

The History of the United Kingdom

Summary

The piece argues that the UK's EU referendum of 2016 was not a substantive democratic decision properly arrived at. Instead, it was and remains a fiasco, and in several ways a crime. Therefore, to dispute it, even at this late stage, is not to "remoan." It is to alert a nation to the dangers of being accessory to a crime. Committing this felony will also divert us from our duty, which is to address the true crises we face as a community and as a nation.

The piece suggests that to choose a referendum as a way of obtaining a decision on the issue of the UK's membership of the EU, was wrong in the first place to the point of being criminally negligent. So crude and simplistic an instrument, just a tick in a box with two alternative spaces in it, remain/leave, was never going to produce a valid or meaningful decision on so momentous and complex a subject. It was effectively asking us, a people in various states of confusion, ignorance, division and even outrage, to tick yes or no. What controls were there to check what we might be saying saying "no" to ? And to intone grandly, afterwards, that "The people have spoken" was, and remains, bogus and impertinent, an insult to this nation's people, history and democratic institutions, an act of careless theft in itself.

The conduct of the campaigners on both sides of the argument, with their various demagogic deceptions and scare stories, further undermined the validity of the result (whichever way it might have gone) and disgraced this nation before the world.

The piece quotes from the Nolan principles, which UK MP's swear to follow. The principles include a commitment to tell the truth. A significant number of MP's keep forgetting this commitment and did so prominently during the campaign.

The piece asks why the Nolan principles are not enforceable and why there are not penalties for breaking them. It proposes that a public servant who lies to the People is a felon committing a capital crime. For, as sound and trusted money is a basic requirement for a healthy economy, so our democracy relies absolutely

on sound and trusted language. If the People is sovereign, then lying to the People is an act of High Treason.

The piece compares the UK to France. Faced with effectively the same crisis as ours, France appears to have found a remarkable leader and to have chosen new approaches. In contrast, the UK has merely retreated into the delusions of Brexit. More austerity, but now (at least as originally intended in the Tory manifesto) with fox-hunting added.

The piece asks some quite fundamental questions about the state of the UK and, in the process, seeks to offer a definition of democracy and of sovereignty. It argues that no decision can be meaningful or truly democratic, unless it be “properly informed.” Without an adequate process by which to decide responsibly, the People is blind and at the mercy of demagogues.

The piece also asks what constitutes a genuine free press. As it condemns politicians who keep lying and recommends they should face penalties heavy enough to act as a deterrent, so it also condemns those “newspaper” propagandists and demagogues of the far right wing, who claim the title “free press.” It finds that most of the UK “press” does not qualify for the term “free” at all and should not be tolerated. Run by a cabal of autocratic billionaires seeking personal influence, it is unworthy and constitutes a major part and symptom of the nation’s ill-health.

The piece argues that the only true reading of the Brexit vote is that it is symptomatic of a society in trouble, outrage and disarray, caused by years of “Austerity” and also by the effects of “Future Shock” unmanaged and perhaps unmanageable.

That is not to say that there are not many healthy elements in our society, including its youth. But the healthy elements need worthy and visionary leadership and the nation’s systems require urgent reform on many fronts. The Brexit negotiations and their unknown consequences will be a massive, inexcusable and possibly fatal diversion from that renewal process, taking the nation in precisely the opposite direction from its true needs and destiny.