



**WOODS:** You are my go-to guy on things like this. I want to know what the real scoop is. First of all, you personally, what has been your political affiliation, if any, over the years?

**BAXENDALE:** Well, I was inspired as a young adult, or teenager actually, to get involved in the Thatcherite politics. And that was really – well, it was called the New Right at the time, and it was a reaction against the 1970s socialism, that was – economic socialism, that is – that was kind of fostered upon the United Kingdom so disastrously. And then Maggie Thatcher came along and blew it all apart and reclaimed the nation and really the UK, out of a great hole. So then I realized I'm effectively what we call here in the UK an economic liberal. You use slightly different terminology in America, I understand. You describe that more as economic libertarian. But as an economic liberal here, then over the years, you start questioning some of the more conservative social policies, and you realize that you need to apply your economic beliefs consistently, and that means you need to be a social liberal as well. And so I flirted between really conservatism and in America what you call libertarianism ever since. But I'm an entrepreneur and a businessman primarily.

**WOODS:** Right. Right, right, and I'd love to have a conversation with you about that, and maybe one of these days in person, actually, we can do that. I want to know now, given that we heard last week – the thing is last week, I did a week of episodes with one person every day, and I had announced it, and then these momentous events were occurring. We had the UK elections; we had this bombshell news report about the war in Afghanistan and how it had basically been perpetuated by misleading the American people. But I already had all my episodes locked in, and I couldn't get to those topics at the time. So we're a little bit late. Better late than never.

But I'll tell you what we heard on this side of the pond, which was that, well, a couple things: first, crazy people are in charge now over there, was the impression we got. Also, though, and from a more sober perspective, there was a basic level of analysis according to which Johnson is Trump, and if he has this kind of success against the hard left over there, then the left in the United States better take notice and moderate itself, or they're going to have the same experience with Trump. So what do you think about that? And then let's step back, and what is your impression overall of what happened?

**BAXENDALE:** Well, wow, Tom, many interesting things to bring out of that series of questions. First of all, is Johnson Trump? No. Boris is Boris Johnson. He's an extremely educated and cultured individual. I think that's different to your president.

**WOODS:** I can't believe you would say something like that, Toby.

**BAXENDALE:** [laughing] I think that's remarkably different. Look, much as I respect the American president because he's the chosen representative of the American people, whom I have a great fondness and respect for, but he's a completely different character to Boris Johnson. But what they do have in common, and this is the really salient point and this is where the left really, really, really ought to learn, is he has the common touch. And he has an ability to be able to reach out to those people who are marginalized or have been marginalized by the globalization, crony-capitalism, and all the various things that have had bewailed both our nations.

He has a remarkable ability to reach out to these people to the extent now – I mean, I would never ever, ever believe this in my entire lifetime. Thatcher came nearly close to it, but she did not ace it. The Tory Party, the conservative party, is now the largest party of the working class people. It has more working class or what would be traditionally described as working class voters than it does the Labour Party, which was set up to represent working class interests. And Boris Johnson does it, and he cuts the mustard. I mean, to the certain extent, there are constituencies that are never, never in the entire history of our nation had a Tory representative, had a conservative, and this time they've got him. One of my fishing constituencies, Great Grimsby, has never had a Tory, and now as a Tory member of Parliament, because you see, the people are fed up with the ruling elites in this country effectively marginalizing them and leaving them aside to rot.

And actually, you Tom, as an Austrian economists will understand this more so than anything. We had the bailout of the banks in 2008. After telling people on the margin, you can't have this, you can't have that, there's no money for this, there's no money for that, you do a 400 billion pound bailout, which is probably equivalent to \$700 billion at that point in time, for a nation that's probably, I don't know, one-sixth of the size of the United States or maybe even one-tenth of the size. I can't remember what it is at the moment. But you know, a huge, tremendous bailout, to then effectively put these bankers on the welfare state of credit, so underlie the earnings of the City of London and to keep all these people in jobs. How inflammatory is that to the steel worker in the north who's just lost his job, or to the fisherman whose quotas been cut back because there's 27 other nations who have the rights to fish in our waters because we're part of the EU?

