



The Euro Realist Bulletin

An occasional bulleting

campaigning for an EU free Britain &

Parliamentary sovereignty

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WHY UKIP IS STILL NEEDED



In a short time from receiving this bulletin, on the 8th June, the nation will go to the polls and decide not only who is to run the country for the next five years, but who will be in charge of the Brexit negotiations. The Tories began by playing a canny game pretending to steal UKIP's clothes, sadly they don't fit. Since then Mrs May's campaign has experienced more wobbles than a spinning top.

Many have written UKIP off saying it is not needed any more, but nothing could be further from the truth - it is needed more than ever. If UKIP is wiped out in this election then Theresa May, who is a remainer at heart, will have nothing to worry about as she negotiates a meaningless and weak Brexit deal.

However, if she has just a handful of UKIP MPs sitting and glaring at her from the opposition benches in the House of Commons, ready to point out her failings, then she will have good reason to negotiate a Brexit that means Brexit. Don't write UKIP off, it is needed now more than ever.



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A CUNNING PLAN

After losing the EU referendum last year, it seems that those 'remainers' who have no confidence in the UK to make its own laws and run its own affairs, who would rather an unelected bureaucracy take control of our country, have, like Baldrick, "A cunning plan".

According to the novelist and EU remain fanatic, Ian McEwan, he has a long term plan to overturn the democratic will of the people, he wants to wait until all the dodderly old 'EU leavers' die then another referendum can be called as only the 'remainers will still be alive.

As many of those who voted 'leave' last year plan to be around for a while yet and will continue to make the sensible decision to vote 'Leave' in referendums, will be happy to give Mr McEwan a long wait. So long in fact the EU will have inevitably collapsed under the weight of its own burdensome bureaucracy and the economic disaster of the euro.

Ian McEwan obviously has some very extreme views, no one from the 'Leave' side wishes harm to others - they just want them to come to their senses.

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A TERRIBLE GAMBLE

BY COLIN BULLEN

I write this shortly after the General Election has been called and it may be that by the time it is read events will have turned out very differently, but all I can do is say how things seem to me at his moment.

I believe that there are four main questions to be considered. Why has Mrs May reneged on her promise not to go to the country before Brexit has been achieved? What is the likely outcome of the vote? What would be the effects for British independence? What can we in UKIP do about it?

As far as the first is concerned there are a number of suggestions as to the Prime Minister's motives but all we can do is speculate. It is quite possible that she means what she says, to gain a substantial majority in the Commons in order to pursue the aim of a clean Brexit, backed by a supportive party, which shares that desire. Alternatively it has been pointed out that the result might be to dilute the apparently pro Brexit majority, with many Conservatives elected who are less committed to leaving, which will enable Mrs May to revert to her original instincts of opposing Brexit, and to proceed on the basis of a nominal exit from the European Union, which has no real effect on the chains binding us to Brussels. A much less likely idea is that Mrs May is so wedded to the Remain camp that she would be happy to see the pro Brexit majority lost, in order that the result of the referendum may be overturned. I think the latter unlikely as modern politicians are not noted for sacrificing their position because of a deeply held belief. although I am suspicious of the pronouncements made by Hammond, which have already succeeded in significantly cutting the Conservative lead in the polls. The probability is that Mrs May does want a larger majority to strengthen her hand vi-a-vis the EU, but whether she would then use it to water down her demands is open to question.

Turning to the likely result there are factors which complacent Conservative voters should consider., quite apart for a reliance on opinion polls, which have been discredited by continual failures. While it is true that the majority of the working class, particularly in the North, rightly supported the Leave campaign, there are



Colin Bullen: questions to be considered.

historical and tribal reasons which will ensure that this will not translate into a massive swing to the Conservatives. At the same time voters in the normally Conservative regions affected by the Southern rail debacle will not feel very supportive of the government, and there is a general impression that the NHS is crumbling under the watch of the latter. When one adds to this the recent uncertainty about tax policies, the decision Mrs May has taken could prove to be very unwise. It may be that the optimism expressed by many Conservatives proves to be unfounded, and we might witness how a Prime Minister threw away her premiership, and destroyed the hopes of the British people that they would escape from the grip of the bureaucrats of Brussels. Almost every media commentator disagrees, but then they were wrong about the last general election, the referendum and the American presidential contest.

