

UK's Prime Minister Resigns



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Starmer resigns as UK Prime Minister. The media has portrayed his 'left' replacement as Lenin. What are his actual policies?

Details. On 22 June, Keir Starmer [announced](#) his resignation as Prime Minister. The Labour Party is to open [nominations](#) from 9 to 16 July, allowing for a dispute to take place and for the party to have a new leader by the time Parliament returns from recess on 1 September. However, if only one person comes forward, there might be a new leader by mid-July.

► Pressure began in February after it was [revealed](#) Starmer had known the ambassador to the US had ties to the late pedophile Jeffrey Epstein. Initially defending the Prime Minister, after a terrible [performance](#) in the May local elections – with heavy gains for the populist right Reform UK – there was a party rebellion, with over 90 Labour MPs [calling](#) for his resignation. Even before any official announcement, Donald Trump [said](#) Starmer "will resign."

Context. Winning the 2024 election with a "[landslide](#)," Starmer's approval reached a low of 19%. He had [promised](#) change from the 14 years of Conservative governance and to serve the working people – even calling himself a [socialist](#).

► His government saw a number of [u-turns](#) on controversial policies, such as cuts to winter fuel allowance for pensioners or cuts to disability benefits. His government attempted to pander to the far-right on issues such as immigration and trans-rights, losing much support from the left.

► Labour's promised expansion of workers' rights was delayed and [diluted](#). British workers faced worsening living standards: healthy lifespans [shortened](#), essential goods became less [affordable](#), and the poorest 40% saw falling wages. [Recorded](#) cases of modern slavery also reached a record high. Meanwhile, military spending rose to [Cold War](#) levels and support for [Israel](#) continued despite widespread public [opposition](#). These developments coincided with [record](#) trade union membership growth in 2025.

► Labour had previously called for an end to the "[chaos](#)" of the Conservative leadership, which went through 5 Prime Ministers between 2016 and 2024. Now, with Labour's contribution, the UK is set to have its 7th Prime Minister in 10 years. A trend of political crises is observed across the world, such as [France](#) and [Nepal](#).

Important to Know. The most likely replacement is the (now former) Mayor of Manchester, Andy Burnham. His strong [victory](#) against Reform in the Makerfield by-election in mid-June made him a [popular](#) alternative. Numerous figures were also [considered](#), but the party is still deciding whether someone else should [contest](#) to present an image of democratic dispute.

► Burnham has said people want [change](#) – a motif also used in [Starmer's](#) election campaign. He [said](#) Labour must move to the left and that the "underdogs" should be championed. This image is further exaggerated by the media, with him even being [referred](#) to as "comrade Burnham," and his train ride down to Westminster being compared to Lenin's train journey back to St. Petersburg for the October Revolution.

► However, in many ways he [continues](#) Starmer's policies, such as justifying the far right through curbing immigration, welfare cuts and increased military spending

(something [many](#) in government wanted more of). He also claims water and utilities should be publicly owned; in reality he means directly owned by the capitalist state, similarly to Starmer's nationalisation of [railways](#) and [steel](#), with profits distributed among the capitalist class while the burden is still borne by workers.

► Burnham does propose some unique policies. Under the umbrella of "[Manchesterism](#)," referred to by him as a "[business friendly socialism](#)," there are measures such as devolution, giving more financial autonomy for cities and shifting power away from London. He also [defends](#) proportional representation, as opposed Britain's [first past the post](#) system. This changes the form of government, but does not alter its content, as none of the parties belong to the working class, meaning the state remains a tool for the capitalists.

Original article