And you see, Boris Johnson understands that, and he's not part of that, and that's why he can reach out to the working people. And the Brexit thing, you see, is a manifestation of this, where you have the EU sucking 2% of our GDP out of our economy and for what? People ask, what are we getting for it? Why are we keeping these people in positions of power and influence and in luxury, and receiving nothing or perceived very little back for it? So unless you understand that, you don't understand the rage that exists within the mass of the common people here. And that's why Boris Johnson absolutely aced it in that election.

And I think your American counterparts trying to – and this is one thing that, well, you'll understand this, Tom, because I know what kind of political views you have. But Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren talking about socialism, you know, my country here and the working people here have rejected those policies absolutely at 100% stuck two fingers up to those policies, because none of them in the working class or the poor or the marginalized wants socialism. They want hope. They want aspiration. They want a chance to get up the ladder. They're not interested in any of this nonsense that comes out of – our one is Jeremy, – or our one hopefully no more, Jeremy Corbyn and the Labour Party. And I know you've got some challenges with those other two characters I mentioned, but socialism is not a popular thing.

**WOODS:** Well, let me talk about some exit polling that I saw about why people voted the way they did. Why did they give this overwhelming victory to Boris Johnson and his folks? And the primary answer was Brexit, and then down the list was the economic policies. So I wonder if American observers are overdoing it when they say, *Ah, well, the Brits have rejected socialism. Look at the election results.* That looks like it wasn't necessarily their top priority.

**BAXENDALE:** No, it's a mix, without a shadow of a doubt. But my opinion, the top priority is actually a more fundamental thing, which is about democracy. We voted, Tom, three and a half years ago to leave the European Union. I mean, it's a fairly binary thing. You know how democracy is, and we've all been on the losing side, and we all accept it. We then had three and a half years of our parliamentarians, elected representatives, ignoring the will of the people and doing unconstitutional things to make sure that vote didn't happen.

So yeah, my mother is a Remainer, was a Remainer. She's a Remainer through fear of the unknown, not through any love for the EU. But fundamentally, she's a democrat first, and these parties, the only party that was prepared to honor the referendum result, was the Tory Party. So anyone who is a democrat who really values democracy over and above everything else — I mean, it's a disgrace that my country in the 21st century, a pillar of democracy, the mother of Parliaments, could be playing dice, gambling with the very future of democracy. So there are loads of people who ultimately said no, we know what you've been doing in Parliament, we know you're trying to overturn this result, and we know your European partners are in collusion with you trying to overturn this result. So we put democracy first, we, as the people. And that's what they did.

But they didn't want the socialism, as well. They didn't want the economic policies. Free broadband, we were offered. They know it's a bribe, Tom. They're not stupid. The bribes that were coming out from the Labour Party were just getting ridiculous. People see through that.

**WOODS:** Let me ask you a little something further about Brexit before we go on. I was on Twitter the other day, as so many depressing stories begin, and I came across some people who were so-called anarchists who are Remainers.

**BAXENDALE:** Yeah.

**WOODS:** And I thought, how could you be an anarchist and want to remain in this supernational bureaucracy? Wouldn't that be the opposite of anarchism, no matter what kind of anarchism you're talking about? So I made fun of them a little bit. And I had somebody come back at me and say: think of it this way. With the EU, I don't have to show my papers to people. I can move easily. Goods can move freely. We act as if there are no states. So how is that not in practice better than the world you want with a bunch of states constantly restricting me? How would you answer that?

