

# RETURN TO DONCATRAZ

## DO SOMETHING!

Maybe the movie made you laugh, maybe it made you cry, maybe it made you want to escape. But most of all we hope it made you want to change things. Here's how.

**TALK.** After your screening, with or without the filmmaker present, hold a facilitated discussion. If it's a small screening, go around the room and brainstorm; if it's a large screening, have people raise their hands with ideas. You might want to hold a follow-up meeting of interested, passionate people - if one of the film's many issues raised was of particular interest to your audience, then you may want to focus on that (i.e., right-wing media control, welfare spending, the 'debt problem', immigration, NHS privatisation, etc.)

**HOST.** Each viewer is likely to be from a different community that they may want to screen the film in. The more people it reaches, the more awareness increases. Remember - a lot of good people read Murdoch's media and the Daily Mail, and it's those we have to reach. Follow *Return to Doncatraz* online to access additional online resources (<http://www.doncatraz.com/> <https://www.facebook.com/Doncatraz> <https://twitter.com/Doncatraz>) and distribute! The film can be found online at [www.doncatraz.com](http://www.doncatraz.com)

**GIVE.** Tell people the truth about this government and help smash lies being promoted by them and their media friends! The film is free for all to see online so share widely using hashtags such as #GE2015 and #CameronMustGo. Also use the questionnaire at the end of this campaign pack to help people question dominant narratives and information presented as 'facts'.

**READ.** We have produced an in-depth reader for the documentary backing all the arguments and claims up in detail and with sources. This can be found at <https://gumroad.com//ReturntoDoncatrazReader> and costs only £1.00 to purchase. The money goes back into the not for profit organisation SilenceBreaker Media to help with the production of alternative media and accessible technology for all.

**TELL.** The next time you hear a good, honest person repeating something they read in one of Murdoch's rags, give them a few fast facts to set them straight. Please see the FAQ section below for this.

**CAMPAIGN.** You can join existing campaigns to campaign against the issues discussed in the documentary, you can start your own campaign especially with social media now key to communication, or you can even use some of our Return to Doncatraz stickers to help circulate awareness of the film. Raise awareness and let people know who the real bad guys are.

## F.A.Q

(for more sources and information please see the *Return to Doncatraz Companion* book)

### 1) Do we have any money left?

- **Key point:** there is a difference between the debt and deficit – deficit is the difference between expenditure and income over a certain period of time whereas the debt is the overall amount of money we owe (so lots of deficits added up). There is also a difference between public and private debt, with public being government spending and private debt representing households, businesses and private sector debt. Public and private debt added together is the Total UK debt.
- **Key statistic:** In 2010, public debt was 52.08% of GDP (Chantrill N.D.a). Debt has increased whilst the Tory government was in power and now stands around 80% – contra to what they promised. Debt was near 240% (237.94% in 1947 to be precise) of GDP after World War II (Chantrill N.D.b) – after being 135% in 1919 after the First World War (Chantrill N.D.c) - and instead of the narrative being “there is no money left”, the government invested and borrowed to create the welfare state and a National Health Service!
- **Interesting fact:** The British Empire was built on debt (Chantrill N.D.c).
- **Reality:** “Experts say that when interest payments reach about 12% of GDP then a government will likely default on its debt...the UK is a long way from that risk”, as interest payments are now around 3 percent of GDP (Chantrill N.D.c).
- **Concerning fact:** When considering private debt, the Total UK Debt stands around 500% of GDP (Pettinger 2013)! The private debt however, is not talked about with a focus rather on public debt. Private debt, especially through consumer and household borrowing via credit cards and loans, is actually relied upon to ensure 'growth'.

### 2) Do we have a welfare crisis?

- **Key fact:** Only 0.7% of the total spent on benefits is fraudulent – whilst the public believe it to be around 34 times higher than this (Grice 2014).
- **Interesting fact:** There is significantly more unclaimed benefits than fraudulent benefits (Worrall 2013).

- **Key fact:** You'd think that working age benefits amount for most of the welfare budget; however, 47% of UK benefit spending goes on state pensions, with more spent on this than paying off our debt (Rogers 2013). In 2011-12, only £4.91 billion was spent on jobseeker's allowance a year (Rogers 2013). The state pension has not even been included in the welfare cap.
- **Important fact:** The cuts to welfare and the increase in sanctions is ideological. Sanctions against disabled and sick people increased in a year by 350% under this government, for instance (Dugan 2014a). Such sanctioning is extremely harsh, as shown by how nearly half of the jobseeker's allowance sanctions reviewed were overturned (Dugan 2014a).

### 3) Has there been a 'job revival'?

- **Key fact:** One of the main reasons for the improvement in employment figures is that there has been a rise in self-employment. ONS figures show that self-employment in the UK is at its highest since records started around 40 years ago – whilst there has been an average 22% drop in the real pay of self employed people since 2008-09 (Monaghan 2014). Self-employment has been termed “the last refuge of the desperate”, whilst self-employment has increased across the country, except Northern Ireland, there has been a drop or freeze in traditional employee work – except in London – which does not get properly reported, especially in terms of the reasons for this trend, when job figures are headlining (Clark 2014).
- **Key fact:** Zero-hour contracts, where workers have no guaranteed working hours, are also increasingly popular with around 1.8 million of such contracts existing with 700,000 people having this as their main job (Inman 2015).
- **Important fact:** The Living Wage Commission found that the majority of those in poverty are actually working (BBC 2014a).

