





Getting Over New Labour

By Karl Pike

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REVIEWS

"Karl Pike's book is a compelling and thoughtful analysis that goes beyond the usual stereotypes of the Labour movement to actually get to grips with what has and keeps driving progressive politics in modern Britain. Anyone who wants to know the why, where, what and how of the next Labour Government should read it."

— Stella Creasy MP

"The Labour Party has been on an extraordinary political journey since it lost power in 2010 and the legacy of New Labour has been at the heart of this ideological contest. Karl Pike has written a brilliant and imaginative book that examines how, across the Miliband, Corbyn and Starmer eras, Labour has tried to come to terms with its longest ever period in government. It is a timely and important intervention that poses an important question for today's Labour Party: can it now put aside the increasingly baroque arguments about what Blair and Brown did for a new set of positive debates about what Starmer and Reeves ought to do?"

— Ben Jackson, Professor of Modern History, University of Oxford

"It is a curiosity that for such an ostensibly progressive and ideas-based party, Labour has spent so much of the past 15 years looking backwards and defining itself in relation to its interpretation of the legacy of one individual – Tony Blair. In this book Karl Pike, a practitioner turned academic, examines that paradox, and how the shadow of New Labour has shaped, and distorted, the approach of successive leaders, including Keir Starmer. On every incisive page he demonstrates his deep knowledge of Labour, and provides an effective sympathetic prism through which to see all that has happened inside Labour over the past few decades."

— Patrick Wintour, Diplomatic Editor, The Guardian

ABOUT THE BOOK

From the moment that the New Labour government left office in 2010, it became a bone of contention for the party. Ed Miliband was styled as the "moving on" leader, Jeremy Corbyn set himself up as its antithesis, Keir Starmer has begun a counter-reaction, embracing New Labour and particularly Tony Blair. Why has the party been seemingly unable to move on from this period in its history? Particularly given the tumultuous and eventful period of politics since 2015, with Brexit and Covid dominating parliamentary time for most of the last decade.

Karl Pike argues that it is impossible to understand the Labour Party today without an appreciation of how people in the party have reacted to the New Labour legacy. He unpicks the efforts each of the three leaders have made in reforming the party's ideology, its democracy and organization and their political style and approach to the leadership.

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- 1. Ideology: stuck between utopia and The Dog & Duck
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Conclusion

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Karl Pike is a Lecturer in Public Policy at Queen Mary University London. He is a former political advisor to the Labour Shadow Foreign Secretary and then the Shadow Home Secretary.

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