The Remainstream TV media's hysterical anti-Boris Johnson obsession is nothing less than an attempted coup... Across the BBC, Sky, ITN and Channel 4, the nakedly partisan Partygate coverage is relentless, writes MICK HUME

By MICK HUME FOR THE DAILY MAIL
PUBLISHED: 22:35, 7 June 2022 | **UPDATED:** 08:47, 8 June 2022

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On any number of issues, from his taxation policy to his apparent obsession with reaching net zero, I am profoundly at odds with **Boris Johnson**. But this week, I found that for once I wholeheartedly agreed with him.

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Sky News's hysterical Partygate coverage saw Sky's political editor, Beth Rigby, repeatedly ask Boris whether he would resign. She is understandably less keen to talk about her own transgressions

At the end of his speech to **Tory** MPs before the confidence vote on Monday, the Prime Minister asked them to ignore the siren voices of their TV screens and smartphones when it came to deciding how to cast their ballot.

'Let us,' implored Boris, 'refuse to dance to the tune of the media.'

What he meant was 'Don't be swayed by the broadcast news media's relentless obsession with **Partygate**, by the unending succession of anti-Boris commentators who have filled the airwaves for as long as we can remember, or by the constant carping over **Brexit** — something they consider the work of the Devil'.

And he was right to say so. For no self-respecting politician should dance to the media's tune. In a democracy, MPs are accountable to us, the electorate, not to a handful of elitist political editors on TV and radio, or self-appointed 'influencers' on social media.

In the event, Boris's words failed to have their desired effect and the huge number of Tory MPs who voted against him have damaged him beyond measure.

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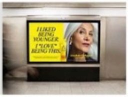

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But I can't help feeling that, in the febrile atmosphere of the Westminster hothouse, a number of the 41 per cent of Tory MPs who plunged the knife into the Prime Minister will indeed have danced to the tune of the Boris-hating media, even though many of them actually owe their position to the fact that he delivered Brexit and won the election with an 80-seat majority.

In effect, they tried to remove a premier with the greatest popular mandate since 1987 at the behest of the BBC, ITV, Channel 4, Sky and Twitter.

Whichever side you're on, it is bad news for democracy.

There are plenty of things that this Conservative government should be criticised for.

In the real world outside Westminster, from the Red Wall to the traditionally Blue shires, people are justifiably angry and disappointed with Johnson's administration.

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ITV political editor Robert Peston has been firing off a constant stream of tweets so infused with bitter anti-Boris bias that it is hard to decide whether he sees himself as a cheerleader for the Tory backbench rebellion or the actual convenor of it

Not only over its hypocrisy in relation to its lockdown rules, but over far bigger issues from the cost-of-living crisis to the broken promises about 'levelling up' and problems with his incomplete Brexit deal. That public anger is expected to be reflected both north and south in two by-elections later this month.

But whatever anybody thinks of Johnson and his government, the relentless, overblown campaign being waged against him over Partygate is a serious cause for concern.

This is not the objective journalism on which our broadcasters once prided themselves. It is a partisan propaganda war that looks about as confected as the cake at Boris's infamous nine-minute birthday party.

It was way back in last year that ITV News did itself proud with a genuine scoop, by breaking the story of Downing Street parties being held in defiance of lockdown regulations in 2020. It had a huge impact and people made their minds up about it pretty quickly.

Yet more than six months later, broadcasters are still constantly trying to whip up outrage and consternation about Partygate.

It is as if the BBC, ITV, Sky, Channel 4 and Twitter have all been infected by a virulent strain of what Elon Musk calls 'the woke mind virus'. And they are determined to spread it through the viewing public, starting in Westminster.

To my mind, news broadcasts from the 'Remainstream media' have come to resemble

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something like the telescreens pumping out one-note propaganda messages in George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four.

The BBC, of course, has been keen to maintain its prime position as the Boris-Bashing Corporation throughout this long-running affair.

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Mishal Husain, host of Radio 4's flagship Today programme, was supposed to be interviewing Tory minister Simon Hart about the Government's plan to tackle illegal immigration

Back in April Mishal Husain, host of Radio 4's flagship Today programme, was supposed to be interviewing Tory minister Simon Hart about the Government's plan to tackle illegal immigration.

But even on that subject she couldn't resist shoehorning in Partygate. 'Why should people stick to legal migration routes,' Husain demanded, 'when the Prime Minister himself has acted outside the law?'

When the hapless Hart tried to dispute the implication that Partygate meant Boris might be the moral equivalent of cross-Channel people-smugglers, she laughed at him.