### 4) But what about the immigrants?

- **Key fact:** Robert Chote, the government's independent economic advisor, has said that cutting net migration into the UK to below 100,000 a year by 2015 is likely to increase debt (BBC 2014b).
- **Myth busting:** Despite the panic and fear, Migration Observatory found there was no surge in migrants from Romania and Bulgaria “after seven years of transitional controls were lifted on 1st January 2014” (Travis 2014).

- **Key fact:** Stephen Nickell, on the board of the Office for Budget Responsibility, has said that without immigration our NHS would be "in dire straits" (BBC 2014c).
- **Key fact:** "Migrant entrepreneurs have set up one in seven UK companies" (Saul 2014).
- **Key fact:** "Most of the modest upgrade to the OBR forecasts [in the 2015 Budget regarding the UK's] long-term growth potential... came from higher-than-expected inward migration, which boosts the size of the workforce" (Stewart 2015).
- **Key fact:** Blaming immigration is a way of taking attention from the real causes of inequalities that are the result of government policies to do with things such as housing, tax, wages and the economy.

## 5) Why are foodbanks so popular now?

- **Myth busting:** Trussell Trust, the largest food bank provider in the UK, has found the demand for food banks have increased by 300% from 2013-2014 (Green 2014). Under this government sanctions have become more punitive, with "half of those referred to food banks in 2013-14 as a result of benefit delays or changes" (Dugan 2014b).
- **Key fact:** Some people have even brought back items they received from the food bank because they can't afford to cook it (Morris 2014).
- **Key fact:** Whilst local government has been cut by 40% (Studdert 2014) (however, there are important regional differences with some Tory councils experiencing limited cuts in spending, whilst areas like Doncaster have seen a cut of £208.63 in spending per head (SYFAB 2013)), around £3 million of public money has been spent by a third of local councils in England and Wales in subsidising food banks (BBC 2014d).

## 6) Did Labour's borrowing cause the 2008 financial crisis?

- **Myth busting:** The cause of the 2008 international financial crisis was not Labour's spending or borrowing. It originated in the United States after they had used complex financial products that were supposed to spread risk around but actually – through the selling of mortgages to people that couldn't afford it – caused the crisis as lots of financial institutions around the world realised they held 'toxic' debt (Foster 2008). This therefore slowed down credit flows with Labour then spending £1.5trillion on bailing out the banks (Rowley 2011). It was therefore the banks and private sector that cost the economy, not the public sector.

- **Key fact:** The Conservative Party supported Labour's spending plans up until 2008 (BBC 2007).
- **Myth busting:** This current government has added more to Britain's national debt than Labour did in thirteen (1997-2010) (*The Huffington Post UK* 2013)!

## 7) Have the Tories protected the NHS?

- **Myth busting:** There was a real term decrease in NHS spending for at least 1 year of the Tory government despite their promise to increase the NHS spending in real terms, each year (Full Fact 2013).
- **Key fact:** Under the government there was the lowest real annual increase in spending on the NHS since the 1950s feeling like a cut for many in the NHS (Appleby 2014).
- **Myth busting:** There hasn't been a reduction in terms of average time until treatment in the A&E compared to the Labour government whereas in terms of total time spent in the A&E, “waits have actually lengthened” (Cooper 2014a).
- **Key fact:** The changes to the way GPs are funded, brought in by the Tory government, has seen around 100 GP surgeries, at least – “especially in deprived inner city areas, remote rural areas, and university practices” - threatened with closure (Cooper 2014b). This relates to the Tory government's decision to remove the Minimum Practice Income Guarantee (Cooper 2014b).
- **Key fact:** The government removed the cap on the amount of money hospitals can make from private patients – from an average of 6% to 49% - since this change, several hospitals – especially in London – have utilised this to increase their income generation with some reaching 40% from private income (Watt 2014).
- **Myth busting:** Spending by the NHS on private providers has increased by 60% under this coalition government (Campbell 2015).
- **Key fact:** The Commonwealth Fund rated the UK's healthcare system as the best in the world and highlighted how relatively the UK spends less on healthcare than other countries rated poorer than it, like the US – with the UK spending £2,008 per head, less than half the £5,017 in the US (Campbell and Watt 2014).

## 8) But Ukip look like they have things sorted?

- **Key fact:** Farage was criticised for admitting that in 2009 he had claimed £2,000,000 in taxpayers' money for expenses as an MEP (Dearden 2014c).



