

? ? **WHERE IS THE LOGIC?**
There seems to be a contradiction here.

We are already part of many free trade agreements through our EU membership.

If you're having to put a lot of work into simply repeating those deals for a post-Brexit UK, how is this a benefit of Brexit?



THIS IS A FANTASY

Thanks to **Brexit**, the full benefits of free trade will be made **available to everyone**

Come on now, even the most cursory



at the meeting could tell you it was a joint venture between war on want and Global Justice Now!

On Monday night, Caroline Lucas joined forces with Barry Gardiner in a so-called progressive alliance against free trade at the **War on Want** event in Shoreditch, east London.

The benefits of modern trade agreements (which are about much more than trade) go mostly to the rich.

"Everyone" does not necessarily benefit.

Unfortunately there is nothing progressive about the Lucas/Gardiner double act, which seeks to deny the benefits of free trade to the very people they claim to represent.

THE IRONY!

Is it not ironic that you refer to irony without showing there's anything ironic about it?

Indeed it is **ironic** that the War on Want website asks members to "join forces with us against the root causes of global poverty".

It has acted as the greatest force for **combatting global poverty in recent decades**. With one billion people taken out of poverty in the past generation, we have a moral duty to ensure that the full benefits of free trade are made available to everyone in **all parts of our country**.

Most of the progress in poverty

reduction in recent decades has come from the development of China. It's true that trade has played a major role in this but China's example is much more complex than your simplistic one-size-fits-all model of free trade.

More people would believe your desire to help everyone in the country if your trade deals weren't so focused on corporate power, privilege and protection.

Your assumption depends on a discredited 'trickle down' effect and the effect of investor protection, and moving power and influence from government to business hampers the ability of governments to legislate

Lucas refers to our plans as "undemocratic" – again another irony since our Trade Bill, which has just been through committee stage, will allow us to **operate as an independent trading nation** for the first time in 40 years.

Independent policy making in no way equates to enhanced democracy! The way things are the UK Parliament will have

LESS INFLUENCE

over trade deals than pretty much any legislature in the developed world!

It will enable us to transition existing EU trade arrangements, providing continuity and certainty for businesses, and establishes a "Trade Remedies Authority" to deal with unfair trade practices and unforeseen surges of imports.

TO HELP OR PROTECT ITS CITIZENS



WAIT, WHAT!?



I thought 'new trading relationships' was the whole point of Brexit.

You know the title of the article kind of suggests we're going to benefit from Brexit not just copy what we had before.

Lucas goes on to criticise our bill on the grounds that parliament would not get to vote on any future trade agreements. This appears to show a complete lack of understanding of the bill, **which is not about those new relationships**. Instead, it is about preserving and ensuring continuity. It **does not legislate for powers that could be used when implementing new free trade agreements** with countries with whom the EU does not have a free trade agreement before exit day.



Yet you are flying around the world secretly discussing trade with zero oversight and not even allowing MPs to know about those discussions!

It would appear that South Korea and Chile are already determined to renegotiate more favourable terms upon Brexit.

HOW EXACTLY

does this bill counter such ambition from our trading partners?

What it will enable us to do **is transition existing EU trade arrangements** to ensure we continue to benefit from those arrangements that the EU already has with other countries, so that we maintain full access in both directions when we leave.

Not true, CETA between the EU and Canada hasn't been ratified by the UK parliament, but you seem to be admitting the EU has greater scrutiny powers than the UK here.

It is clearly in the interest of our country and our trading partners alike that these arrangements – which have already been **scrutinised at an EU level and overseen in the UK by parliament's EU select committees** – are transitioned quickly and smoothly.



Do you mean 'free trade policy'? Because what you've said makes no sense.

Labour's approach to **free policy** generally, like Lucas's, is as incoherent as it is irrational. On the EU-Canadian deal (Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement) **Labour split three ways, and now their trade policy** – as with much of their policy across the board – has been taken over by the hard left.

Oh yes. Well at least your party is 100% united around your vision for Brexit. Oh wait! It isn't?



So maybe you should concentrate on coming up with better policy rather than making cheap party political points.

There are winners and losers in every trade deal (ask those affected by NAFTA!) but the question is how do you make things fair?

a good paying job. Without regulation you can turn a country into

The **consequences of anti-trade policies are rising prices, less quality and choice**, and the threat of lost jobs.

A RICH MAN'S PLAYGROUND

We have seen throughout the passing of the Trade Bill that **those on the anti-trade left** will use every red herring to cover up what is an essentially anti-capitalist agenda, as we saw with the European left's opposition to a trade agreement as **benign** as that with **Trudeau's** Canada.

You need to develop the idea that a trade deal giving corporations the right to sue governments in secret courts for billions of pounds, locking in privatisation, depleting food standards and promoting fracking and tar sands is benign.

otherwise this point will be lost on the more intelligent amongst your readers.

It seems you missed the whole idea of the meeting – it was calling for more democracy and scrutiny of trade deals – not for an end to trade.

You need to engage with what is said and written and not imagine silly arguments that you feel more comfortable opposing.

★ HE DIDN'T

negotiate most of the EU-Canada deal. CETA was designed and negotiated under Harper, and he made even you look like a

RAGING COMMUNIST



Global Justice Now, War on Want and others are not anti-trade. They merely want more democratic control. But you seem to think trade and democracy cannot coexist.

NOT TRUE

They would cause damage at home too; **anti-trade policies** would push up costs to consumers in Britain, making it harder to make wages stretch and diminish living standards.

THAT'S BOLD

Bit of an assumption here, Liam. Many people voted Brexit to show their disillusionment at the political establishment.

In the EU referendum the **British public voted to restore our sovereignty**, and that will require the restoration of a rich tradition: to make **Britain an independent global trading nation** once again.

THE EMPIRE IS GONE, LIAM,

and you seem to be wishing the days of trading in slaves and opium back. It's distasteful to say the least.

And what's the public's role in this? or Parliament's?
NO ONE VOTED FOR YOU TO DECIDE

For the first time in over 40 years, we are beginning to **shape our own trade agenda and define our own trade policy** – and I am determined that this will not only benefit businesses and consumers in the UK, but allow some of the **world's most disadvantaged people to trade** their way out of poverty.

? WHERE IS THE EVIDENCE?



No evidence. And anyway, I thought this was just about maintaining the status quo, not making new deals with new countries in the global south (or the Empire 2.0 as your civil servants have dubbed it). Make your mind up!

Liam Fox **is Secretary of State for International Trade**

YOU FORGOT SOMETHING

You forgot the part that says you're the president of the board of trade. You know that board of trade of which you are the ONLY member.

Now that's an institution you do like eh Liam? No pesky disagreements or having to listen to inconvenient truths there!

