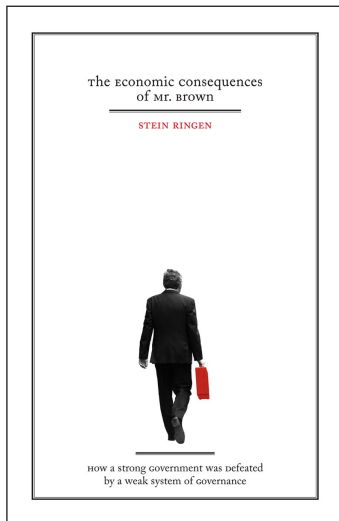


The Economic Consequences of Mr. Brown: How a Strong Government was Defeated by a Weak System of Governance by Stein Ringen, University of Oxford, published by The Bardwell Press, 14 September 2009

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The Economic Consequences of Mr. Brown

How a Strong Government Was Defeated by a Weak System of Governance

New Labour in government “failed in its own mission”, according to a new book by an Oxford University professor.

In *The Economic Consequences of Mr. Brown*, Professor Ringen, Oxford’s Professor of Sociology and Social Policy, analyses the economic policies of New Labour from fiscal management to outcomes in child poverty, health, crime, education, and inequality.

In this carefully argued, but highly readable analysis, Ringen argues that from 1997 to 2007, Britain had a government of exceptional strength. Its failures have nothing to do with the credit crunch that followed.

By any ordinary political logic, this government should have succeeded in putting its mark on British life and society. In fact, its story is a tragic one. It tells how a government that had everything going for it, and that should have represented a break with the past, came to rule in a continuation of the discredited regime it had ousted.

Under New Labour, Britain became an even more unequal society than when the Conservatives left office. Mr. Blair and Mr. Brown inherited Mrs. Thatcher’s centralised government and then centralised further. Thereby they undermined their own cause and condemned themselves to ever harder effort for ever less gain.

In spite of firm fiscal management and additional public spending and investment, the government has next to nothing to show for it in policy outcomes and nothing at all in turning the tide on Britain as a society of entrenched inequality.

As Professor Ringen concludes: “The lesson of New Labour is that Britain needs, more than a new government, a new constitution”.

PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION: Wide coverage in the daily and weekly national press anticipated. Publication timed to coincide with party political conferences for maximum publicity.

Launch event debate with the author and expert panel including Polly Toynbee of the Guardian at the Royal Society of Arts in London, Monday 14 September at 18:00.

STEIN RINGEN is Professor of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Oxford.

His most recent books are *The Liberal Vision and Other Essays on Democracy and Freedom* (The Bardwell Press) and *What Democracy Is For* (Princeton University Press).