Over on BBC TV, Panorama broadcast a special edition to greet the publication of Sue Gray's damning report into Partygate. In this bizarre piece of political melodrama, former Downing Street staffers were interviewed with their faces and voices disguised, as if they were hiding out, at risk of retaliatory attacks.

Meanwhile, BBC political editor Laura Kuenssberg reacted to their tales of drinking in Downing Street with the hushed tones and horrified expressions normally reserved for wartime atrocity stories.

BBC Europe editor Katya Adler, a critic of Boris and an opponent of Brexit from the off, has been wheeled out to warn us how damaging Partygate will prove for relations with the European Union.

This is the same Ms Adler who, in January 2021, at the height of the Covid pandemic, effectively sided with EU bureaucrats in the row over vaccines, accusing Johnson of unjustifiably 'berating' the EU for its idiotic political rejection of the Oxford Astra-Zeneca vaccine.

The BBC could not even bear to give Boris credit for his Government's extraordinary achievement in rolling out vaccines across the UK while the EU dithered and postured.

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After Boris won the vote of confidence this week, BBC reporter Geeta Guru-Murthy was outside Parliament demanding to know how any Tory MP could still have dared to support 'a man who's lied to the Queen, lied to the House of Commons, lied to the public'.

Johnson loyalist Lee Anderson MP was one of the few prepared to call out this Partygate obsession on air. 'The BBC,' he declared, 'has had it in for Boris from day one. It's been a massive witch hunt by you, and the Labour Party, and the mainstream media. Even now, you're not going to let this drop are you? You're going to go on and on and on. It's quite sad.'

Indeed it is. And the big commercial news broadcasters have been no better.

In between broadcasts, ITV political editor Robert Peston has been firing off a constant stream of tweets so infused with bitter anti-Boris bias that it is hard to decide whether he sees himself as a cheerleader for the Tory backbench rebellion or the actual convenor of it, praising MPs for attacking their leader on Twitter in 'the most clinical and damning terms'.

Peston has even tweeted wistfully about the 'days or [sic] yore' when Tory prime ministers told to resign by the party's men in grey suits 'did the decent thing and retired to their offices with the bottle of whisky and the revolver'.

But then, for Peston, the fact that Boris is still in power post-Partygate proves he is not only an indecent PM, he is also head of an 'elected dictatorship'. The President Putin of Britain, perhaps?

Meanwhile, Sky News's hysterical Partygate coverage saw Sky's political editor, Beth Rigby, repeatedly ask Boris whether he would resign.

She is understandably less keen to talk about her own transgressions, when she was suspended from our TV screens along with top Sky News presenter Kay Burley, for attending the latter's birthday knees-up during lockdown. But why let that get in the way of delivering a sanctimonious sermon?

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BBC Europe editor Katya Adler, a critic of Boris and an opponent of Brexit from the off, has been wheeled out to warn us how damaging Partygate will prove for relations with the European Union.

Her deputy at Sky, Sam Coates, has been busy making a spectacle of himself in Downing Street, shouting mad rhetorical questions — 'Are you proud of this Government?'; 'Is it see no evil, hear no evil?' — at Cabinet ministers as they enter and leave No 10. It is as if Alan Partridge has been brought to life as an anti-Boris nutcase.

For its part, Channel 4 News has a long track record of Boris-baiting and Brexit-bashing.

It replaced Johnson with a block of ice during an election debate on climate change (after refusing to allow former environment secretary Michael Gove to join). On election night in 2019, when the exit poll predicted Johnson's sweeping triumph, Channel 4's 'balanced' studio audience could immediately be heard gasping and booing in disbelief.

Channel 4 News veteran Jon Snow stepped down as anchor after publicly joining in a chant of 'F*** the Tories!' at Glastonbury Festival. But his successors have carried on in that same spirit of 'impartiality' while engaged in relentless trench warfare over Partygate.

It is on Twitter, however, that Leftist, Boris-despising media types have really run riot.

It is typical of Westminster's isolation that many Tory MPs should mistake this playground of the commentariat for the real world, and allow themselves to be swayed by it.

The reality gap between the Twitterati and the rest of us was starkly revealed this week, after Conservative minister Nadhim Zahawi told Sky News that Ukraine's President Zelensky would be 'punching the air' to celebrate his ally Johnson's win in the vote of confidence.

Cue outrage from Left-liberal sorts on Twitter, condemning Zahawi and the Government as 'utterly contemptible', 'loathsome', 'disgusting', 'desperate' and 'delusional' for daring to make such a suggestion about their hero.