**BAXENDALE:** Well, it's not quite true. Remember his single market that he's referring to, that's a single market with a mass protectionist wall that's sticking its two fingers up to the rest of the world, including your country, where we have an amazing amount of goods and services that we prohibit from coming in here. So it's a protectionist trade racket, the EU. Yes, from me sitting here in London, I can move to Rome quite freely. Yes, I get all that internally in the single market. That is a proxy for a free market environment. But fundamentally, it's within the walls of a huge, great, big protectionist trade block. So, no, I don't accept what that anarchist is saying, I'm afraid. I think he/she is wrong.

**WOODS:** Well, I was inclined to think so too, but I thought, why not see what Toby Baxendale thinks? Now, I do want to ask you about whether —

**BAXENDALE:** Oh and, Tom, sorry, can I just say —

**WOODS:** Oh, please.

**BAXENDALE:** — another thing about that protectionist trade block from an economic perspective? The EU would argue, well, we have 75 free trade agreements with countries around the world. We're the greatest promoters of free trade. Well, yes, on the piece of paper, it does say "free trade agreement," but when you go down into the detail of all these free trade agreements, the regulatory barriers to entry are often so extreme, they are prohibitive to much trade; hence, you've got, for example, chocolate producers who own the raw material, who can only send in raw material to then be processed by effectively protected industries within Europe who don't grow cocoa, Belgium, Switzerland, etc. being examples. So it really is a nasty trade block. And only 3% of UK businesses export to the EU, so the 97% of UK businesses have to obey all those regulatory rules and requirements that the 3% need to obey, as well. And then anyone from outside has to effectively come up to or adhere to those standards, which is just so prohibitive for trade. It's anti-poor, for a start. So it really is a wolf in sheep's clothing to say that it's a promoter of free trade. So again, your anarchist interlocutors are very misguided.

**WOODS:** Okay, all right, that is just what I wanted to hear. All right, in the United States, the way the media reports on the two major political parties, it's pretty laughable. I mean, the Republican Party has its problems, but it's not the way they portray it. The problem with the Republican Party is not that it wants to abolish everything and it's made up of crazy, extreme people. The problem is the Republican Party is much too timid, and its message is ambiguous and watered down half the time, and when they get in power, they don't really get anything done. They wind up doing the opposite of what they say they're going to do. So I wonder if the same situation prevails in the UK in the reporting on the parties there. So how should we really look at the parties you have? What is the real truth about them?

**BAXENDALE:** Well, Tom, again, a very, very good question. I think only at certain times — Thatcher was a classic example of this — do you get a politician who says, *This is the vision. We are going to do this, and I am going to make sure this is done*, and they do it, yeah? Then we've had various periods of people just being effectively in the center and filling the stereotype that you're alluding to there. With someone like Boris, he has the mandate and he has the vision and he has the personal strength and leadership and character to deliver through what he says he's going to deliver through.

Now, from my perspective, some of it is very good and very deliverable. Other of it, you're bordering on managerial-type welfare, socialist-type provision. He's what we call a one-nation Tory, and you've got to be very careful of that. He does believe in a bigger role for the state. But I don't doubt he will 100% deliver up on that, and that's a function of leadership. So with regard to your — I suspect that you've gone through a similar kind of period of drift in the United States. Maybe Trump is a guy who does deliver up on what he says. I'm not close enough to it, Tom. I'm not, so don't know the answer to that from an American perspective. But we are now seeing it via function of leadership, that we now have someone who says what he will do. I really genuinely believe he'll do it, which will be a breath of fresh air for politics here. We haven't seen that for many years.

**WOODS:** Well, now I'd like to get your opinions of the man who is despised by everybody these days, even his own people because of the scale and scope of the defeat. And that's Jeremy Corbyn, who had been a leader of Labour for a number of years. I've heard numerous things about him and different types of criticisms. What is your opinion of him?

