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OPINION **Jeremy Corbyn shares a common trait with President Trump**

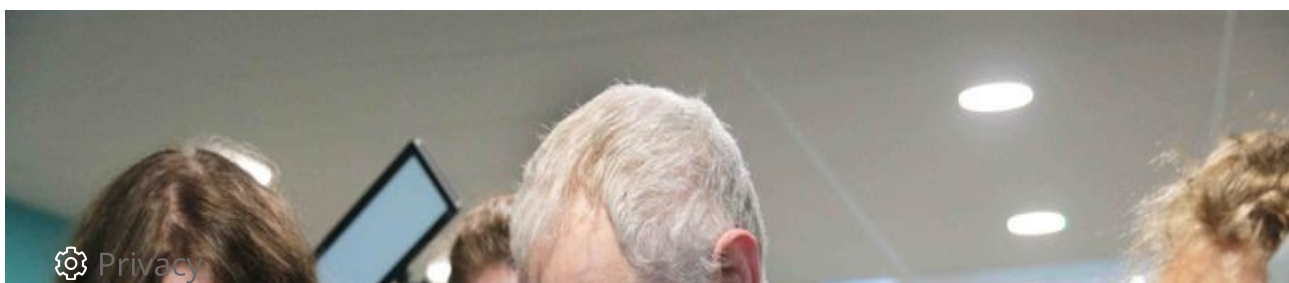
The Labour leader has once again illustrated his commitment to media reform - but not in the usual way


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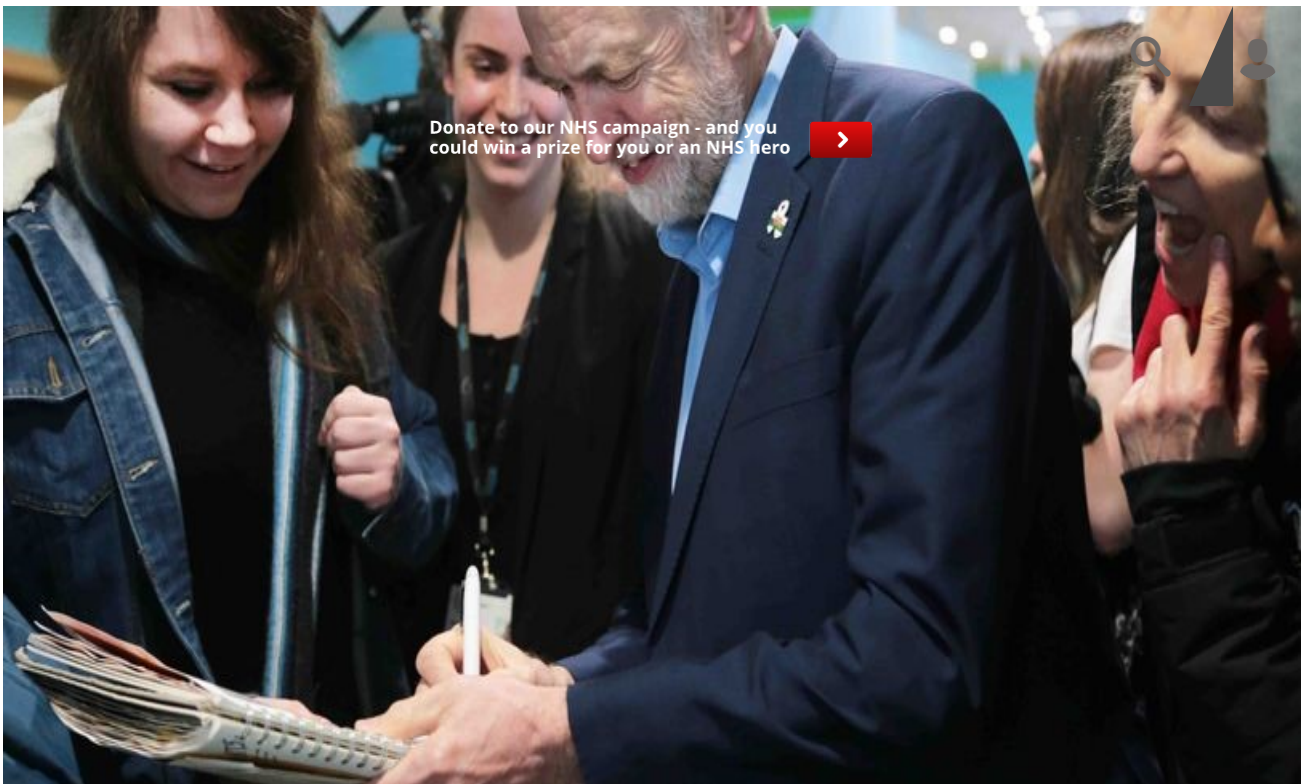
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📹 Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn MP, signing autographs at Coleg Cambria, Connahs Quay earlier this month.

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The **[recent hostilities](#)** between Jeremy Corbyn and sections of the British press show no sign of abating and it's useful to see the attacks on him (by the Sun, Daily Telegraph and Daily Mail in particular) as just the latest in a long line of attempts to ram home to their readership, and by extension the electorate, Corbyn's complete unsuitability for high office.

