

What if...?

Second Draft

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The rich get richer, the poor get poorer, democracy is dying, but can it be saved? Do you dare to dream? Be brave! Join the procession and fan the flame.

What if...?

Welcome Song

All: Welcome

Aidan: Welcome one and all

All: Welcome

Aidan: Come on and have a ball

All: Join us

Aidan: Come on and hear the band

All: Join us

Aidan: Coz there's trouble in the land

II: D G D A :||

Ch: Bm G A

Chorus:

All: The time has come

The time has come

Time to make a stand

All: Spare us

Aidan: Spare us a minute more

All: Spare us

Aidan: The devil's at the door

All: Hear us

Aidan: Come on and hear the band

All: Hear us

Aidan: There's trouble in the land

Chorus:

All: The time has come
The time has come
Time to make a stand

Rev. HIA Ladies and gentlemen, we're here today to celebrate the death of democracy.
[Pause] I said, the death of democracy! *[music lifts, the Rev. sings]* Death of
democracy! Oh, yeah

Chorus *(joins in)* Death of democracy

Rev. HIA I said,

Rev & Chorus Death of democracy!

Rev. HIA I'm thrilled to be here today and to tell you that democracy is dead!

Chorus DEAD!

Rev. HIA Thanks to the magnificent rise of big business,

Chorus DEAD!

Rev. HIA the crumbling faith in democratic institutions,

Chorus DEAD!

Rev. HIA millionaire politicians becoming ever more distant from the people they
serve,

Chorus DEAD!

Rev. HIA and the voters who just don't give a [*musical interjection to cut her off/drown her out*],

Chorus DEAD!

Rev. HIA democracy in the UK has finally breathed its last rancid breath. So I say, lets celebrate

Rev & Chorus (*sings*) Death of democracy!

Rev. HIA I said,

Rev & Chorus (*sings*) Death of democracy!

Rev. HIA Greed is good!

Chorus (*sings*) Death of democracy

Rev. HIA Inequality!

Chorus (*sings*) Death of democracy

Rev. HIA I'm rich and free!

Chorus (*sings*) Death of democracy

Rev. HIA Oh yeah!

Chorus (*sings*) Death of democracy

Rev. HIA Now ladies and gentlemen, it was not an easy passing. It was a slow and painful death.

Rev. HIA So let us for a moment relish the story of its demise.

Rev. HIA First, of course, we had to trample down the people; make them weak. Give me your rights, oooordinary person [*an pair of trousers is flung out of the middle*]. Now your power, (*peeks over*) little man. [*a top flies out*] I'll take your money Joe Public [*Gold chocolate money*] It's not enough! I want your quality of life [*socks*]. Now give me your hope, and dreams. [*bloomers*]. Hmmm, what else? [*ponders*] Ah, yes! I'll take your dignity for good measure [*string of bras*]. [*The preacher peers into the circle of umbrellas and winces with disgust*] Oh, have some self respect, pleb! You make it too easy! Here have the scraps [*he throws a sock back in*].

(*Out to audience, singing*) it's the Death of Democracy

Chorus (*subdued and still bowed down*) Death of Democracy

Rev. HIA (*accusingly, threateningly to chorus*) I said!

Chorus (*doing as told, back upbeat, twirling brollies in front of themselves*) Death of Democracy!

Rev. HIA [*Back to the audience*] Next... to set them against each other! (*With distaste*) We don't want people working together! Cooperating! Strength in unity?! No, no, no! Divide and Conquer, that's the key! We broke the unions; sold the people 'me, me, me'. Well, there's no such thing as society!

The Media Aaaaand they're off! And it's all to play for in this game, and look at them go! A sought after prize for the winner – a 'completely **** [*brass bleeps her word*] benefits package'! (*To one lagging behind*) Better get your skates

on there lazy **** [*brass bleeps her word*] or you've no hope. You snooze you loose. No prizes for the runners up. (*back to audience*) What with cuts and freezes on benefits across the board this is an important game. Especially here in St Helens, heartland of the cuts – of the 379 boroughs in England, St Helens is the 7th worst hit. (*To another slow person*) So you better get cracking love or you'll be out on your ear.

The Media Oh, look at this one! Talk about a slow starter! I wouldn't bother love, I'd give up now if I were you, you've no chance!

The Media Oh, and we have a winner. Yes, a clear winner! Congratulations! You have won a gloriously inadequate benefits package!

Rev. HIA It's the...

Rev & Media Death of Democracy!

Rev. HIA But.... how do we know she's not a shameless, lazy, good-for-nothing benefit cheat?

Rev. HIA A scrounger?

Rev. HIA - A fraud? (*Turns on the chorus*) How do I know you're not all work-shy, worthless, wastrels? (*She looks around the chorus, pointing at different individuals*) It could be your mother... your brother...who's cheating the system? Perhaps your neighbour is here illegally? Does she really have a disability? Or is she milking the system?

Rev. HIA Yes it's the, death of democracy (*chant stops - back speaking to the audience*) So.... stripped of everything, set against each other, wages no one could live on, benefit system in tatters, ... the people became hopeless, and easier to control. At the same time, the desires of big business spiraled out of control.

Big Business You must make it worth my while to stay in your shriveled little country when the world is my oyster. What will you do for me?

Politicians (*eager*) Anything!