For the sake of the country it is essential that UKIP does well on the 8th June. Conservative party strategists are trying to convince UKIP supporters to abandon the party by claiming that it has no function, as it has achieved its aim of withdrawal from the EU. In fact, as we all know, Brexit is not an accomplished fact, and already the Conservatives are reneging on significant undertakings. The future of the British fishing industry is of vital interest to our coastal communities, yet there is talk of sacrificing them to achieve a final settlement, while every person who relies on the protections afforded by British Common Law should be alarmed at talk of allowing the iniquitous European Arrest Warrant to remain valid in this country. If the pressure exerted by UKIP on the Conservatives were removed, the latter would rush to accept a deal with Europe that would be a betrayal of all those who voted to leave last June. In addition UKIP offers sensible policies on all the major issues of the day, including a reorientation of education policy, greater concern for the infrastructure, particularly in relation to the railways, and the restoration of NHS, which is currently suffering the death of a thousand cuts. The electorate should be in no doubt that UKIP is a real alternative to the

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A terrible gamble continued:

tired old parties, which have let the people of this country down so badly over so many years"

Obviously the future of Brexit will be determined by the state of the parties on June 9th. If Mrs May wins a substantial majority, then it will go ahead, but how clean a break it will be depends on what she really intends, something no one but her knows. If she lost by enough of a margin to allow a coalition of Remainers to take power then Brexit will be stopped in its tracks. A hung parliament would be a nightmare, with Brexit in grave danger and the country facing yet another election in short order.

What UKIP can do about the result clearly depends on what it is. Should we win enough seats to keep Mrs May in power within a hung parliament then we could demand that our support required that the decision taken in the referendum be implemented in full, while if Mrs May won outright we could nevertheless take a leading part in pressurising the government to achieve a clean Brexit. In the event of a victory for the Remainers there would be little we could do in parliament but oppose the government while clearly we would continue the campaign in the country.

I am sure that most of us would regard the reversal of Brexit as probably the most disastrous political event in our history, as it would mean the end of democracy in this country. It is well known that Churchill described the latter as the worst form of government, except all the others. We have spent centuries trying to create the

social and political system which best serves the interests of the people. The Roman republic tried a very limited form of democracy, which was totally compromised by their excluding women, and of course by their slave culture. Since we have tried many forms of government, from the fascist, nationalist right to the authoritarian, collectivist left and it is my opinion that we in the country have come the closest to devising a system that, albeit not perfect, is the best yet tried.

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A constitutional monarchy, where the monarch holds the symbolic, but not the executive power, a legislature elected by universal franchise to represent the wishes of the people, an executive drawn from that legislature, so that those in charge are accountable through the ballot box, and an independent judiciary provides checks and balances which prevent tyranny. Add to this British Common Law, derived from judicial decisions and parliamentary action, and one has hope that individual freedoms are much more protected than in other, less fortunate nations. Continued membership of the EU would see all this thrown away, as Remainers cannot offer a valid answer to the questions posed by Tony Benn to the rulers of the EU "To whom are you accountable? And how can we get rid of you?"

This election is a terrible gamble, which did not have to be taken. If it all turns out alright then I will be quite happy to accept the criticism that my fears are no more than the sort of nightmares that come just before waking. Should it go wrong then we will all come to regret the decision taken by Mrs May.



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DEMOCRACY IN THE 21st CENTURY

BY JOHN PETTLEY

Last June, we voted to leave the EU in a referendum. Had the decision been left to Parliament, we would still be a member of the EU for years to come. The people and their elected representatives, in other words, were not of the same mind.

This is not the only mismatch in thinking between MPs and the general public. A survey on the death penalty, taken as recently as 2014, revealed that British people supported capital punishment by a margin of 45% to 39%. (The other 16% were presumably undecided.) Had MPs been polled instead, a very different result would have been given.

Democracy comes from the Greek word “δημοκρατία”, (dēmokratía) which means literally “rule of the people” (or commoners) and it has historically been exercised in two main forms – direct democracy, where the people make decisions themselves, and representative democracy, where an individual, or group of individuals, is chosen by the people to represent their interests. In the USA, the lower house of Congress is called the House of Representatives and the French term “député” conveys a similar meaning – someone deputised to act on behalf of another.

The problem with representative democracy is very simple – our representatives often don’t represent us. The party political system in particular ensures that their first loyalties more usually lie with their party leader rather than their constituents. A young, ambitious MP will be keen to tow the party line in order to maximise their chances of a ministerial post. A party manifesto, even if candidates fully expect many of the promises therein to be broken, carries far more weight in determining an MP’s conduct than the opinions of an MP’s constituents.