As I've written **[elsewhere](#)**, on the eve of polling day in last year's General Election, the first 13 pages of the Daily Mail were intended to provoke fear and loathing.

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On page one, Corbyn was pictured alongside Diane Abbot and John McDonnell as an “apologist for terror” while inside the paper the attempts to link with him with terrorism both past and present were meant to communicate his contempt for Britain and British values.

The **Sun's editorial** was equally as damning encapsulating two years of anti-Corbyn sentiment with this warning aimed at potential Labour voters.

It said: “A generation after the end of the Soviet Union, the dismantling of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of almost every ruinous and oppressive hard-Left regime worldwide, you would be helping to establish a new one, right here in Britain. It would be the gravest mistake this country has ever made.”

It was **the Sun** that “broke” the most recent Corbyn as communist story on February 15, leading on its front page with the splash “CORBYN AND THE COMMIE SPY”, alleging that the Labour leader had met a Czech spy during the Cold War.

Corbyn, said the Sun referring to “secret files” it had access to, briefed “the evil regime of a clampdown by British intelligence” and displayed negativity toward the US while supporting Soviet peace initiatives.

Two days later, **the Mail**'s front page screamed "CORBYN 'THE COLLABORATOR'" whilst the accompanying narrative claimed that according to former Czech spy Jan Sarkocy, Corbyn was a paid informant of the Czech secret police.

The **Labour Party's reaction** to all this was pretty standard. This was a “ridiculous smear” spokespeople said, and though Corbyn had met a Czechoslovakian diplomat in the 1980s, he “neither had nor offered any privileged information”.

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But the question must be asked: are there any grains of truth in the accusations that Corbyn was a Communist spy?



Well, [as Dan Lomas, expert in Intelligence and Security Studies at Bath University states](#), the short answer is no.

According to Lomas, all the so-called secret papers do is reveal very little other than the fact he met someone from Czech State Security. This in itself would not have been unusual at the height of the Cold War.

As Lomas writes: "How many other politicians, civil servants, businessmen and women and ordinary travellers unknowingly met Eastern Bloc intelligence officials during the Cold War? The number is certainly high."

But by the middle of last week, as the story refused to die, Corbyn took the highly unusual step of recording [a personal video message](#) in which he explicitly referred to the Sun, the Mail, the Telegraph and the Express whilst refuting all claims against him.

All these allegations did, said Corbyn, was to illustrate how worried these newspapers were about the prospect of a Labour government. They had reason to be, he said: "We've got news for them - change is coming."

These intentions - some would say direct threats - once again illustrate Corbyn's his long-standing commitment to media reform.

During the Labour leadership contest in 2015 he said: "A society in which 70% of UK newspaper circulation is controlled by three wealthy families is clearly unfair and undemocratic."

Just after the video was released, Labour "insiders" told [the Huffington Post](#) that when in government they would consider media regulation and the plurality of media ownership.

And whether or not you see Corbyn's retaliation as an attack on the free press or completely justified, the content of his address does get to the heart of why the Tory papers go after him with such frequency and vehemence.

Of course, much has been written about the historic vilification of Labour leaders at the hands of the Sun et al with [Roy Greenslade](#) in his excellent Guardian media blog making [the point that every leader with the notable exception of Tony Blair](#) has suffered at the hands of the Tory press. He singles out Gordon Brown, Neil Kinnock and Michael Foot as being particularly harshly treated.

Let's not forget Michael Foot.

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In 1995 the late MP for Ebbw Vale **successfully sued the Sunday Times** (the broadsheet sister paper of the Sun) for its allegation that he was Soviet agent. In 1994, the newspaper ran a three-page article under the leader "KGB: Michael Foot was our agent".


Foot was alleged to have received cash payments from the Russians and also, Like Corbyn, had a codename (Boot).

In the event, the Sunday Times had to pay damages, costs and provide assurance that it had never intended to imply he'd ever been a spy.


Despite similarities, Corbyn is different animal to Foot and he clearly believes the perceived power of the mainstream press is on the wane.

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The fact he chose to record a video message rather than be interviewed indicates that he is confident and unwilling to "play the media game" in the way that his contemporaries do. His approach is so unorthodox that media bemusement in so many cases is manifest in hostility.

In this way, though the comparison is perhaps odious, Corbyn has more in common with Donald Trump than he does with any other politician Both view the conventional media with distrust and choose instead to communicate via social media as far as is possible.

*** Dr John Jewell is director of undergraduate studies at Cardiff University's School of Journalism.**

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Pete39

862 DAYS AGO

"to ram home to their readership, and by extension the electorate, Corbyn's complete unsuitability for high office".

Pot, Black and Kettle spring to mind . It's a pity WOL and the Daily Mirror don't also ram home how unsuitable he is.

If it's so bad to be hostile to Labour and it's Communist cronies (Masters),then surely it's equally as bad to be hostile to the Torys.

Doesn't this reporter see the irony in what he's written and in what paper he has written it.

Another useful idiot. Is he Williamson's new apprentice or is he vying for his job?

