



# The Euro Realist Bulletin

An occasional bulleting

campaigning for an EU free Britain &

Parliamentary sovereignty

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## FORTY ONE YEARS IN THE MAKING

Not many people who were six years of age would have memories of the fateful day in 1973 when Britain became a member of the European Community, or Common Market as it was known then. Those six year olds would not have listened to the arguments for and against joining or the implications of the 1972 European Communities Act, which was the Act of Parliament that the MPs at the time voted through and thus made themselves, Parliament and all future Governments impotent as, from then on, all laws made by the then EEC, now the EU, override British laws.

**David Cameron**, our Prime Minister, was a child of six when one of his less than noble predecessors took Britain into the Common Market based on the lie there would be “No loss of essential sovereignty”. Cameron has not had the chance to live any of his adult life in a self governing sovereign nation and knows nothing of what it was like to be proud to be a subject of a free nation. — **The only thing** Cameron seems to have learned from those days was the duplicity used by another of his predecessors, Harold Wilson, who as the Prime Minister in 1975 gave the British people a referendum based on his negotiations with the then Common Market and sold the lie he had secured a good deal for Britain and promoted remaining - the people fell for it and here we are today with Cameron selling exactly the same political snake oil as Wilson. This brings to mind the famous quote accredited to George Santayana: “Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it.” Anyone who listens to Cameron and his pro-EU clique will be doomed to

repeat the same dreadful error made by the nation in 1975.

**So what has** the now grown up David Cameron got for us, now he is in long trousers? in reality nothing but a few vague promises that amount to very little and can still be thrown out by the MEPs and the European Court of Justice. He has struck a deal that Britain no longer has to comply with the EU’s aim of “ever closer union”, which is odd as the other 27 EU nations will still be aiming to destroy their own nations in order for a new, monstrous superstate, to rise out of the ashes of the nations of Europe as a United States of Europe - where does Britain fit in with this plan if it does not apply to the UK?

**The only good thing** David Cameron has done is to give the nation a chance to correct the huge error that was made in 1975, this referendum has been forty one years in the making.

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## THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

BY COLIN BULLEN

The debates which will take place in the run up to the referendum will concentrate on economic factors, and on the issue of democracy, but there is, to use the modern parlance, an elephant in the room, which Eurorealists either do not perceive, or are afraid of raising because they know it will generate false accusations of xenophobia or racism. However, given that we are being asked to decide whether or not to submerge permanently our ancient nation into a single European state, it should be honestly raised. It concerns the very nature of those it is proposed should share the governance of our country.

**British people**, long accustomed to living in one of the freest, and most tolerant, countries of the world, are often given to believing that everyone the world over is pretty much the same and that foreigners are just Britons who speak a funny language. This impression is partly derived from the taking of holidays abroad, when most of those we meet are generally pleasant, not least because they frequently have a vested interest in not upsetting tourists. I remember how years ago friends used to come back from visiting Tito's Yugoslavia and said how lovely the people were. Unfortunately, as we are now seeing in the disaster taking place across the continent because of the migrant crisis, the historical development and the cultural assumptions of different nations produce very different attitudes on everything from the role of women to the tolerance of views different to one's own.

**The reality of Yugoslavia** was that it was a powder keg, prevented from exploding only by Tito's iron hand, and, once that was removed, we saw the ancient hatreds break loose. This should have been no surprise because the history of the Balkan states shows clearly how superficial was the civilised behaviour we take for granted. During the Second World War the despicable acts committed by the various nationalities in that area matched anything done by the Nazis. The idea that one might just shoot an opponent would have been regarded as laughably liberal, the usual methods involved in dispatching them including mass tor-



Colin Bullen: who are we being asked to submerge our state with?

ture and mutilations. The events of the Balkan wars of the late 20th Century, such as the Srebrenica massacre, and the cruelties inflicted on civilians and prisoners, make clear that concepts promoted by the Geneva conventions are still not accepted. Of course at the moment only Croatia and Slovenia are members of the EU but we all know the architects of the latter have every intention of including Macedonia and Serbia as soon as they can get away with it.