**BAXENDALE:** Well, it's very low. I mean, unfortunately, what you've heard stands up to scrutiny. He is pathologically anti-British, 100% anti-American, has supported every terrorist organization who's had a beef with the United Kingdom and by implication almost certainly with the United States, publicly supported them. He's anti-monarchy. Americans might think, well, yeah, maybe he should be, but the monarchy is a very much-loved institution here. He doesn't stand at the national anthem. He is a Marxist, believes that Venezuela and Cuba have been shining lights to the way to run a country. He's recently tweeted about the Bolivian guy, that he thought it was terrible that the President had been deposed by the people, the people who recognize that he rigged the election.

I mean, Corbyn is — and the anti-Semitism, Tom. I mean, the anti-Semitism is there. The only party to be investigated formally by the International Human Rights Commission is the British National Party — that's the fascist party — and the Labour Party. You know, Jewish Labour MPs have left the party. Jewish members have left the party. Jews were interviewed before the election saying they are genuinely in fear of living in this country. This is Britain in the 21st century. I can't even believe I'm saying this, but that was the reality. But hopefully that has now gone. He's been got rid of. And you know, truly, truly worrying, disturbing things. So yes, unfortunately what you've heard is true.

**WOODS:** Okay, I assumed it was, but I don't live there and I don't follow the news that closely.

**BAXENDALE:** Yeah, my father who's lived in America for probably nearly 30 years now, his ancestors came from a Welsh mining family, coal miners, so he's been Labour traditionally all

his life. If my father was in the United Kingdom, there's absolutely no circumstance — under no circumstances would he ever, ever vote for Jeremy Corbyn and would not consider him to be in the Labour Party tradition. That's how off keel the Socialist Party has got here.

**WOODS:** Wow. Wow. So now it would be very interesting to see behind closed doors all the finger pointing and the wailing and gnashing of teeth going on and the recriminations, and see what emerges from all that. And I don't know that these are folks who learn a lot of lessons.

**BAXENDALE:** Well, sadly — I mean, it's so funny you should say that. Just before I came on, I was watching the news listening to some of the Labour Party candidates, and a number of them are in denial. The parliamentarians, interestingly, most of them aren't in denial, but the ones likely to win are in denial. And they're likely to win because the membership — Corbyn, he allowed you to become an associate member for three pounds. I mean, nothing. So he got all his grassroots socialist workers, Marxists, communists to join, etc. And they're effectively the membership that will decide who their leader is. So to a certain extent, I fear that we're in for another crackpot leader of the Labour Party before they eventually see all of these people out.

**WOODS:** Before I let you go, because we both have a hard end here, I wonder if you could recommend for American readers or maybe Brits who live in America or even who live over there, any libertarian websites or anything that focus on British news, let's say, or that are headquartered there. I know of the Institute of Economic Affairs and the Cobden Center. Are there ones I'm missing?

**BAXENDALE:** Well, the Adam Smith Institute is always worth a look, as well, and that will be more economic-type news. Yeah, there aren't really any libertarian news sites. No, I can't recommend any, Tom.

**WOODS:** Okay. Well, at least a site where you could read — because if I go to the Cobden Center, I can get some analysis at least of what's going on in the economy.

**BAXENDALE:** Yes, that's right, and the Institute of Economic Affairs, for sure. And as I said, the Adam Smith Institute. They're the three I would go to.

**WOODS:** Okay, so I'm going to link to those at [TomWoods.com/1558](http://TomWoods.com/1558), our show notes page for today. I'll also link to [TobyBaxendale.com](http://TobyBaxendale.com), so people can find out more about you. And I'm expecting — I don't know why I'm doing this with you live on the air. We could do this another time. But I'm actually going to be in London starting February 16th, so maybe it might be nice to have lunch if you're around at that time.

**BAXENDALE:** Yeah, absolutely. We'll reach out on email or on Skype, and we'll set something up. It'd be a great pleasure, and now I can network you into who I think you should know around here.

**WOODS:** Yeah, that's just what I want to hear. All right, thanks so much, Toby. I appreciate your analysis today.

**BAXENDALE:** All right, cheers then. Thank you, Tom. God bless.