vital information.

Dr. Hakima El Haité

'Why Did We Make The Film? To Get The Truth Out There'

Laurie Hastings

At its Hastings premiere, producer Miranda Pinch explained her reasons for making the independent film documentary 'From Balfour to Banksy - Visions and Divisions in Palestine'.

A screening of the film *'From Balfour to Banksy - Visions and Division in Palestine'* on a Thursday evening sparked a lively debate on how ordinary people can help bring about change to the current situation in Israel-Palestine.

The independent British film, screened at The Pig's Palace and directed by former BBC producer Martin Buckley, set out to examine Britain's role in the creation of the Israeli state through Lord Balfour's famous Balfour Declaration of 1917, and the legacy of his promise to protect the civil and religious rights of the existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine.

The film depicts everyday life for Palestinians today and describes how many view that promise as a betrayal since the majority are living under military occupation without civil rights or freedoms, a situation that has gone on for over 50 years.

It also gives voice to different communities within both Israel and Palestine, and tackles vital issues like the settlements, the Separation Wall, child arrests, settler violence, home demolitions as well as how the international community has failed to deal with Israel's continual flouting of international law.

Afterwards, during a Q&A session the film's producer Miranda Pinch explained that her main Aim for making the film was to 'get the truth out there.' 'The problem is that the other side is very good at repeating mantras that are lies so often that everyone believes them,' she explained. 'It is difficult to get the truth out there and we are greeted with more and more weapons, like the weaponization of anti-Semitism. That's why we made the film, that's why there is BDS - Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions - and that's why we ask parliamentary questions every week.'

Miranda, who works as a researcher at the House of Lords, writes up to seven questions every week to the government on behalf of Baroness Jenny Tonge, a lifelong supporter of Palestinian human rights. She described the government's responses to their questions on human rights abuses in Palestine as 'fascinating.'

'They say all the right things, that they are 'concerned,' 'seriously concerned,' '*gravely* concerned,' she said. That they spoke to the Ambassador last week or last month or next week or they've seen this or that report... but at the end of the day they always do nothing at all because, let's face it, trade, particularly at the moment, and security issues and armament sales are far more important. Even the supplementary questions where we say - well you've just told us that what they're doing is illegal or that children are being abused, what are you going to do about? The answer is nothing.'

Miranda, the daughter of a Jewish Holocaust survivor, said she first came up with the concept for the film during a meeting of The Balfour Project but quickly gave up on the idea after discovering it would likely cost between £50,000-£100,000. But a small donation Of £5,000 and a chance meeting with ex-BBC producer Martin Buckley was enough to get the project off the ground.

'Martin found a student, who became our cameraman and editor, and I booked a 10-day shoot in Israel-Palestine and arranged the contacts on under £5,000 for three of us and it went from there,' she said. 'Martin called it guerrilla filming' because we did it without any permissions at all because no one would have given us any.'

The team have been pleased with the response to their film but they have also experienced problems in showing it - the first screening at SOAS University of London was disrupted by pro-Israeli demonstrators and police eventually had to be called. Since then Miranda says that fears of false accusations of Anti-Semitism have put off organisations, particularly universities, from screening the film, with Sussex, Warwick and Winchester universities all opting out.

However, Miranda says that anti-Semitism smears haven't put her off and that the film will eventually be free and available to all online. It is also being considered as an educational resource.

One screening to a class of Middle Eastern Studies students had a deep and profound impact on a young Jewish Israeli boy who said it left him very conflicted. 'Now to me, that was worth it,' said Miranda. 'You've got to keep fighting to get the truth out there.'

Miranda said it is 'madness' that if you call someone a Zionist today you are immediately denounced as 'Anti-Semitic.' She said: 'What about Christian Zionists? The conflation of Zionism and anti-Semitism has been created and built upon but some information we can all carry in response to that is that it's not Jewish Zionism but Christian Zionism. I don't think that's widely known. And in America the Republican party is bolstered financially through the Christian Zionists and that's why the Christians worship Trump.'

