

The BBC

Jim Adams

I have not watched television in my own home for 20 years. Two years before I cut the off the plug, I watched part of two programmes, neither of which I remember. The last year, desperate to know whether there was anything of interest despite the programme listings, the time I turned it on was to view a weather report. It did not correspond to the weather I experienced that day.

One occasionally sees screens in offices and shops showing the BBC news, presumably under the assumption that people watch this stuff. It is sometimes remarked that the young no longer involve themselves in politics and do not know what is going on. The latter half of this is incorrect. The old read newspapers and watch television, whereas the young use laptops for the internet, or their mobile phones to play games and text messages to friends half-way around the world. This is dismissed as uninteresting, but the BBC has not noticed it. Claims that news outside the BBC is propaganda is easily revealed as propaganda itself, when the audience has access to al Jazeera, Russian and American television, and although English audiences are uneducated in other languages, other sources too.

Recently, I cannot remember the exact circumstance, I watched a snippet of a speech in Parliament by a Labour spokesperson which mentioned Sinn Fein. The implication might have been that here was a terrorist organisation whose values we as a democracy do not share. It seems in its warm cozyness she was unaware of any contradiction. Sinn Fein is regularly elected in the north of Ireland to represent its constituents, often with large majorities. It was prominent in the campaign for civil rights in Northern Ireland under jerrymandering of constituency boundaries, denial of human rights and violence against its population, finally by British troops who were unable to contain the resistance against them in the Troubles lasting 37 years. Lay this aside. On the issue of violence, per head of population the UK is the largest arms economy in the world, and externally its behaviour is extremely violent, and as we would say in Iraq where 1½ million people died, often genocidal. Sinn Fein is excluded from the British Parliament because it refuses to pledge allegiance to Brenda Windsor, the richest person in the world, who pays nil taxation, receives substantial state benefit, regularly interferes in politics by indicating her preferences, or orders, on legislation, who declared her preferences in the Scottish and Brexit referendums, not having the direct influence she normally has, and is elected by nobody. Reflect on that.

People walking past BBC studios are sometimes bemused by large demonstrations, say of Palestinians protesting against BBC bias towards Israel, and are reassured that in a democracy they are allowed to protest and are not driven away by the police and locked in prison for doing so.

People in England are less aware that the BBC in Scotland no longer interviews people outside polling stations, for fear they may encounter violence from Scottish voters angered at BBC bias.

If viewers were asked the last time the BBC discussed a labour issue, it might be the miner's strike, or before that the general strike in 1926. Both were presented from the point of view of the establishment.

The establishment is of three types, Conservative, Fascist and Nazi. It presents itself as Aunty, someone close to you. Aunty has a machine gun.