+5
View gallery

Sam Coates has been busy making a spectacle of himself in Downing Street, shouting mad rhetorical questions — 'Are you proud of this Government?'; 'Is it see no evil, hear no evil?' — at Cabinet ministers as they enter and leave No 10.

They were still screeching right up to the moment Zelensky made clear that he is 'very happy [Boris won the confidence vote]. He is a true friend of Ukraine', adding 'I'm glad we've not lost an important ally'.

From the Today programme to Twitter, the addiction to Partygate has led to an outpouring of political prejudice dressed up as reporting. These media outlets have all been busy making mountains out of woke molehills, and hoping to bury Boris under a

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rockslide.

Why else would they have shown such unstinting fascination with the Downing Street parties, yet next to no interest in Labour leader Keir Starmer's 'Beergate' bash in Durham?

Some of us have long believed that the Government's worst offence was not breaking its own lockdown rules, but imposing those draconian and often irrational measures on the rest of us in the first place.

The broadcast media cannot even address that question, however, because back then the very commentators now berating Boris over Partygate were the loudest and most zealous voices demanding that he lock us down faster, harder and for even longer. They all bear a heavy responsibility for the mess that we are in.

This endless concocted scandal is no less than an attempted coup, instigated by the Remainer media elites who loathe Boris as the symbol of Brexit.

They became obsessed with Partygate because they see it as a stick with which to beat Boris, and one that could help persuade Tory MPs to get rid of him — without leaving it to the unreliable electorate to decide who is our Prime Minister.

Boris Johnson | Partygate | Brexit | Conservatives

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- Is the Oasis hype dying out? Tickets are being resold for just £20 for their upcoming Australian tour dates
- Colin Farrell reveals why Tom Cruise was 'not very happy' with him during their 2001 blockbuster film
- Gemma Collins looks incredible in a leopard print swimsuit as she poses with TOWIE star Harry Derbidge in Dubai - after losing another 18 pounds following 3 stone weight loss
- **EXCLUSIVE** Tiger Woods' ex Rachel Uchitel throws lavish bachelorette party ahead of third wedding to CEO fiancé
- Grantchester star Melissa Johns says her pregnancy has made her feel empowered after she was told her body was 'limited' after she was born without a right forearm
- Alison Hammond leaves This Morning viewers appalled admitting she hasn't had car insurance for a MONTH - before gasping 'I shouldn't have said that on live TV!'
- Katie Price launches attack against ex Dwight Yorke as she gets his estranged son Harvey to chant his name while wearing Man United kit
- Kim Kardashian reveals why her momager Kris Jenner is anxious about her next career move

- 'It feels like layers of my skin have been torn off': Kaye Adams says she is 'unable to sleep' after 'sh***iest weeks ever' amid BBC bullying probe
- Has Stephen Fry proved himself to be a traitor? GRANT TUCKER reveals why Fry has abandoned long standing friend JK Rowling
- Andrew 'faces private prosecution' over allegations of sexual assault, corruption and misconduct in public office
- EXCLUSIVE Mother who fell to her death from David Harbour's apartment revealed... as her 'wrecked' family break silence
- Floyd Roger Myers Jr. dead at 42: Actor who played young Will Smith on Fresh Prince of Bel-Air suffered heart attack at home
- Lily Allen announces her first tour in SEVEN years after the release of her explosive new album West End Girl that lays bare ex-husband David Harbour's affair
- EXCLUSIVE Conor Maynard mocks Charlotte Chilton in brutal social media post after she insisted he IS the father of her daughter
- Kirsty Gallacher's boyfriend leads chorus of outrage at Sadiq Khan after TV star was 'kicked like a football' during mugging in lawless London
- EDEN CONFIDENTIAL: Will strain on Andrew's daughters persuade him to quit Royal Lodge?
- Sam Thompson confirms romance with model Talitha Balinska and reveals why he hasn't asked her to be his girlfriend yet
- Gordon Ramsay reaches out to Brooklyn Beckham as the aspiring chef gets back in the kitchen after David and Victoria's surprise olive branch

