

Politicians, Politicians

Donald Fergusson

Although PPE is a wonderful thing I am sure that its dedicated practitioners are more than able to deal with arguments of all kinds and vanquish their opponents with sprays of barbed syllogisms. However, the days when this was a sufficient modus for a legislator are gone. The lack of grip and capability has been agonisingly demonstrated by the recent non-performance of our current government for which, at first, there was so much expectation and hope. The scale of this failure will only become clear at the next election when those who cannot support any of the alternatives on offer now will be faced with very difficult choices or will have to devise new ones for themselves. People who entrusted Boris Johnson and his mostly feckless gang now feel betrayed and looking forward can see no signs of improvement. A sad parallel has been drawn with Donald Trump, a bulky unstructured person with much oral bombast and posturing signifying nothing.

Technology has always had impact on social organisation and communities for both good and ill. The difference today is the scale and massively intrusive nature of technologies now developing very fast and getting faster. Indifferent or simply criminal political leaders now have the possibility of gaining control of weapons of extensive power and effect. We are not either the only country with failing government, fortunately, it is commonly

encountered and usually only the local population is adversely affected, abused, enslaved or impoverished. Technology however gives these rascallions the ability to try to affect us all.

The record of British politicians is appalling and very nearly led in one instance to the destruction of our country. I am not going to recite the last few thousand years of poor performance but what we might call modern technology arose with Archimedes and the engineering he invented and engineers he trained and who created the Antikythera to his design. After his death there was a lack of focus and a dispersal of talents but in this country, over the last four centuries, we have been very lucky to have had a stream of outstanding individuals who winnowed out the fundamental natures, structures, mathematics and algorithms underlying life and its manifold structures and properties. Properly managed this should have given us key control of the modern developing consumer society. Politicians soon put a stop to that.

There were successes and one simple one will illustrate. Warships had guns which fired metal or stone shot. The Royal Navy, often unfairly categorised as controlled by rum, sodomy and the lash, standardised a gun bore and shot size and I do not even know the name of the responsible individual. With its excellent training and prize payments the best Royal Navy ships could deliver four

broadships to an unfortunate opponent with only one in reply. So the Royal Navy dominated the seas for two and a half centuries, trade expanded and the British Empire grew apace.

Technologies of value also originated in other countries where regularly their efforts were undervalued or misunderstood. As a result it became the habit of these technologists to migrate to Britain where a welcoming reception was assured. Marconi was one outstanding example although politicians did try to put him off.

Understanding technical matters means learning the language of mathematics and that everything you apparently see around you and you yourself is an expression of mathematics. We are sensory animals and depend on the data supplied to our brains by our senses to allow it to develop the model we experience as our apparent reality. Most of us are not good at this and only a very few are very good and of this very few, very very few (if any) are politicians. As a result developments and their likely scope are completely misunderstood or ignored and then acted upon with haste and poor appreciation so that the political policies put into effect are ill focussed, bad or disastrous.

Another small example - The Ground Nut Scheme. A brilliant idea, grow nutritious nuts and feed the world or, at least, Little Moreton cum Hardy. Emissaries gushed forth from

Continued on page 2

INSIDE: EU coronavirus bailout problems p 3 - Limits to EU interference p 3 - UK's trade deals with the EU must live up to Brexit promises p 4 - New immigration rules p 4 - Brexit trade deal still awaited p 5 - Sales into the EU via WTO rules p 5 - UK's trade deals with the EU must live up to Brexit promises p 4 - EU funds wasted p 5 - Company bailouts p 5 - The nudge unit 'PSYOP' and corporate state power p 6 - Time for a real Brexits p 8 - The new largest trading zone p 8 - EU farming pollution p 8 - UK trade deals ready for post-Brexit p 9 - Obituary p 9 - Letters p 10

Politicians Politicians

Continued from page 1

Whitehall to a selected bit of the Empire in Africa where they rounded up all the men to reveal to them their place as saviours of the human race. They went along with this as they were being fed and offered no opinions so that the food kept coming. Nobody had done anything about understanding what goes on in remote rural communities or the technology of agriculture. Males in these communities don't garden or farm and, if done at all, all of the work is done by the females. If any passing woman had been shown the plant intended she would have simply told them it goes not grow here. A complete disaster which, I am told, raised quite a few well fed African chuckles.

