

‘Britain’s Trump’ finally got the boot

‘Britain’s Trump’ finally got the boot. After winning a staggering 80 seat majority in a landslide election victory in 2019 with the promise to ‘Get Brexit Done’ his tenure ends in humiliation 33 days short of that of his predecessor, Theresa May. That will certainly sting for the boy who wanted to be ‘World King’ when he got older.

The fall from grace is entirely Boris Johnson’s fault, after securing a mandate from 14 million people he did indeed deliver Brexit, but a constant slew of scandals and disregard for democratic norms and public office saw his political capital plummet within his first year.

It was Partygate, the tsunami of revelations starting in December 2021, which exposed government employees and ministers including the PM himself as having consistently broken the lockdown laws that they had imposed on the country, that really heightened public disquiet. Everybody made sacrifices during lockdowns and seeing the Metropolitan Police investigating and issuing fixed penalty notices to those involved, including the Prime Minister and the Chancellor, cut across party lines and demographics.

This resulted in a by-election loss in December 2021 in a constituency that had been true blue since 1904. Backbenchers, those MPs not in government, started to voice concerns that there should be a change of leadership and we saw the first resignations and letters of no confidence in an attempt to oust him. However, the shadow of that landslide victory a mere 2 years ago meant many stuck by a PM that had proved to be an electoral success, and anyway, who would replace him since he had purged many of the most competent ministers who had encouraged a softer Brexit relationship with the EU.

They trotted out lines of it being a media obsession and stated that ordinary British people backed Boris, taking a leaf out of Trump’s book, and that he would continue to ‘deliver’ for the UK. Boris Johnson’s regular contact with Zelensky of Ukraine was also a craven attempt to gaslight the public into swallowing their grievances in the face of war.

In May 2022 voters delivered their verdict in local elections where Conservatives made a net loss of 487 seats. It became clear to the Conservative Party that continuing with Johnson could do irreparable damage to their party, which has been in government since 2010. The 1922 committee, the powerful parliamentary group of Conservative backbench MPs started to mobilise the process for a no confidence vote. This happens when MPs send letters of no confidence to the Chairman of the Committee and when the threshold is reached, this time at 54 letters, then a no confidence vote in the leader is automatically triggered. In typical British fashion this threshold was reached during the Queen’s jubilee national celebrations and the vote was held the following day. He won, but with 41% of his own MPs voting against him which was a more damaging result than his predecessor Theresa May and also Margaret Thatcher before she was kicked out; he came away with a bloodied nose and vultures circling ready to finish him off.

Boris Johnson, as he always does, believed that to be the end of it, despite MPs pledging to change their own party rules which dictate the leader cannot face another vote of no confidence for 12 months, in order to force him from power before summer recess. The Hydra desperately needed to grow a new head.

Cue Chris Pincher, Deputy Chief Whip, a minister who has a history of sexual misconduct claims dating back to 2017 but had still been appointed to Theresa May’s government in 2018 and Boris Johnson’s that followed. More allegations of Pincher groping men followed and Boris Johnson attempted to declare the matter closed, not quite sensing, or not caring about the peril he was in as it surfaced that he had knowledge of these allegations in 2019 and continued to

promote the minister. Marred in sleaze, filth and controversy, the game was up but he refused to acknowledge reality.

On Tuesday 5th July the Chancellor Rishi Sunak and Health Secretary Sajid Javid resigned from government within minutes of each other triggering a tsunami of government resignations, 59 at the time of writing, including the most in one day for any Prime Minister in UK history. Boris Johnson tried to fill the vacant positions but by this morning (7th July) it became clear there were not enough ministers for the government to function. The men in suits went to Number 10 and it seems they finally managed to get the Prime Minister to understand his time was up.

And hereby lies the difference between 'Britain's Trump' and Trump himself, although both were deluded as to their fate and reality, with a personality complex so large they thought themselves Kings. One has a base as the Republican Party is still in Trump's pocket, whereas Boris Johnson has no base; the UK is not the US and his political career is over. The hyenas are licking their lips and a leadership contest will pick a new head for the Hydra whether that is this summer, or as Boris Johnson unrealistically hopes, in the Autumn.