- Kate Cassidy claims she has had a 'sign' from late boyfriend Liam Payne after she was in a car crash
- Rosemary Shrager, 74, reveals she's been 'badly' scammed twice and emotionally admits 'it's been a challenging time' as she addresses social media absence
- Celebrity Traitors host Claudia Winkleman's sell-out M&S coat from last year is back in stock - and it's flying off the shelves
- Hollyoaks bombarded with Ofcom complaints after harrowing rape and murder scenes in darkest episode to date leave viewers up in arms
- EXCLUSIVE Olivia Attwood puts on a leggy display as she joins Peter Crouch and Judi Love in Debenhams' sparkling Christmas ad
- Miquita Oliver says it was 'hard' to keep the names included in Lily Allen's break-up album secret as she reflects on fans 'visceral' reaction
- Sarah Beeny's husband and three nepo baby kids perform with their band at the O2 Academy while she supports them backstage
- EastEnders fans fume 'have the writers forgotten?!' as they call out baffling blunder at The Prince Albert bar - but can YOU spot it?
- Brooklyn Beckham shows off his tattoos as he picks up two smoothies in LA after one key family member reached out following David and Victoria's olive branch
- Jonathan Ross is FINALLY banished at tensest round table yet as fellow Traitors Alan Carr and Cat Burns brutally turn on him
- Meghan and Harry 'are booed' by crowd at Dodgers Stadium as angry sports fans hit out at couple's front row treatment

- Kirsty Gallacher's A-list celebrity friends rally around her after she was 'kicked like a football' during attack on London street
- Bridgerton star Genevieve Chenneour joins Lady Sabrina Percy and Henry Holland at Mayfair event hosted at Drake's
- Brooke Shields' nepo baby daughter Rowan Henchy, 22, 'set to star on reality TV show as she's spotted filming in New York'
- How Westlife fell victim to the curse of the boyband: 'Foolish' with money, links to a political scandal and an wedding row
- Nineties BBC TV icon 'set to return to screen after 25 years as known prankster makes a comeback'
  Unexpected
- Selling Sunset star is FIRED after 'diabolical' remark about Chrishell Stause's dead parents
- Prince Edward paid 'market value' for his Surrey country mansion, unlike Andrew's 'peppercorn rent' for Royal Lodge
- So how much of Lily Allen's album IS fiction? Star's songs about 'cheating' David Harbour lose favour with fans
- Kim Kardashian makes outrageous claim that the 1969 moon landing was fake: 'It didn't happen'
- Lila Moss puts on a leggy display in a chic black mini dress as she attends the star-studded WSJ Magazine Innovators Awards in New York
- Bella Hadid's cowboy boyfriend Adan Banuelos gives rare glimpse at their romance in PDA-packed photos
- Sound Of Guns singer Andrew Metcalfe dies as his heartbroken bandmates pay tribute to their 'friend and brother'

SARAH VINE: The Andrew snowball thunders on, flattening all in its path... The question is: Can the Royal Family outrun it?

- **Newly-wed Selena Gomez is radiant in purple at her Rare Beauty event after brand model blasted her for 'degrading' remark**

- **The most touching moments between Kate Middleton and the late Queen: From a heartwarming kiss to infectious laughter**

There's a reason so many women have no sympathy for Lily Allen. I'll be crucified for saying it, but someone has to: AMANDA GOFF

- **Nicole Kidman's face says it all as she hops off private jet after getting her 'revenge' on ex Keith Urban**
  Moving on

- **We've tracked down Zara Tindall's exact wool coat - and it's on sale with 30% off**

- **Who's really in charge in the Royal Family? Have your say in the Palace Confidential poll**

- **Lily Allen reveals she flew 6,000 miles to JAPAN in her quest to 'hook up' with a celebrity**
  Long distance

- **Girlfriend of Gloria Estefan's daughter is arrested for allegedly hitting her with a cellphone**

- **Kirsty Gallacher breaks downs as she reveals she was physically assaulted while walking from work to her car in London**

- **Kim Kardashian is MORTIFIED after mom Kris Jenner embarrasses her in front of All's Fair costar Glenn Close on The Kardashians**

- **Sydney Sweeney goes VIRAL for devouring hot dog at Dodgers game in flirty snaps**
  Big appetite

- Tom Grennan shows off his abs as he strips naked for raunchy new shoot after channelling his addictive personality into fitness
- Celebrity Traitors reveals HUGE double plot twist for penultimate episode of hit series as Jonathan Ross is finally banished
- Hailey Bieber slips into LBD for solo appearance at event after Justin's eyebrow-raising remarks about 'cheating'
- Michelle Keegan 'set to hit Hollywood as A-list star Reese Witherspoon eyes her up for lead role in book adaptation'
- Celebrity Traitors viewers spot the hilarious moment host Claudia Winkleman 'breaks character' during bridge task
- Ireland Baldwin enjoys family hike with mom Kim Basinger after revealing dad Alec was her 'rock' during rehab stint

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