Addenda #41 – October 2025, Update June 2026
Re: Ch. 4 The Fourth Industrial Revolution
➢ *Digital Identities / Government abuse of Power*

The United Kingdom held a general election in July 2024 to elect 650 members of the House of Commons, the legislative body in Britian that is similar to our Congress. The Labour Party, described by author and history professor Matthew Worley, as "an alliance of democratic socialists, social democrats and trade unionists", won 411 seats and a 174-seat majority in the House. As leader of the majority party, Keir Starmer became the first Labour Party Prime Minister in over two decades in July 2024 and things have certainly gone downhill in Britain since then. Mass immigration, increasing crime and restrictions on free speech have led to public frustration, political turmoil and public protests.

In Addenda #41 – October 2025, I detailed Starmer's dislike of Parliamentary democracy and his cooperation with global Elites of the World Economic Forum. Starmer's signature legislation was the implementation of a national digital ID "scheme," which was widely protested by British citizens. Starmer didn't care, he pushed forward with it anyway. When local elections were held in June 2026, the Labour Party lost 1,498 council seats and the control of 38 local councils. With an unfavourability rating of 69% and facing calls for him to resign by leaders of his own party and the public, Starmer announced that he would step down as prime minister and leader of the Labour Party on June 22, 2026, just twenty-four months after assuming the role.

In 2024, citizens of the United Kingdom selected the "alliance of democratic socialists": to run their country for the next two years. Younger voters, under age 50, voted for Labour Party candidates by more than 40%, unhappy over the countries weak economic growth and increased cost of living, crime and migration (legal and illegal), high taxes, debt and austerity budgets. In 2026, younger voters split that 40+% between the Labour Party and the left-wing progressive/anti-capitalism/pro-socialist ecology Green Party. Despite the failure of the center-left Labour Party to enact positive change, the same voting bloc now threw its support behind the further-left Green Party, which increased its representation by 441 council seats and 5 local councils.

In a 2025 YouGov poll, 21% of those responding said they would consider voting for the Green Party at a future election. In 2026, the Green Party picked up that additional support from younger voters. This is further proof that anti-capitalist/pro-socialist policies are becoming more popular with younger generations of Britons, as in the United States, as they replace older working class supporters of the Reform and Conservative parties.

Addenda #37 – June 2025, Update June 2026
Re: Ch. 9 Modern Monetary Theory – Fueling Unlimited Debt and Dependency and Control
Ref: Addenda #12 Progressive Democrat cities anti-business policies

The city of Seattle, Washington has the reputation of being one of the most progressive cities in the United States, but it wasn't always that way. In an April 2017 article titled *Progressive Seattle? Not always and not quite yet,* journalist Knute Berger wrote about the progressive history of Seattle. "We've had progressive mayors since the late 1960s, and our 21st-century mayors — Paul Schell, Greg Nickels, Mike McGinn and Ed Murray — have all made hay with the fact that we're a bastion of liberal thinking who can influence the world with our commitments to climate change, sustainability and social justice."

In the 1800's the city of Seattle had twenty-five mayors: 17 were Republican, 5 were Independent 3rd party candidates and 3 were Democrats. From 1900 to 1969, Seattle had twenty-five mayors. 14 were Republican, 4 were Independent 3rd party candidates and 7 were Democrats. Since March 1969, Seattle has had thirteen mayors, all Democrats. Gregory Nickels, 51st mayor of Seattle from January 2002 to January 2010, was the last "traditional" Democrat mayor and the last mayor to serve more than one term. Some of the more notable or 'infamous' mayors in recent history are:
* Michael McGinn, a community organizer, environmentalist and former state chair of the Sierra Club, won election in 2010 in what was described as a "sea change in the power structure of Seattle."
* Ed Murray, Seattle's "first gay mayor," defeated McGinn in 2013 but was forced to resign in 2017 after facing multiple allegations of child abuse, rape and sexual molestation. During his term in office, an income tax of 2.25% on income over $250,000 for individual filers and $500,000 for joint filers, became law.
Note: The tax was later found to be unconstitutional by the Washington Court of Appeals.
* Jenny Durkin, Seattle's "second woman mayor, openly gay and married to another woman" was elected in 2017. Durkin allowed the City Council's 'Payroll Expense Tax' to become law in 2021, imposing an *annual tax* as high as 2.4% on large companies, for each employee whose total compensation was $150,000 or more. Durkin chose not to run for reelection after much criticism for her poor responses to Seattle's homeless problem, the violent George Floyd protests, and the Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone (CHOP) debacle.
* Bruce Harrell, Seattle's "first Asian-American and second black mayor," was elected mayor in 2021. When Harrell announced he was running for mayor to replace Durkin, he said "Look at what Seattle has become." Harrell signed Seattle's own Green New Deal to fight climate change in 2022, increased the city's sales tax and taxes on businesses.
* Katie Wilson, political activist, and self-proclaimed democratic socialist, defeated Harrell in November 2025, running on campaign platform of climate action, environmental justice, housing justice, transportation justice, education justice, higher taxes on individuals, businesses and property.
Note all the "identity politics" labels used to describe Seattle's mayors…