Big Business I need to lower my costs and increase my profits.

Politicians Of course!

Big Business So I need you to lower labour costs.

Politicians We'll lower labour costs.

Big Business Take them down... all the way.

Politicians Anything!

Big Business I need lower taxes!

Politicians Don't worry about your taxes!

Big Business I want lower (*with distaste*) social spending.

Politicians No social responsibility! Of course.

Big Business And... if you really want to please me, I do like a hand out.

Politicians We gave you 14 billion last year!

Big Business It's not enough!

Politicians But this is Austerity Britain!

Big Business Not for me it isn't! [*thinks, it's worth keeping them on side*] I'll tell you what... to keep you sweet...if you'll eeeeeease my policy proposal through, I'll fund your campaign.

Politicians Just two hundred and fifty thousand for supper with the Prime Minister.

Big Business Peanuts!

Politicians But the people are not stupid! They won't stand for it!

Big Business Leave that to me.

Rev. HIA *Walks ahead of big business. Sings.* It's the death of democracy! (*speaks*)
work and spend!

Chorus Death of Democracy

Rev. HIA Celebrity! It's the

Chorus Death of Democracy

Rev. HIA Watch TV! It's the

Chorus Death of Democracy

Rev. HIA Have a drink! It's the

Chorus Death of Democracy

Rev. HIA Just don't think! It's the

Chorus Death of Democracy

Protestor Where money speaks all law is silent.

Politicians Leave her to us!

Protestor It doesn't have to be like this....are you happy with the way things
are?...we've got to stand up to them...

Rev. HIA *(getting song going again underneath his protests)* It's the

Chorus Death of Democracy

Rev. HIA You've no chance! It's the

Chorus Death of Democracy

Rev. HIA You know it's true! It's the

Chorus Death of Democracy

Rev. HIA *(with joy)* And so, ladies and gentlemen, the final nail in the coffin!

Big Business *(to chorus)* Work harder!

Rev. HIA The rise of corporate power!

Big Business Zero hours contracts!

Rev. HIA Companies with more money than countries.

Big Business No job security!

Rev. HIA And no democratic responsibilities. And so, ladies and gentlemen, we come to the end of our story. Democracy is dead and I see a brave new world. A world of supreme inequality. A world where money and power are in the hands of a small elite. Greedocracy! A country governed by the rich for the rich, and **** the rest of you! [*brass bleeper*] And so I say, lets celebrate

Rev SIO Stooooop! Look! It's breathing!

Rev. HIA What's this?
What now?

Rev. SIO It lives
There's hope

Rev. HIA It's dead, I said dead,
I said dead, it's dead.

Big business Money money money

Rev. HIA Put that thing down!
Put it in the ground

Rev. SIO Keep it up! Hold it high!
Help it live! Don't watch it die
The time has come
To make a stand
To breath new life
to our fair land

Ladies and Gentlemen, I ask only one thing. Will you help us breath new life into democracy? Will you fan the flame? Will you have a go? You are the

life blood of our democracy. Only you, yes you madam, yes you sir
(*pointing*) can make a difference. (*she produces a set of cards from each
pocket – one set is pink the other purple*).

Rev. HIA & Big B Stop it! Stop it!
 Stop it! Stop it!
 Stop it! Stop it!
 Stop it! Stop it!

Rev SIO Ladies and gentlemen, I have two sets of cards and I need you to vote. I need
 you to feed the ballot box. Restore democracy. I have one simple question
 for you ladies and gentlemen....Are you happy?

Chorus Are you happy?

Rev SIO Are you happy?

Chorus Are you happy?

Rev SIO Are you happy with the way things are, the way things work, the way things
 go?
 Are you happy with the policies that govern you, the politicians over you, the
 status quo?
 Are you happy with systems and the structures and the rules and regulations
 and the laws we know?
 Are you happy

Chorus Are you happy? (*Repeat low under the following*)

Rev SIO Are you happy? (*speaking properly again*) Ladies and gentlemen, if you are
 happy with the way things are working in the country right now, please take a

pink card and put it in the ballot box; if you are not happy with our current state of affairs please put a purple card and in the box.

Rev HIA/Big B *(chant, in rhythm with the chorus)* No! No! Stop it! Stop it!
No! No! Stop it! Stop it! *(Repeat)*

Rev SIO Ladies and gentlemen, cast your vote, have your say, breath new life into democracy. *(chant in rhythm with others)* Cast your vote. Have your say. Cast your vote. Have your say. Throw open the coffin! The people have spoken!

Rev. SIO This is the new dawn of a new day. A new hope for change. Each vote, each action, each thought, each conversation will take us one step closer to an equal and fair democracy. A democracy where big business serves the public interest; where politicians serve the people; where everyone has a fair chance.

Farewell Song

All: Thank you

Aidan: Now it's time to go

All: Thank you

Aidan: We hope you enjoyed the show

II: D G D A :II

All: Will you

Ch: Bm G A

Aidan: Help us make a stand?

All: Will you

Aidan: Help us heal this land?

Chorus:

All: The time has come

The time has come

It's time for us to go

All: Give us

Aidan: Just a minute more

All: Give us

Aidan: Give us some applause!

All: Thank you

Aidan: Now it's time to go

All: Thank you

Aidan: We hope you enjoyed the show

Chorus:

All: The time has come

The time has come

It's time for us to go