A German turned up one day who wanted support for his engine. Engines were just getting to be big business but, of course, they used petrol very usefully, as it meant that this waste product from the business of distilling valuable vapourising oils now could be put to work profitably. The German was Dr. Rudolf Diesel and my father attended his lecture at the Royal Institution of great fame. The good doctor had many small models of his engine and after a discourse on the technology, to be given his name, he proceeded to demonstrate his small motors running on a selection of fuels including buttermilk and then completed his show by operating one on the dust he swept from the floor. There were people present who appreciated his machine and so pleased was he that he decided to return to Germany and pack up his laboratory and move to England. What happened next is unclear but somebody spoke to somebody and Dr. Diesel did board the ferry in 1913 but was never seen again. The Kaiser's agents got the credit. Diesel technology flourished in Germany but simple security could have provided it for us from the start.

Technology has always been the target to steal or copy so creators try to keep it safe. A British engineer, Frank Whittle, also invented an engine but

the politicians did not warm to it, some saying it would never work, and forced him to apply for a patent. He was a serving RAF officer and did so. The day it was published the young Count Ribbentrop was there to buy copies which he took back to Germany so that the first aircraft to fly with the British jet engine was one built in Germany for Hitler. Had the German engineering business devoted itself to just these aircraft we would have had little chance in World War II. We were lucky that idiot Hitler, another technical incompetent politician, only wanted jet powered bombers. A very close run thing in the event.

I digress, an old Austrian woman, Fini Strohmeier, who was presented at the Emperor's Court in 1915, told me that when she was at Art School in Vienna after the War, Hitler, by then a War veteran, was a fellow student who was certain he was a great artist, an opinion held only by him. Fini's group of sophisticated young Viennese women, when Hitler tried to curry favour at their Kaffeekuchen breaks, took turns in teasing him and the first to make him cry got an extra cake. This happened repeatedly as he was very keen to make an impression and failed to see that for them he was just a joke. Methinks they may have something to answer for. As there were few men and no jobs she, along with many other women from European continental countries after the War, left for domestic work in England where she worked for the Cabinet Secretary up to 1940 and he gave her a memento of a spare red box which she later gave to me.

Thanks again to brilliant engineers and the mathematician in 1917 who created the Theory of Aeronautics, Britain had built up considerable aircraft expertise in airframe design, engines and control systems. We led the world in this area and the frantic competition of the international air race for the Schneider Trophy resulted in Britain winning it three years in succession so that it remains on permanent display at the Royal

Aeronautical Society. The engines that powered the Hurricane and Spitfire were tested in that race. Politicians did not assist and had it not been for Lady Houston there would never have been a Spitfire flying in time. There was much talk about the sound barrier which at Miles Aviation was not seen as a problem and it may have been one of their extraordinary range of aircraft which first went supersonic by accident. The redoubtable Chuck Yeager gets the credit in the history when after many crashes he successfully flew the X-15 after it had been modified with the essential component of the British all flying tail leaked by someone. The pre eminence of British aeronautics was demonstrated outstandingly when Geoffrey de Havilland and his team produced the most amazing first ever jet powered airliner, the Comet. Many years ahead of its time it sadly had a fault as metal fatigue was not then fully understood. After the crashes, a complete aircraft in a tank was pressure test cycled to destruction, revealing the problems of crack propagation in metal skins. This data was of inconceivable value but was shared with the United States allowing them to put their industrial weight behind a hugely successful aeronautical revival for them.

Data, its collection, handling and analysis has always been a bit of a conundrum and often seen by some as a bothersome nuisance. Britain was lucky to have a young woman called Ada in the 1820s who was fascinated by data and seems to have discussed it with George Boole. From this and her observations of the operation of an automatic mechanical loom built by a Frenchman, Jacquard, she evolved the Theory of Programming. Later during the first World War there was an extraordinarily skilled Post Office engineer who was able to tap the telephones provided by yet another outstanding engineer, Bell. He was sent all over the place by the government but it all stopped at the Armistice and he was returned to Dollis Hill which,