**It is not only** in the Balkans that we see nations whose standards of behaviour are totally alien to the values we hold. During the last war the Latvian Legion of the Waffen SS was considered to be the most brutal regiment within the latter organisation, even German SS officers being known to object to some of their actions. Yet, as recently as March 2012, Latvians were honouring the memory of these killers, placing wreaths, including Latvian SS insignia, at the foot of the Freedom Monument in Riga. It is a fact that Anti Semitic hatreds were, and still are, ingrained into the culture of much of Eastern Europe. I have been appalled when talking to Polish friends, apparently modern Europeans, to find that they still display an extremely hostile attitude to Jewish people, refusing to accept the fact that the holocaust was one of the greatest crimes in human history. Even in Czechoslovakia, the most democratic of the pre war states in Eastern Europe, anti Semitism was rife among the Sudeten Germans, while the views held by the largely peasant cultures further East would horrify the ordinary decent person in Britain.

**Of course** we must look carefully at the Germans themselves. This nation, only in existence for less than 150 years, has lashed out at its neighbours on a number of occasions, launched two world wars and committed the worst crimes against humanity in modern times. We are now told that they are a reformed people but it is always said that if one scratches a Russian one finds a Tartar and what does one think one would find if one scratched a German? Even Europhiles **Continued on page 3.....**

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**Elephant in the room continued:**

try to justify the EU as a means of neutralising German's aggressive tendencies but, if they are now so changed, would that be necessary?

**Looking at the Iberian** peninsula there is our oldest ally Portugal and, of course, Spain, the destination for so many British holidaymakers. We cannot really know how the relatively recent fascist dictatorships in those countries have affected their view of democracy but there is also the point that the Spanish have a particular cultural propensity for cruelty, possibly unrivalled in Western Europe. From the horrors of the use by the inquisition of the auto-da-fé, the unspeakable treatment of French prisoners during the Napoleonic wars, the slaughters of the peoples of South America by the conquistadors and the massive atrocities committed by both sides in living memory, when the Spanish civil war raged, we can see an almost innate brutality in their national psyche. No doubt many would claim that they have changed but their treatment of animals casts that into doubt. They still share with parts of France and Portugal the practice of bullfighting and the way in which they often torment other species, such as donkeys, in so called festivals is a disgrace. We have been guilty of such things in the past but we have finally outlawed hunting and it is doubtful that the attitudes of the British to animal welfare in any way resemble those accepted as normal in Spain.

**In past centuries** we have not always behaved well, the excesses of the hundred years war being just one of the times we acted reprehensibly. In recent centuries we have moved forward but we should never forget that, within the past hundred years, apart from the UK and a few small neutral countries, every nation in Europe has endured either a home grown tyrant, or conquest by a foreign one, and this inevitably colours their views of democracy and freedom.

**Despite** our long history of conflict with the French, and accepting that we have our differences, we are very similar to them, as we are to the Scandinavians and those of the Low Countries. However the EU encompasses much larger populations, who do not subscribe to our ideas of freedom and democracy, and, if the Brussels bureaucrats have their way, it will eventually include Muslim nations such as Turkey, with all that means for the status of women, those of a different sexual orientation, Jews and Christians.

**We should not desire** conflict with our neighbours but neither should we surrender control of our country to a single European state which will be dominated by those whose history and culture are very different to ours and which will, if we remain, lead to the end of anything resembling the country in which we grew up. This is not xenophobia or racism, but the statement of a fact which we should not be afraid to recognize if we are to honour all those who died to create our nation and if we value the right to live in a free country.

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## TONY BLAIR OUT OF TOUCH

The independent Labour Peer, Lord Stoddart of Swindon, commenting on Tony Blair's support for the EU and for the stay-in campaign said: "Once again Mr Blair demonstrates his complete failure to understand how real people think on these issues. He has the modern politician's 'I know best' disease mixed with a complete lack of affinity with the voters and more worryingly with working people who have suffered the most from the mass immigration his Government started and which has led to job losses and wage cuts.

**"He could not be trusted** on the EU when in office, promising us a referendum on the EU Constitution and reneging on it, so he certainly can't be trusted now. "The stay-in campaign must be rueing the day he joined their ranks. Having Tony Blair on your side in this campaign must feel a bit like inheriting death duties!"

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## WHO IS THE GREATER DECEIVER

BY JOHN PETLEY

David Cameron comes across as a more approachable and normal person than the sullen, taciturn bachelor Edward Heath, but is he any more honest than his infamous predecessor?