- **Myth busting:** Farage went to a public school (the term is misleading, as it refers to fee paying, elitist schools) (Cohen 2014) and is a former banker. Despite Farage earning an estimated £3.75 million over the last 15 years, Farage maintains that he doesn't know anyone in politics as poor as him and his wife (Cusick 2014).
- **Key information:** In the book there are a list of gaffes that members of the Ukip party have done.
- **Key fact:** Nick Griffin – the former leader of the BNP – has said that he will vote for Ukip at the next election (Stone 2014).
- **Myth busting:** Leaked Ukip executive meeting documents show that Farage would look to privatise the NHS despite continually denying this (Withnall 2015). Farage has openly said that replacing the NHS with an insurance based system is “a debate that we're all going to have to return to” (BBC 2015a).
- **Key fact:** The founder of The Anti-Federalist League in 1991, that was renamed Ukip in 1993, has been critical of the path the party is now on (Sked 2014).
- **Key fact:** Farage wrote in Margaret Thatcher's condolence book after she died that she is someone who “fundamentally changed my life” (ITV News 2013) .
- **Key fact:** Also, if you need any more proof that Ukip really aren't the anti-establishment vote and party they claim to be and are basically Tories with a mask, then consider how they supported the Conservative deficit plans outlined in the Autumn statement that would have cut public spending as a percentage of GDP to its lowest level since the 1930s (BBC 2015b; Wintour and Elliott 2014).

## 9) But they're all the same?

- **Key fact:** If the Conservatives were to be re-elected, spending cuts expected during the next few years of Parliament are unlike anything we have seen so far (Eaton 2015). The Tories would “cut spending more severely in the next two years than the coalition has in any year so far” (May2015 2015). “The cuts scheduled for next year are *more than four times greater* than the cuts Britain is facing over the next twelve months” (May2015 2015).
- **Myth busting:** There is still a significant gap in spending projections of the two main parties, as “by 2019/20, the difference between Labour and the Conservatives would be £31bn” (Resolution Foundation 2015).
- **A few differences between the main 2 parties:** Labour would repeal the 'bedroom tax', reverse NHS privatisation, introduce private rent

controls, end state-owned company bans on bidding for rail contracts. The Labour Party is funded by ordinary people through the trade unions and the Tories are funded through the City of London and rich people's donations.

- **Key point:** Other parties, such as the Green Party, illustrate the need for electoral reform as under this current system the smaller parties are unlikely to get huge gains in electoral representation regardless of support levels (the Liberal Democrats in 2010 are a good example of this). This also relates to the problems of the mainstream media with almost 78 per cent of our press owned by a handful of mostly foreign-based billionaires that support the Conservative party agenda (London 2013). This is why making our own, accessible media is important.

## 10) We're all in this together though?

- **Myth busting:** We are told that there is no money left, but 2014 saw the increase, for the first time, of billionaires in the UK to over 100 (there were 88 in 2013) according to the *Sunday Times* Rich List, meaning “the UK has more billionaires per head of population than any other country” (BBC 2014e).
- **Myth busting:** The Equality Trust found that “the poorest 10% of households pay eight percentage points more of their income in all taxes than the richest” (Allen 2014).
- **Key fact:** Oxfam have said with “current trends the richest 1% would own more than 50% of the world’s wealth by 2016” (Elliott and Pilkington 2015).
- **Key fact:** The Conservatives support such a system, after all 50% of their party funding comes from the City of London (Watt and Treanor 2011).
- **Key fact:** In 2012 it was revealed that “the combined wealth of the Cabinet is estimated at nearly £70 million” (Hope 2012).
- **Key fact:** “If the national minimum wage had kept pace with FTSE 100 CEO salaries since 1999, it would now be £18.89 per hour instead of £6.50” (Dorling 2014).

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## QUIZ

**Q1) What do you think the public debt, as a % of GDP, in 1947 was (figure rounded up)? (Circle your answer)**

10%    50%    100%    150%    200%    240%

**Q2) What do you think the public debt, as a % of GDP, is now (figure rounded up)? (Circle your answer)**

10%    30%    60%    80%    100%    150%    200%

**Q3) Interest payments on debt are said to cause risk of defaults when they reach around 12% of GDP. What % of GDP do you think the UK currently pays on its public debt? (Circle your answer)**

3%    5%    10%    12%    15%    20%

**Q4) How much of that spent on benefits do you think goes on fraudulent benefits? (Circle your answer)**

0.7%    1.5%    10%    17%    37%

**Q5) How much did it cost to bail-out the banks after the 2008 financial crisis? (Circle your answer)**

£50,000    £100,000    £1.5 million    £1.5 billion    £1.5 trillion

**Q6) Who has added more to Britain's national debt whilst in government? (Circle your answer)**

New Labour (1997-2010)    Conservative-LibDem Coalition (2010-2015)

**Q7) Who do you think spends more on healthcare? (Circle your answer)**

United Kingdom    United States

**Q8) How much of the press do you think is owned/run by foreign-based billionaires? (Circle your answer)**

10%    18%    28%    48%    68%    78%    100%

**Q9) Which country has more billionaires per head of the population than any other country?**

US    Australia    UK    Canada    Russia

## **Answers**

**Q1) 237.94% (240%)**

**Q2) 81.58%**

**Q3) 3%**

**Q4) 0.7%**

**Q5) 1.5 trillion**

**Q6) Conservative-Liberal Coalition**

**Q7) United States - the UK spending £2,008 per head, less than half the £5,017 in the US**

**Q8) 78%**

**Q9) UK**