Politicians Politicians

by contrast, he found boring. To fill in the time he set about analysing telephone systems and the manner in which they carried data. In the early 1920s he evolved the Theory of Networking. At about the same time Alan Turing was starting on his theory of machine solving of puzzles. He came up with the Turing Machine which is not a physical machine but a theoretical framework from which you can derive the solution to any problem by designing the machine which will do so. When the World War II started he was spirited away into Bletchley Park which had many connections and telephone lines and engineers. One of these overheard Turing, who as a first attempt had created the electromechanical device the Bombe wrangling with the details of trying to process data at high speed. Tommy Flowers said. 'I can do that' and was then encouraged by Turing to go and build the world's first electronic digital computer, critical in the war effort. The team included Gordon Welchman who never seemed to do anything except write columns of things. He was a data collector and his power of analysis was such that if any kind of operation was planned by anyone anywhere he could tell you if it was going to succeed or fail and the reasons why, all from

writing lists. As the British Empire had to have global communications it had strung the planet with cables in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, later copied by others on a smaller scale. However the electronics offered a better option. You would think that with the keys to the electronic future in their hands British politicians would do their best to promote it. They had better ideas, ignore the behaviour of rampant politicians but convict Turing who committed suicide, sack Welchman who departed for the USA and give away programming, networking, the electronic digital computer and the new Empire communicator to the United States for nothing. Welchman's book became a *bete noire* which UK and USA agencies hunted down and destroyed.

Winston Churchill was a rare bird, a politician who knew that he did not know about all this technical stuff but sought the best scientific advice and took it. He also had a remarkable ability to pick individuals to do things and let them get on with it.

Only once ever did the USA say, 'Thank you'. This happened when Roosevelt met Churchill and at the meeting he was given a metal object which, I am quite sure, neither man had

a clue about except that they needed it. In his speech at the end of the meeting Roosevelt held it up and said, 'this is the greatest single gift that any one nation has ever given another.' So went the cavity magnetron to the USA along with all the technology which enabled them to create the electronic digital revolution. It has to be said that, having been given all of this, the business community of the USA did not hang about in deploying it. Jack Watson turned IBM from a famous builder of cash registers into a computer company at breakneck speed and a host of others followed closely in his wake. By contrast the British computer industry stumbled from one political problem to another.

In the current period things do not improve. Foreign buying of crucial businesses continues apace. Outstanding developments in artificial intelligence, gene technology and materials have all failed to get the support they needed. In particular, the selling of Deep Mind and ARM is regrettable and many others are being targeted. Politicians have to understand that the solutions to the myriad people problems will come from developing technology and that they ignore it at the peril of us all.

EU coronavirus bailout problems

As the European Commission prides itself on the rescue package for the 27 members of the EU, not all members are in agreement.

The Hungary's prime minister Viktor Orban has called the EU Commission's €750bn (£700bn) recovery plan "absurd", saying it is based on jointly-guaranteed credit and would help rich member states more. "They want to take out this loan for 30 years, so even our grandchildren may have to pay for it. We need to think carefully about whether we as a

country want this or not," he said.

So yet again we see the EU Commission at odds with its members needs.

However, the EU Commission appears to consider that member states who use their much talked about legal veto system must be ignored. A new twist on democracy.

A report suggests that the Commission is considering alternatives ways to push ahead with its coronavirus recovery fund without Hungary and Poland. This is because

the two countries used their veto on the bloc's budget due to the linking EU funds to respect for law.

According to a senior Commission official the remaining 25 member states could proceed with setting up the €750 bn recovery fund, which is aimed at helping economies hit by the pandemic to act as a "bridge" until Hungary and Poland remove their veto.

The question raised is why have a veto system for member states when the Commission can just ignore it when it wishes.

Limits to EU interference

Let us not forget that Article 50 of the Treaty of the European Union that the UK implemented for

withdrawal from the EU does not provide for any continuing right of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) or any

other institution to adjudicate after exit on matters that happened before withdrawal.

UK's trade deal with the EU must live up to Brexit promises

Sammy Wilson MP

The following article is from the Bruges Group web site on the 29th November.

“As the U.K. edges toward a final deal on its future relationship with the European Union, it is important that we ensure the agreement delivers on what was promised. Already it is clear that last year's Withdrawal Agreement was fatally flawed. It leaves Brussels and the European Court of Justice in charge of huge swathes of UK economic policy, future payments that the UK will have to make to the EU, settlements in future trade disputes and rules governing EU citizens living in the UK. Crucially, it also splits the UK by placing Northern Ireland firmly within the EU single-market part of the EU customs territory and therefore subject to all future EU laws and regulations.

London is frantically trying to untangle the mess that this hastily agreed, badly thought-out and largely unscrutinized deal has created. The same can't be allowed to happen with the future trade deal that is now being finalised. This deal will decide the shape of our relationship with the EU for decades to come. If we get it wrong, we will not be a free nation. We will find our economy slowly strangled and our parliamentary sovereignty shackled by continued interference from Brussels.