It has often been said that in a country like the UK, we are really only a democracy once in every five years, or whenever a General Election is called. Once our MP has been duly elected, he or she can do more or less whatever he or she likes. We cannot vote to de-select our MP even if they are guilty of a serious misdemeanour or many of us become unhappy at their performance.

This is very obviously an unsatisfactory situation and lies behind the widespread distrust of politicians. In order to address these concerns, the Blair government introduced the e-petition whereby people could petition Parliament on any issue. In 2011, the Coalition government stated that any petition gaining 100,000 signatures or more would be debated in the

House of Commons.

Of course, petitions are nothing new. The Chartists attracted over 1,200,000 signatures for their “People’s Charter” in the late 1830s, which called for widespread Parliamentary reform. As far back as 1603, King James I was handed the Millenary Petition, which demanded reform of the Anglican Church and which, it is claimed, was signed by 1,000 ministers. The problem with petitions lies with the name – they are requests and nothing more. Governments can – and often do – choose to ignore them.

The solution is obvious, but so inimical to vested interest that every conceivable means is used to discredit it. As our representatives do not represent us, we need the power to make the decisions ourselves. In other words, our democracy needs to contain an element of direct democracy which some argue is the only true form of democracy. Those e-petitions need to be revamped so that if a certain threshold is reached, they should trigger a binding referendum which Parliament must respect.

This is hardly revolutionary – after all, the earliest democracy, as practised in Athens in the 5th Century BC, was a direct democracy, although only Athenian citizens were allowed to vote and they only had the time for all this voting courtesy of the city’s slave population who naturally had no role in the democratic process.

The Swiss and some American states, however, have introduced a measure of direct democracy which functions perfectly well without requiring any slaves to keep the place ticking over while the citizens vote. Indeed, in an age where so much can be done at the click of a mouse or the pressing of a button, modern technology has made direct democracy much easier than ever before. In the earliest days of our Parliament, there was no practical alternative to representative democracy. People needed spokesmen to represent them before a King who was frequently on the move. We are justly proud of our history as a Parliamentary democracy which, along with our Common Law legal system, allowed us to create a much freer country than virtually all of our European neighbours, but if our freedom is to survive, the democratic process needs an overhaul.

Our sorry years as members of the European Union serve to emphasise this point. It is hardly surprising that very few people understand how the EU works. Its structure is very opaque and it all

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Democracy in the 21st century continued:

seems very remote from the people. According to the Bruges Group, it has no fewer than seven presidents. Historically, the President of the Commission has been the most powerful and as most readers are well aware, the Commission is not an elected body. Commissioners are chosen by heads of state and some have acquired a reputation for their contempt for the people.

For example, in Autumn 2015, the Trade Commissioner, Cecilia Malmström, agreed to meet with John Hilary, the executive Director of the anti-poverty group War on Want. Mr Hilary expressed grave concern about the proposed EU-US free trade agreement, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and mentioned that over three million people had signed a petition calling for it to be abandoned. Challenged as to how she could continue with the deal in the face of such massive public opposition, her response was, “I do not take my mandate from the European people.” After the meeting, Hilary commented, “In reality...Malmström receives her orders directly from the corporate lobbyists that swarm around Brussels.”

This is the harsh reality of the EU. There may be a directly-elected body among its institutions, the European Parliament, but even its supporters acknowledge that as a whole, it possesses a serious democratic deficit. The sheer scale of seismic shock which the Brexit vote delivered has forced it to accept that particular result, but it has otherwise been particularly contemptuous of direct democracy. In 1992, the Danes were forced to vote again when they rejected the Maastricht Treaty and sixteen years later, the Irish were treated similarly when they voted down the Lisbon Treaty.

Unfortunately, the mantra that “you cannot trust the people” has spread across the Channel to affect our political system too. Last year’s Brexit referendum result has been seized upon as evidence that referendums are a bad thing. You can read article after article saying that Brexit voters were stupid people or too easily manipulated by the Eurosceptic press. The writers don’t prescribe any limitation of the franchise based on educational attainment, literacy or IQ, but you get the feeling that there is an implicit wish for some mechanism whereby the great unwashed can be prevented from making their opinions felt, as they tend to think and vote in a way that isn’t to the liking of a certain type of left-wing intellectual.

