

This piece is written by a worker, to fellow-workers. Not by a liberal, a commentator or member of any political elite. With the decision to leave the EU and the election of Trump, some of you responded to being badly treated by going for the wrong targets. And you allowed the real offenders off.

The people who oppressed you are business people and the business system - their system. Its that simple to name. Problem is, progressives call it neoliberalism. That's a useless term. Or else its called free markets, capitalism, maybe 'laissez-faire economics'. Its best called the Free-market business system. The problem people are not so much small business people and more the big business people. But small and big, they all support and demand, and get, the system that allows and encourages them to mis-treat the great mass of people – the working class. They mostly white – in the UK and the USA. But also other colours and shades.

In all the talk about Brexit and Trump, and nationalist populism in Europe, the poor life conditions that prompted many working class voters in Britain and the USA to vote as they did, the proveable fact that business people caused it never get a mention. The nearest references are to neo-liberalism or to 'the rich'. But they aren't the reasons disgruntled voters give. Aside from the mis-directed feelings they have about migrants, they come nearest to recognising the real reasons when they blame government and 'the establishment; and when they vote as they did just for 'change'. But that's not near enough.

There's a reason why government and the establishment and the so-called 'elites' let you down. Its because they, and we, rely on rich business people to organise our economy. 'Its the economy, stupid' Bill Clinton said. We depend on them to organise jobs, goods and services. And they demand freedom to do things their way – unregulated, unfettered capitalism – and to get fabulous rewards for doing so. Governments need to encourage them, because they demand growth. And governments and us need it too. Unless we regulate them and re-distribute what there is. Share The Wealth – and of power – make union entitlement a basic right. Truth is, well known, there's enough wealth in our societies to sort this out if we could just get them under control and prepared to work for their fellow-countrymen and women.

But not enough of us see it this way. So there's not enough of us pressurising not enough politicians to take them on. So, we get parties like the Democrats and the British labour Party – this writer is a member - with reasonable intentions to the working class of all colours – but not set up and backed enough to challenge them. So, these parties are forced to recognise that we need business people, have to work with them on their terms. We don't run the economy as socialists or producer co-ops, do we? We rely on them. So, if you can't take from them, coz they won't have it, won't invest and produce and generate jobs for us, how do progressive parties improve our lives?

By chasing growth. Growth enables them to let rich business people keep plenty of wealth, while allowing us a bit more too. It enables public services and support to be increased by tax raised off the growth, not off the rich. Enables more jobs to replace the ones that business people cut, with automation, outsourcing. Trouble is, none of

it is really under control. They were allowed free rein up to 2008, produced a mad collapse, but are allowed to carry on.

UK business benefited from being in the EU. But many of we workers didn't benefit. Governments should have recognised and ameliorated. But that's only social democratic governments. Conservatives get into government and they don't favour the rich business class only for growth. They do it because that's who they are, that's who they represent. That's Republicans and Conservatives, in the UK and other countries. The Democrats in the USA are a mixture of business people and liberals.

Many people voting for the UK to leave Europe, and people voting for Trump, targeted 'liberals' and 'metropolitan elites'. Why? Why liberals? They are business people or the better-off who care about poorer people. Do they prefer business people who don't care about them? Its because liberals have gone for the most obvious discriminations – skin, gender – and some of you feel neglected by these issues, while being badly treated by class. Yes, class is the invisible issue. You are badly treated by class. So are women and people of colour. What's happened is that the reasons for treating people badly by class are not recognised or tackled. They are, in the rest of my writings – see [www.lookatthesystem.com](http://www.lookatthesystem.com) See the charts *Its Your Money Not Theirs* about how to tackle their wealth. See *The Right To Organise In Unions* about how to tackle their power. But outside my work, their rights to oppress workers are still widely accepted.

What liberals have done, is not recognise class oppression, but recognised the even more obviously unfair discrimination suffered by working class women and people of colour, and done a bit to correct it. You, oppressed white workers, have seen this as favouritism and rebelled. But you've rebelled against the wrong thing because you are barely aware of the right thing to tackle – business people's power over all of us. That stands to be tackled by us recognising and trumpeting our right to respond to business people's power by organising – see *The Right To Organise In Unions*.

Because business people and their Free-market business system are given a free pass – taken to be just like nature, a law of physics – many Leave voters and Trump voters identified their interests by national identity, by nativism, by white-ism or by sexism. This is all nonsense, either way. There are real relationships to identify by. But skin colour, white, Hispanic, Asian, or black, gender, are not relationships. You can't ask anything of anyone by these shallow identifiers, they have no obligation to you, no loyalty by colour. There's no promise to stand by you in getting jobs, nor standing by you in jobs, nor in getting good health services, education, and justice. There's none of that available for you from the rich, from white business people, for sure. They are against you having job guarantees, against you having wage rises, against collective health services – they don't want to be paying tax for your benefit. Identifying by nation – USA! – USA! – USA! And 'Take back control' – should guarantee you such things. But they aren't, not with these people. What we have and need are real relationships, as workmates mainly, organised. As workers, unionised. One good thing out of Leave and Trump's support – the term working class has come back into use. The great unmentionable is back. There's more to do on it though. Working class, in terms of jobs, the economy and politics, surely means anyone who works for

someone else for a living. That includes the half of the working class who are masked and mis-defined defined as being middle class. This is done by defining them by income, not job status.

The vote on the EU in Britain, and the votes for Trump, and votes in Europe, are people taking opportunities given to them to strike out against being mistreated. But many have taken that but gone for the wrong targets. Identifying by nationality, by being white, by White-ism is useless but easy. Easy because to identify instead by real, relationship-based organisation, you have to do something. You have to join a real organisation – like a union - and make real commitments to each other. National identity and White-ism is easy because you don't have to do anything. No input, no commitments. Just express hostility to others, vote that way. But what results you expect? Business people and Farage and Trump might do things against minorities. But they won't do anything real for you. No job protection, no decent wages, no housing policy, no health service.

Free Trade was attacked in the USA election for President, with some hostility directed at big business people for exporting jobs. Trouble is, free trade is better than protectionism, better for total trade. But who gets the benefits? The big business people, the corporate owners, stock holders. If they want it, ok. But where it does no favours to working class, fellow Americans – make them pay some of it down.

For those in the identity groups excluded by national identity and by white-ism, there's a strong political trend to accept the discrimination by seeing politics as being about identity too. These people too don't see the centrality of Free-market business and job relationships, of the business class identity and the working class identity. Positive identity by colour and gender is also low in meaning. Yes, there is a shared issue of oppression, placed upon you by White-ists and some men. And it has to be opposed. But again, there are relationships that are far more meaningful. For example – working class women are far more oppressed by their class than by their gender. Same with people of colour. There's no real relationship in colour and gender . No organisation relating to jobs, housing, education, health services and the rest. The discrimination is to be opposed, of course. But identifying by it is accepting it. There's more to you than your gender or colour so don't self-define by it.

Identity needs to come from real relationships. Maybe family. Maybe sports teams. Best – from being able to rely on each other at work, against bosses' bossiness. Not enough of us do. And talking politics to each other as organised workmates. Not just locally, but across your employers operation, which can be worldwide.