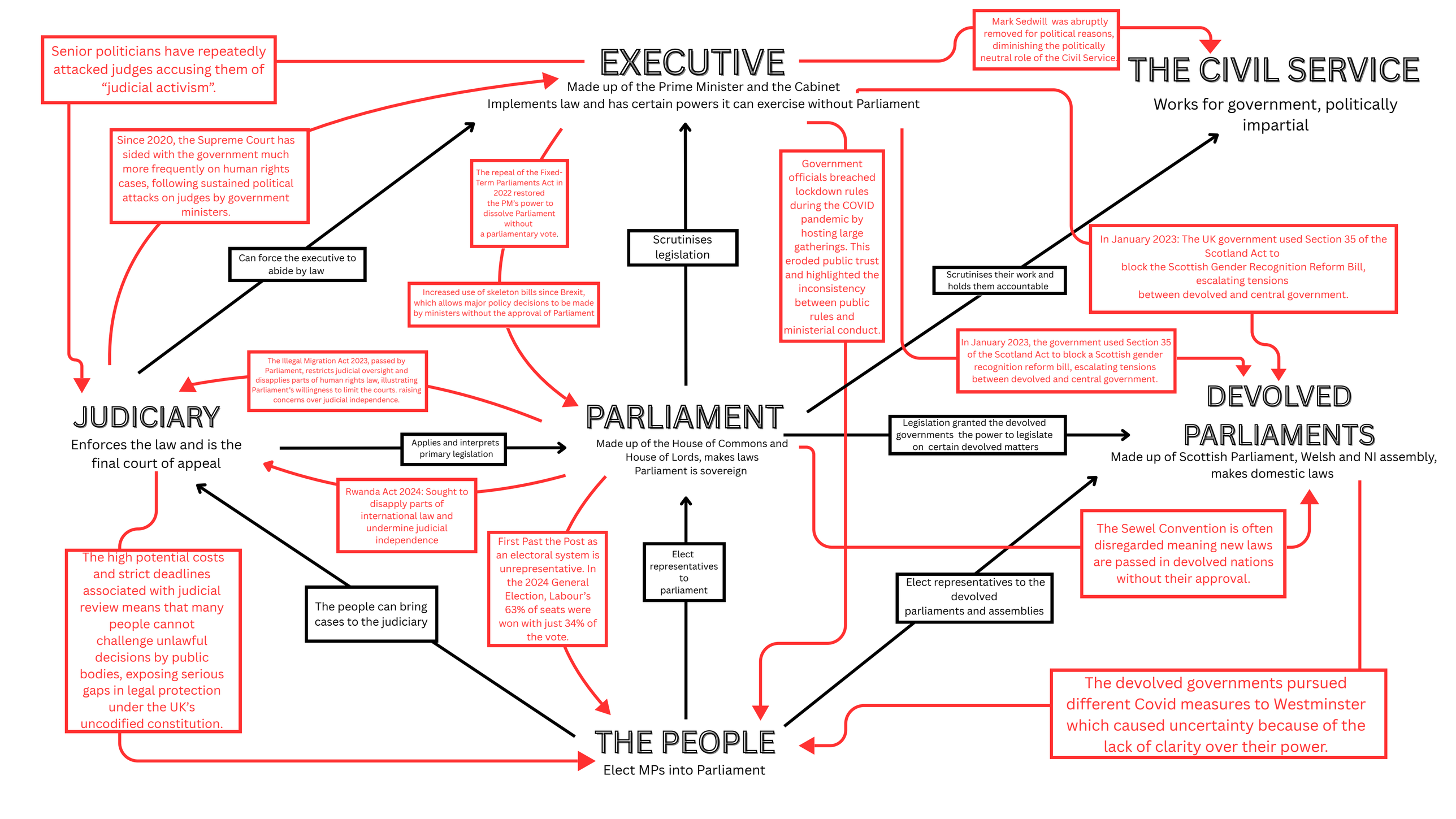
Senior politicians have repeatedly attacked judges accusing them of "judicial activism".
EXECUTIVE
Made up of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet
Implements law and has certain powers it can exercise without Parliament
Mark Sedwill was abruptly removed for political reasons, diminishing the politically neutral role of the Civil Service.
THE CIVIL SERVICE
Works for government, politically impartial
Since 2020, the Supreme Court has sided with the government much more frequently on human rights cases, following sustained political attacks on judges by government ministers.
Can force the executive to abide by law
The repeal of the Fixed-Term Parliaments Act in 2022 restored the PM's power to dissolve Parliament without a parliamentary vote.
Increased use of skeleton bills since Brexit, which allows major policy decisions to be made by ministers without the approval of Parliament
Scrutinises legislation
Government officials breached lockdown rules during the COVID pandemic by hosting large gatherings. This eroded public trust and highlighted the inconsistency between public rules and ministerial conduct.
Scrutinises their work and holds them accountable
In January 2023: The UK government used Section 35 of the Scotland Act to block the Scottish Gender Recognition Reform Bill, escalating tensions between devolved and central government.
In January 2023, the government used Section 35 of the Scotland Act to block a Scottish gender recognition reform bill, escalating tensions between devolved and central government.
The Illegal Migration Act 2023, passed by Parliament, restricts judicial oversight and disapplies parts of human rights law, illustrating Parliament's willingness to limit the courts. raising concerns over judicial independence.
JUDICIARY
Enforces the law and is the final court of appeal
PARLIAMENT
Made up of the House of Commons and House of Lords, makes laws
Parliament is sovereign
Legislation granted the devolved governments the power to legislate on certain devolved matters
DEVOLVED PARLIAMENTS
Made up of Scottish Parliament, Welsh and NI assembly, makes domestic laws
Applies and interprets primary legislation
Rwanda Act 2024: Sought to disapply parts of international law and undermine judicial independence
First Past the Post as an electoral system is unrepresentative. In the 2024 General Election, Labour's 63% of seats were won with just 34% of the vote.
Elect representatives to parliament
The Sewel Convention is often disregarded meaning new laws are passed in devolved nations without their approval.
Elect representatives to the devolved parliaments and assemblies
The high potential costs and strict deadlines associated with judicial review means that many people cannot challenge unlawful decisions by public bodies, exposing serious gaps in legal protection under the UK's uncodified constitution.
The people can bring cases to the judiciary
THE PEOPLE
Elect MPs into Parliament
The devolved governments pursued different Covid measures to Westminster which caused uncertainty because of the lack of clarity over their power.