Garth Hewitt, who co-founded the human rights organisation Amos Trust and was amongst the audience members, described Miranda's film as very powerful. He said: 'I do think there are a lot of people out there who are aware there's something wrong. And the racism against the Palestinians has not been expressed. We need an equality of commitment to raise that issue.'

Jackie Collins, also in the audience, said: 'It brought home for me the reality of the Wall. Ridiculous in its size, height and the path it takes. What lunacy it is to think an 8-metre-high concrete wall is the answer to anything! The point was made, it not only imprisons the Palestinians but also imprisons Israelis.'

Gill Knight, from the Hastings and Rye Palestine Solidarity Campaign which hosted the event, said they were delighted with the turnout and thanked local families for making the Hilbeh cake and baklava pastries that accompanied the mint tea and coffee refreshments during the evening.

'We're very encouraged that so many people are interested in learning more about the historical context to the current situation,' she said. 'I urge everyone to join Palestine Solidarity Campaign, both locally and nationally, as now is a crucial time for the Palestinian people and they need our support more than ever.'

· The Balfour Project aims to explain and increase public awareness of Britain's current and historical responsibilities in the Middle East: [The Balfour Project](#).

<http://www.balfourproject.org/>

· Miranda Pinch also highlighted the importance of fighting bias in the media and encouraged the audience to join the fighting fund for Justin Schlosberg's legal challenge to BBC Bias: [Challenge BBC Bias](#).

<https://www.balfourtobanksy.com/>

Derek Honeygold

Obituary

Many of us are going to have to get used to friends dying from COVID 19 over the coming weeks, but this does not lessen the sense of loss. In my case, the first to go is Derek Honeygold, lifelong Liberal/Liberal Democrat and ardent pro-European, who passed away at Northwick Park Hospital in Harrow on 28th March 2020, after developing pneumonia, at the age of 83. He lived for most of his life in Northwood Hills, in what is now the London borough of Hillingdon, He was a pupil at Pinner County Grammar School, where he excelled in athletics, before doing his National Service in the Royal Air Force, mainly in East Anglia. His twin interests in economics and European matters were by then already forming. He was frustrated that Britain did not join the nascent EEC, so his political gravitation towards the Europhile Jo Grimond as leader



of the Liberal Party was a natural trajectory. Britain pulling out of the EU only a few weeks ago must have been a bitter pill to swallow.

As a mature student, Derek took a BSc degree in Economics at Brunel University in Uxbridge, later becoming a lecturer at the same institution. This was the beginning of a long and successful academic career, teaching at the European Business School (now Regent's University in London) and Thames Valley University, before getting the post of Senior Lecturer in International and European Economics at the University of Hertfordshire. His most important academic publication was a textbook on International Financial Markets. During the tumultuous Spring of 1989, prior to the fall of the Berlin Wall, Derek spent several months in

Budapest, after which the Foreign and Commonwealth Office took him on as a consultant and he spent two happy years training Hungarian and other central European dissidents and aspiring leaders on aspects of European economics and democratic government. He also had a spell in Berlin, as a management accountant for the airline BEA.

Though Derek did serve a period as a local Councillor in Hillingdon, and was made a magistrate (JP), his main activity with the Liberal Party and later the Liberal Democrats was within their European and international associated organisations, latterly the Liberal Democrat European Group (LDEG) and Liberal International British Group (LIBG), serving many years as Treasurer of the latter. Although obliged to retire from university teaching he continued his own research into international economic theory and he was a robust participant in policy debates in that field, including at Chatham House, where he was a fixture for several decades. In recent years he had difficulty walking, but his mind remained as alert as ever. In the hackneyed phrase of Times obituaries, he did not suffer fools gladly. But there was also a more gentle, artistic side to his personality of which most people who came into contact with him were probably unaware. Music was a passion. For nearly 20 years, up till 1990, he was Principal of Derek Honeygold Concert Management, through which he promoted more than 250 classical music concerts throughout the United Kingdom, Austria and West Germany.