Progressive Democrats had no problem increasing taxes to fund their social programs, and progressive voters had no problem approving those tax increases by electing them to office and passing their ballot proposals. But raising taxes had the opposite effect intended for revenue collected by the city…

'This is catastrophic': Seattle payroll tax revenues $47M short as jobs leave city
KIRO 7 News, March 25, 2025

Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell released his payroll expense tax (PET) report for 2024 Tuesday, and its projections came up nearly $50 million short.

Did the payroll expense tax push jobs out of Seattle?
The payroll tax is levied on large corporations in the city, like Amazon and Expedia. Such a steep revenue forecast error suggests high-paying companies or their jobs are leaving the city.

Seattle's Job Market Decline

Seattle's economy, long a powerhouse of innovation and growth, is facing a stark reality in 2025, a declining job market that threatens the city's prosperity.
Washington Policy Center, May 28, 2025

But progressive Democrats in Seattle and Washington State, refused to make the connection between higher taxes and the outmigration by individuals and businesses.

Governor Ferguson signs Millionaires' Tax into law
Washington Governor Bob Ferguson Press Release, March 30, 2026

Today Governor Bob Ferguson took historic action to make Washington more affordable by signing the Millionaires' Tax into law.

Less than one half of one percent of Washingtonians will pay the tax, but it will make life more affordable for millions.

Washington Legislators passed Senate Bill 6346 this spring, imposing an annual 9.9% tax on household income that exceeds $1 million, on March 11, 2026, with payments beginning in 2029. Following passage of the bill, former Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz, announced he and his family are moving to Florida and Starbucks announced it would be moving some of its operations and upper level employees out of Washington State to new offices in Tennessee. Businessman Marc Barros announced he was leaving the state and moving his photography equipment company, "I'm not even a millionaire affected by this tax. But when you add up all the costs to run a business in Washington, we can't afford it," Barros said.

According to U.S. Census Bureau data, Washington state experienced a net loss of more than 20,000 residents between 2020 and 2024. The numbers would have been significantly larger, but large numbers of Californians are also relocating to Washington, to take advantage of lower affordability costs while still being residents of a progressive state. In 2025 the trend appeared to reverse, as Washington's population grew by more than 62,000 between April 2024 and April 2025. Seattle had the fifth largest population gain of all U.S. cities, adding 11,572 new residents.

But Census Bureau data shows that the growth is largely due to international migration of "tech workers" to Washington companies like Microsoft, Amazon, Expedia and state universities. Long-time residents continue to move out of Washington, which is ranked the tenth most expensive state in the country, to states with lower levels of taxation and crime, like Arizona, Idaho, Texas and Florida. The Puget Sound Business Journal recently analyzed IRS tax data from King County, the state's most populous county and home to the city of Seattle and corporate offices of Starbucks, Amazon, Microsoft, Google and Boeing. The data showed that wealthy individuals leaving King County alone, took with them approximately $2.19 billion in adjusted gross income in 2023, the most recent tax year data was available for. That income supports local businesses and helps fund local schools and government services such as public safety and social services.

Wealthy Washington residents are the people who not only spend money in the community, but own small businesses that create jobs for thousands of residents. According to the Downtown Seattle Association, the Seattle 'metro' area had a net loss of 13,000 jobs in 2025, a sharp contrast to the normal 40,000 net gain from prior years, causing the unemployment rate to increase to 5.25%. Seattle office vacancies are now close to 40%, as employers move workers out of the high business tax environment. A May 2026 survey of Seattle business leaders showed that 44% were thinking about relocating their personal residence to another state after legislators passed the new millionaires tax. prompting Mayor Katie Wilson to respond that concerns about wealthy residents leaving her city and the state due to progressive tax policies, "… are like, super overblown." She also mocked the survey results, saying "… the ones that leave, like, bye!"

That anti-business, anti-wealth stance may play well to the progressive voters that put her in office last November, but any shortfall in tax revenues will have to be made up by the rest of Washington State taxpayers not subject to this new tax. Thanks to the Progressive Democrat majority Senate and House legislators and progressive Democrat Socialist mayors like Katie Porter, the cost of living in Washington State will only get *more* expensive for those residents who remain there.