Any deal brought by back by Prime Minister Boris Johnson should be judged by whether it fulfils the

promise made during the Brexit referendum campaign to “take back control.” That includes control of our laws, money, trade and fishing waters. It also means that the UK must be kept out of the EU single market and customs union, and that there should be no role for the ECJ in deciding the meaning or application of laws in the UK.

As a Northern Ireland MP, my primary concern in agreeing to any EU-UK deal is: Does the whole country exit the transition period as one United Kingdom? There is no point in claiming that we are regaining our sovereignty as an independent country and taking back control if we leave one part of the UK inside the EU.

Apart from breaking trust with the people of Northern Ireland and abandoning the central premise of the Good Friday agreement - that Northern Ireland would remain part of the UK as long as its people choose to do so - leaving Northern Ireland subject to EU laws has implications for national sovereignty right across the UK.

If we allow this to happen, Northern Ireland would be the EU's foot in the UK door. Any UK economic policies that benefitted businesses based in England, Scotland or Wales could be challenged by Brussels on the basis that if those firms traded, or potentially might trade, in Northern Ireland they might have an advantage over EU

firms.

That is why the Withdrawal Agreement was so important to the EU and that is why the question of whether the future trade deal applies to the whole country - and whether every part of the UK leaves the EU on the same terms - is so important.

Any difference in treatment of the nations that make up the UK goes to the very heart of the Acts of Union. It would be inconceivable that the government would agree to any deal that meant that trade between the countries of the UK would be disrupted in order to apply and collect EU taxes or apply restrictive EU regulations.

If the whole country does not leave the EU as one, many laws made in Westminster will not apply to Northern Ireland if they conflict with EU laws. This will include laws relating to employment, professional standards, the environment, building control and product standards. Laws covering 60 percent or more of life in Northern Ireland will be made in Brussels rather than London.

Such a situation would leave our part of the UK in a constitutional no man's land. That is not taking back control. That is abandoning the citizens of our own country.

Source: www.brugesgroup.com

The Rt. Hon. Sammy Wilson MP - DUP Member of Parliament for East Antrim.

New immigration rules

Provided no change is announced during the ongoing EU trade talks before the 31st December, new immigration rules for entry into the UK will come into force.

The rules are said to be ‘simple and flexible’ ministers have promised as the UK's point based post-Brexit

system went live on 1st December.

Most foreign nationals, including from the EU who want to work in the UK from 1st January will have to apply online for a visa.

Those seeking a skilled worker visa will need a job offer, to be proficient in English and earn at least £25,600.

Free movement from the EU will come to an end on the 31st December 2020. Let's hope that no preferential treatment will be made for EU nationals, and that they also are prevented from seeking housing allowance or any other financial support from the UK taxpayers'.

Brexit trade deal still awaited

At the time of going to press the UK government had not agreed any type of trade deal with the EU.

The article opposite was written in

November, but the requirements it refers to are fully justified.

Many believe the government may still fail to agree a truly democratic exit

from the EU that will allow the UK to retain full sovereignty over its future laws. The 31st December deadline must also be preserved.

Sales into the EU via WTO rules

Extract of an article published by BrexitFacts4EU

While the UK politicians argue about a EU trade deal necessary to avoid using World Trade Organisation rules (WTO), Research by Fact4EU show that; “over two-thirds of the World sells to the EU on WTO terms - no ‘trade deal’, no demands.

Last year 142 states sold the EU £1.2 trillion of goods, with no trade deal in sight.

Only 69 states had any kind of ‘agreement’ - only a handful traded in any meaningful volume

Their analysis of the latest trade figures from the EU for 2019 has shown how well the world has been selling to the EU without needing any kind of trade deal.

142 states globally sold goods to the EU last year,

* Without a trade deal

* Without being members of the Single Market and/or Customs Union

* Without giving up any of their territory

* Without giving up rights over their coastal waters

* Without giving up legal supremacy or ‘governance’ to the ECJ

* Without paying vast subsidies to the EU

* Without having to align their fiscal policy, industrial strategy, regional support, state aid or almost any other economic policy to that of the EU

* Without tying their socio-political policies to those of the EU.

These states are all sovereign, yet they all sell successfully to the EU, below is a list of the sales into the EU for 2019 in € billions.