Jonathan Fryer

reviews

The Spirit of England Chris Beetles Gallery

Chris Beetles Gallery, purveyors of the work of our favourite cartoonists, Peter Brookes and Matt (Pritchard) are helping us fight the Lockdown Blues with regular strips of images under the heading The Spirit of England. Go to their website for a gander, <https://www.chrisbeetles.com/>



Peter's, from The Times of 17th April is going for £1,450.00; Captain Tom Moore, at 100, set out to raise £1,000,00 for NHS staff and volunteers by walking lengths of his garden. His target was quickly achieved - as we go to press he has raised £27,895,242 with over 1,300,000 supporters, and you can donate at [justgiving.com/fundraising/tomswalkforthenhs](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tomswalkforthenhs) Look carefully for the twist -

As is often the case, there is more in a cartoon than first meets the eye.

Matt's cartoons are usually £250.00. It will be fascinating to hear how they coped with Lockdown once this is over – the hapless Miliband & Balls (Wallace and Gromit) made a reprise in Brookes' cartoon a few days ago - there was a context - pets as Covid-19, but who remembers 'Wallace and Gromit'? Maybe that's unfair on the originals - I've watched most of the films since Lockdown - they are regular viewing, but stale Labour politicians?

There is also an online exhibition in honour of Sir John Tenniel, the 200th anniversary of his birth was on 28th February. Best known today for his Alice, he was a regular contributor to Punch over a good 50 years or more until he



'If every minister shares the blame for the testing fiasco we might develop a herd immunity'



retired. He was thus an observer of the Grand Old Man throughout most of his career. Who now recalls the luminaries of Gladstone's Cabinets? For the record, before we lose him, the bagman next to Captain Tom is Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak - said to be a coming man amongst the Tories but we wait and see. In *An 'Exit' Speech*, Tenniel depicts Gladstone as Shakespeare's Richard III in order to show how his arguments in favour of Irish Home Rule were making him increasingly isolated and unpopular. One of the things underestimated in Irish affairs was the attachment of the aristocracy to their estates in Ireland, whether they visited them or not. Most British Liberals (I hope) would still recognise images of Gladstone. But who are the others? Joseph Chamberlain (1836-1914), seated at left, and Lord Hartington (1833-1908), seated at right, were so opposed to Home Rule as to resign from the Liberal Party and found the Liberal Unionist Party, later to ignominiously be absorbed by the Tories. The chap sitting with Hartington is probably John Bright (1811-1889) perhaps the saddest of the defections. Chris Beetles Gallery holds a large collection of Tenniel's work, this one going for £2,250.00.

Afghanistan: hidden voices from a forgotten war, by Maya Evans.
Voices for Creative Non-Violence 2019 £5.00
isbn 9781916196100

After Kabul was liberated from the Taliban, the ladies of the Liberal Revue came up with the idea of a Wet Burkha Competition to open the show... the volunteers comprised of a MP, at least one member of the House of Lords, the chief executive of a local authority and a leading member of a major charity, aside from regular members of the revue team. It was never performed - not because of "political correctness" - something which never bothered the Liberal Revue, but because the stage would be wet and therefore dangerous for the rest of the show. The on-going Afghan War was a mistake - America wanted its War Against Terror, itself a mistake, and picked on an easy target, rather than its nuclear-armed puppet master next door.

Whilst the war is neither over, not forgotten, the people of Afghanistan have to pick up the pieces, and prior to the Syrian Civil War, it was the largest source of refugee migration. When Tony Blair, Ill-advisedly took us in, it was estimated that it would be at least 30 years before the conflict might be brought to an end. Just over half way through that estimate, with vacillating American policy and the Taliban controlling around 60% of the country, it is not looking good (how much of this is dependent on Daesh mercenaries?) It should never have started, but once in, morally, how do you get out? Does America and her allies want another Vietnam or Cambodia?

This book provides insights into the experience of people living in and leaving Afghanistan, either themselves or through Evans and her colleagues.. It looks at their attitudes to Donald Trump's 'peace proposals' and more positively, the work of Afghan Peace Volunteers. It is a useful contribution, benefiting from informality, which may bring us closer to realities of life in that country than official sources. Housmans in London stocks the book, otherwise go the website vcnv.org.uk