**The answer**, given his recent misleading statements about his renegotiations to secure a better deal for the UK within the EU, is a resounding NO. His claim that he had secured legally-binding safeguards for non-Euro countries and an exemption from the EU's guiding principle of "Ever Closer Union" just does not stand up. All he obtained on these two points was a sort of promise that would only become legally binding when a new treaty finally comes into force.

**Anyone** who has had the misfortune to have to deal with EU legislation will know well that the documents always begin with a preamble listing the relevant sections of treaties which given then legal force. While tedious to read through, they are nonetheless important and the lack of any reference to the treaties in Cameron's deal (because there aren't any) merely proves the point. He has gained, at best, a vague promise that might perhaps be legally binding at some point when the next treaty is signed if the other nations are still happy about it.

**As for the other** big issue, migration, all Cameron is doing is asking if we can avail ourselves of an existing provision - Articles 112-3 of the European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement, which allows an "emergency brake". It will only be for a limited period and the other countries will have to agree that we can use it. He did not, of course, mention that non-EU states which are in the EEA can avail themselves of the emergency brake without needing approval of other countries. Tiny Liechtenstein has done this for some 20 years now.

**Cameron claimed** he was seeking to enhance the role of national parliaments, "by proposing a new arrangement where groups of national parliaments, acting together, can stop unwanted legislative proposals". The precise threshold of national parliaments required, he wrote, "will be a matter for the negotiation".

**However**, it is merely an extension of a little-known protocol which already exists, allowing a blocking majority of parliaments to oppose legislation ONLY in limited areas where the subsidiarity principle applies (that is, where the EU has agreed to allow the nation states to maintain some degree of sovereignty). The existing protocol came into force in 2009 and has only been invoked twice. It is therefore hardly a return of sovereignty to the member states as Cameron seemed to suggest and is highly unlikely ever to be used.

**He did, however**, say in January 2016 that he supported changing our domestic law to state that Parliament is sovereign. "I think there is a good case for it," he told Radio 4's Today programme. However, this is yet another stunt. Our

Parliament has always retained the power to pass a new Act of Parliament including the phrase "any provisions of the European Communities Act notwithstanding" and such acts must be and will be upheld by the British Courts. In other words, the Westminster Parliament could pass legislation that overrides and negates EU legislation. It has never lost sovereignty, it has only temporally loaned sovereignty.

**However, Cameron** himself has discouraged the use of this "notwithstanding" clause. In 2004, Michael Howard, the then Conservative Party leader, had expressed his support for returning fishing policy to national control using the "notwithstanding" clause but was starting to waver. Only the threat of resignation by two ministers, John Whittingdale and Owen Paterson, saved the day. A bit of research uncovered the identity of the person putting the pressure on Howard to abandon the proposal - a certain David Cameron, who, on becoming party leader, did completely drop the policy.

**Returning** national powers to Parliament in any case would not be a big triumph. Parliament is part of the problem. Parliament did not need Mr Cameron to negotiate any new powers, or even to have used the "Notwithstanding" clause to have

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**Who is the great deceiver continued:**

thrown out the Lisbon Treaty in 2008, but it did not do so. Nor did it throw out the Maastricht, Amsterdam and Nice treaties. Why go through the charade of seeking to give it more power when it does not use wisely the power it already has?

**In short**, Cameron is engaged in a smoke-and-mirrors deceit, just as he did when he said "I've cut the EU budget". If he was really fighting for a good deal for this country, he would instead be positioning himself at the head of the "leave" campaign. He has threatened to do so if he does not get a good deal, but anyone really believing that at the eleventh hour, he will undergo a Damascus Road conversion to a pro-withdrawal position is living in cloud cuckoo land. His past track record proves beyond any doubt that he will fight to keep Britain in and will fight dirty.

**Thankfully**, thus far, his attempts to spin the deal have been greeted with far more criticism than Harold Wilson's renegotiations of 1975. We can but hope that even if sections of the media seem thoroughly confused and will no doubt - bar the *Express* and the *Morning Star* - fall obediently in line as the referendum approaches, there will be enough voices, particularly on-line, who will expose Cam's great sham for the charade that it is and spare us a repeat of the tragedy of the 1975 referendum.

**As the saying goes**, Fool me once, shame on you; Fool me twice shame on me.

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