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Gwyddno

862 DAYS AGO

@Pete39

You should send a copy of your comment to Paul Dacre at the Daily Mail Dacre Centre. The Daily Mail like it when a Director of Undergraduate Studies at a University is called an idiot.

Privacy

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Pete39

862 DAYS AGO

I suggest the university questions his critical and logical thinking skills.

He said:

How many other politicians, civil servants, businessmen and women and ordinary travellers unknowingly met Eastern Bloc intelligence officials during the Cold War? The number is certainly high."

Jeez, is he that stupid, blind to the facts or just another Left Wing academic who will lie to suit his agenda.

Corbyn did not UNKNOWINGLY meet Eastern Bloc intelligence officials, just as he never unknowingly met representatives from the IRA, Hamas and other assorted enemies of Britain.

And if you can't agree with those FACTS then there is no hope for you.

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Gwyddno

862 DAYS AGO

So, Pete39, what is stupid about the text that you have quoted? What agenda? The item is about Trump and Corbyn sharing a mistrust of mainstream media. Why are you inflamed over a somewhat innocuous article?

You have whipped yourself into a frenzy about Northern Ireland and Palestine, when neither are the subject, and you've gone full throttle like Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson speaking to The Sun newspaper.

Williamson was criticised for parroting the words of Darren Osborne.

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Many have worked hard, behind the scenes and in full view of the media, achieving peaceful settlements for conflicts and they should be applauded. I cannot say the same for keyboard warriors.



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Pete39

🕒 861 DAYS AGO

Gwyddno

The headline mentions Trump, but the item is about Corbyn, as every word in it is about Corbyn.

If you think me mentioning the truth, ie. Corbyn's disgusting ar*e licking of every terrorist is 'whipping myself into a frenzy' then you can't do much reading, or you'd know what frenzied writing is.

The article is only innocuous to Lefties that hate the Mail & Sun for spelling out the things they'd rather not be aired eg, Momentum thuggery and hounding of decent genuine Labour politicians; Anti semitism rife in the Labour Party and TODAY exposing Tom Watson, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party accepting £1/2 Million from a Far Right Wing Millionaire.

The hypocrisy of the Champaign Socialists is breathtaking.
Champions of the working class – Yeah, right.

I'm all for Detante, but a Leftie taking £1/2 Million from a Far Right Fascist takes the biscuit.

And you support that bunch of freaks?

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Gwyddno

🕒 861 DAYS AGO

Privacy

@Pete39 So, the newspaper that supported Oswald Mosley is throwing a fit over Max Mosley because he wants press regulation recommended by Lord Justice Levenson implemented.



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Pete39

🕒 861 DAYS AGO

Gwyddno

He doesn't want Press Regulation at all -He wants Press SUPPRESSION. BIG DIFFERENCE!

What the Far Right and Far Left always strive for.

Thinking logically, why would that be?

Well we know the answer, don't we - It was the first thing the N*zis did and the thing EVERY Far Left and Communist regime does.

They want to hide their dirty secrets and undemocratic agendas.

In Moseley's case, its to try and eradicate the history of his parties with German military overtones.

Surely you can see that? Or don't you want to?

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👍 1 | 🗑️ 1



Gwyddno

🕒 861 DAYS AGO

@Pete39

So, you think that Lord Justice Levenson's recommendations are a far right / far left plot to suppress information about parties with German military Privacyertones?

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Taffyjimbob

850 DAYS AGO

Someone else written something you don't agree with Pete. Thought you were all for free speech and democracy. ?

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GeorgeKafantaris

863 DAYS AGO

Try as we may, Brexit will remain the task of fitting a square peg into a round hole. The sooner we see the futility of this effort the sooner the UK can deal with the pressing problems of the 21st Century. Remember, the world won't stop turning just because we're busy fighting with our own clothes.

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2 | 1



voiceforlogic

863 DAYS AGO

Well it is clear who's pocket you are in. Need I say more.

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1 | 4



TommyMato

863 DAYS AGO

I have no idea who you are referring to, Corbyn, the author of the article, or the commenter above you, nor do I know whose pocket they are in, so yes, you do need to say more.

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1 | 0



Pete39

862 DAYS AGO



2nd Request

Explanation please- Who's post are you referring to and who's pocket?

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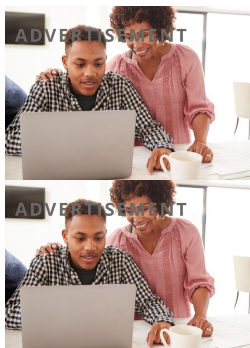
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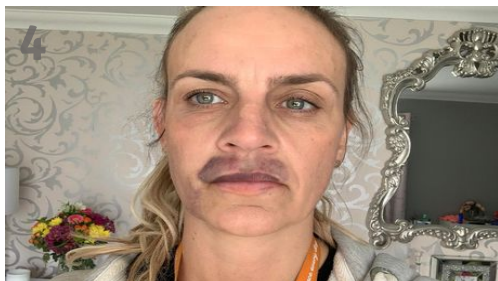


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