And this takes us to the corruption at the heart of the democratic process in both the UK and other western nations. A self-serving élite drawn from politics, big business, the media and academia wishes

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to drown out all dissenting voices. UKIP did rather over-use the term “LibLabCon” in its literature but particularly in the era of Blair, Cameron and Clegg, this term served to make the legitimate point that there seemed to be very little to choose between the three party leaders and their policies. Even now, sadly, with Mrs May having taken over from the self-designated “heir to Blair”, her government seems keen to press on

with measures to force politicians, doctors and teachers to sign an “Equality Oath” which would force them to sign up to an ideology of politically correctness.

This nonsense should have died a death once Labour was booted out of office in 2010.

We are facing the absurdity whereby Evangelical Christians and others who believe in traditional marriage or who believe it is plain daft for five year olds to be given the choice of being a boy or a girl would be debarred from holding political office, teaching children or training for the medical profession. This should act as a wake-up call for us all. Democracy is in danger of degenerating into a self-selecting oligarchy. It is not just the great unwashed who could find themselves frozen out.

I have come across supporters of Brexit who are nonetheless deeply distrustful of referendums, regarding them as foreign to our political history. To an extent, they have a point. In 1945, when Winston Churchill proposed a referendum on continuing the wartime coalition: Clement Attlee replied, “I could not consent to the introduction into our national life of a device so alien to all our traditions as the referendum.”

Fair enough, but a referendum is far less alien to our national traditions than political correctness – or indeed, the so-called “British values” beloved of former Education secretary Nikki Morgan. It is far less alien than a rule of the self-serving, contemptuous élite that we suffered during the New Labour years. The only politicians who should fear the referendum are those who do not respect the people who put them into office. To put it another way, introducing an element of direct democracy is the best way of weeding out would-be tyrants like Tony Blair.

Referendums also ensure that the people have a real choice if they are stuck in a situation when their elected representatives, along with their friends in the media and business, are predominantly of all one mind. It is true that Hitler used – or better, misused – the referendum, but no one can claim that direct democracy has turned Switzerland into an extremist country.

Brexit offers us the best chance in years to re-boot our democratic process and if we want one

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final reason why referendums are a good thing, Guy Verhofstadt, the *bête noire* of Euroscepticism doesn't like them. During a conference on referendums, the former Belgian Prime Minister, now a Liberal MEP, recently said "I am still in favour of democracy" before going on ominously to add, "but the existence of referendums is a threat to reform of the EU". In other words, the future direction of EU project cannot be trusted to the people.

No doubt on reading this, you will breathe a huge sigh of relief – thank goodness; we got out just in time. Leaving the EU, however, will not get our country back on its feet unless our whole political process is given a good shake-up. Historically, as a nation, we have been ahead of the game when it comes to democratic freedom. Our EU membership threw us into reverse gear for over 40 years and regaining our place on the cutting edge of democracy may well involve fighting to introduce new features in the way we are governed which on the surface are indeed "alien to our traditions." In reality, however, the introduction of direct democracy will mark us out as worthy successors of the barons of Runnymede, the Roundheads, the Chartists and others who battled so hard in the past to establish our country as a bastion of liberty.

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ALL OUT WAR by TIM SHIPMAN
A BOOK REVIEW BY DEREK BENNETT

One of the really good things about producing this little bulletin is it means I get to be in touch with some great people and, from time to time, I get sent some really good books to preview.

Once such person has very kindly paid for and sent me a great book to read, which is Tim Shipman's book, 'All out war' (ISBN978-0-00-82151-6).

As well as giving a time line of events leading up to the June 23rd 2016 EU referendum, over its 630 pages Tim Shipman gives a detailed account of the events and actions of the main people which lead to the 'Leave' side winning the referendum. This is a fascinating read and well worth purchasing.

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Seizing the moment. The opportunities for UK fisheries after Brexit by John Ashworth £4.00. Brexit a golden opportunity. Why the UK must not allow the CFP to be replicated into British law as proposed with the Great "Repeal" Bil, for political convenience or short term vested interests. UK withdrawal can automatically restore control over the UK(EEZ) out to 200nm/midline and all resources therein.

The Road to Freedom by Gerard Batten MEP, £8.99. In this updated book, following the 2016 Brexit Referendum result, Batten with well argued points explains how Article 50, the Article for leaving the EU is a trap and that joining the EFTA or the EEA will not give the UK true independence. He shows why the only true way to leave the EU is for parliament to repeal the European Economic Communities act 1972.

The UK's liabilities to the financial mechanisms of the European Union by Bob Lyddon, £8.00. An exposure of the liabilities for the UK while being a member of the EU. As guarantors of the ECB, EIB etc extra cash above our annual Membership fee can be demanded by the EU under the QMV with no unilateral right of refusal!.

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