

Election Consolations

“May the Lord spare us from things that could have been worse”, says a gloomy old truism. The outcome of the election could have been worse. Mr Blair remains in office with an increased majority in his own constituency, despite being challenged by a smorgasbord of calumniators and conspiracy theorists. Only one constituency in England and five in Northern Ireland elected **apologists** for **political terror** – in both cases, an increase of only one; the remaining 640 constituencies elected democratic politicians. The disgraceful Liberal Democrats ended up with only about 60 seats, a disappointingly small (to them) increase of only 11. That is the best we can muster by way of consolation.

It is a painful fact that vast numbers of British people did indeed want to punish Mr Blair for doing the right thing in Iraq, and that they do believe vile conspiracy theories, both about him and more generally too. It is also painful that moral relativism, cynicism, racism, antisemitism and even outright **violence** have played a greater role in this election campaign than at any time in recent history. The people of Bethnal Green, in particular, have no excuse for electing George Galloway, who would serve the country far better in jail than in Parliament. Some people, like the Liberal Democrats, are anti-war because they have no moral compass at all, merely a wish that the world should be a warm and fuzzy place. George Galloway has a moral compass that points directly towards evil.

Perhaps the most consoling outcome of the election is Michael Howard's announcement that he will stand down as leader of the Conservative Party. Nothing in his tenure as leader became him more than the leaving of it. For this quick decision, and for the fine, gracious and insightful **speech** in which he announced it, he has regained no small measure of respect from us. If he succeeds, as he says he intends to, in reforming the Party's system for choosing leaders before he goes, he may yet leave a legacy of which he could be proud. For this may, in due course, allow a leader from the untainted, younger ranks of the party to be elected and restore it to its former stature. Perhaps someone like Michael Gove, the excellent Times columnist who was just elected MP for Surrey Heath. As an example of his quality, look **here**. You heard it here first, folks...

Update: The BBC link above for Michael Howard's speech leads to a

page which blocks users outside the UK from viewing the clip. Their video server does not itself enforce this restriction: [here](#).

Sat, 05/07/2005 - 10:18 | [digg](#) | [del.icio.us](#) | [permalink](#)

Consolation: Take Heart, We Will Save You

Anyone who is engaged in proper democratic politics can succeed in the world today. Take heart. You will be saved. A blueprint for salvation is contained within the applied tensions of American religion, judicious secrecy, and the fine art of war and peace.

<http://www.esoteric.msu.edu/VolumeVII/Secrecy.htm>

Read on.

by a reader on Sun, 05/08/2005 - 20:14 | [reply](#)

Off topic but I thought I might

Off topic but I thought I might point out that the last decent journalist has [left the Guardian](#).

by theGob on Tue, 05/10/2005 - 12:40 | [reply](#)

Galloway

Can you explain why Galloway is evil? No links please.

-- Elliot Temple

<http://www.curi.us/>

by [Elliot Temple](#) on Tue, 05/10/2005 - 22:41 | [reply](#)

Galloway

Elliot,

Galloway was emphatically opposed to the invasion of Iraq in the most morally inverted of terms, and he was kicked out of the Labour Party after evidence suggesting that he was taking bribes from Saddam was published.

by a reader on Wed, 05/11/2005 - 15:18 | [reply](#)

Galloway

Elliot,

If you still have any doubts, take a look at what Galloway has been [saying](#) on Arab television.

Gil

by [Gil](#) on Wed, 08/03/2005 - 05:41 | [reply](#)

I didn't express any doubts.

I didn't express any doubts.

-- Elliot Temple

<http://www.curi.us/>

by **Elliot Temple** on Wed, 08/03/2005 - 17:16 | [reply](#)

Doubts

I know.

I was just outraged by his statements and was trying to find a relevant place to post about them.

Gil

by **Gil** on Wed, 08/03/2005 - 18:12 | [reply](#)

ok cool, i read your link and

ok cool, i read your link and yeah he hella sucks. just didn't want anyone to think I doubted he sucked :)

-- Elliot Temple

<http://www.curi.us/>

by **Elliot Temple** on Wed, 08/03/2005 - 21:30 | [reply](#)