China (excl Hong Kong)	€420.8
United States	€294.5
Russia	€157.7
India	€48.2
Vietnam	€40.0
Taiwan	€31.7
Brazil	€29.5
Saudi Arabia	€28.8
Malaysia	€27.1
Thailand	€23.1

What kind of ‘agreements’ do the other 69 states have with the EU?

In producing the above information, they used the 2019 import data from the EU’s own statistics agency, Eurostat. Then took the list of countries with whom the EU claims to have some sort of ‘deal’ affecting tariffs, and subtracted these.

In doing this they were being generous to the EU. Some of these ‘trade deals’ are little more than agreements to cooperate on trade and are most certainly not ‘Free Trade Agreements’ of the type which the UK has been attempting to negotiate with the EU since the EU finally agreed to start talking in March of this year. They even included Japan, even though the EU’s trade deal wasn’t applied for the whole of 2019.

Of the EU’s 69 ‘trade deals’, **only 29 are ‘in force’.**

40 of these agreements have only been ‘provisionally applied’

The top three sellers into the EU’s Single Market sold more than the EU’s 69 ‘trade deal’ countries put together.

....Above they have shown how most of the World sells successfully into the Single Market without any trade deal in sight. Indeed, the three biggest sellers into the EU account for €873 billion of sales between them. That’s 27% more than the combined total of sales into the EU of all the 69 states with which the EU claims to have some form of trade deal.”

Source: *BrexitFacts4EU.Org2020*
(where a fuller report is available)

EU funds wasted

The EU’s constant waste of taxpayers funds is worrying.

It appears that during 2018 the largess of the EU was used to fund a

small mail-order fund to the tune of €35,000. This firm W+B Medien Nordland Verlag, a small mail-order firm managed was by militant neo-

Nazi Thorsten Heise, promoted Holocaust-deniers, in a series of newsletters published by a German neo-Nazi jailed for hate crimes.

Company bailouts

If you avoid paying tax, then do expect a bailout. Denmark, France and Poland are refusing to provide

bailouts to companies that are registered in tax havens like Panama. However, campaigners point out that

the EU’s Luxembourg and Netherlands are also home to firms avoiding paying billions into national coffers.

The nudge unit 'PSYOP' and corporate state power

Rodney Atkinson

The psychological operations (PSYOP) are operations to convey selected information and indicators to audiences to influence their emotions, motives, and objective reasoning, and ultimately the behaviour of governments, organisations, groups, and individuals. It is in this sphere that the British Government's "nudge unit" the *Behavioural Insights Team* operates. Some of its members were working at the **Institute for Government**, where they were commissioned by the Cabinet Office to write a report on influencing public behaviour. The Report was called "**MINDSPACE – influencing behaviour through public policy**" which in a world of elitist corporate State monopoly power, increasingly unaccountable to democratic process, is a dangerous development.

Government taxation, allowances and social legislation allow Government to "achieve desired public policy outcomes". Now we need to persuade people, say the authors of the Report "to change their behaviour, their lifestyles and their existing habits"!

It is but a dangerously short step from this list to changing "their attitudes, their language, their views, their choices, their politics, their voting". Goebbels' Nazi Propaganda Ministry would be proud of their logic!

Such arrogance and control freakery would not be a threat in a genuine democracy where the representatives of the people were the chief power in deciding public policy. But the leftist/corporatist State political system which has emerged over recent decades has bypassed the voter and consumer, the parliament and the nation to create an elitist un-sackable corporate and State (and Superstate) paid class which feed off each other economically and politically. It not

only feels able to act politically without reference to voters but to expect their ideas to be put into effect the heads of parliament and the people.

The chief source of many of these power structures and ideas are those most remote from nations, democracies and elections – supranational government like the EU and the UN and their various agencies. Sometimes the peoples' own governments conspire to create these blatantly fascist systems – although they are as adept at promoting corporatist fascism in e.g. the European Union as they are at imposing Marxist Gramscian social policies on powerless families, communities and educational and media systems.

These power structures are today so out of control and their operators enjoy such self righteous dominance that they feel they can treat their peoples as behavioural toys to be manipulated "for their own good", not as emancipated voters and free consumers whom they must serve.

Covid State Elitism

As it happens we have seen in the COVID crisis the utter incompetence of the supranational corporatist, leftist view of the world and the openly dismissive attitude of governments to parliament and people. The nodding through, without parliamentary debate, of draconian lockdown legislation, the attacks on legitimate demonstrations, the arrest and abusive treatment of people in public places, increasing attacks on free speech, and the postponement of elections in New Zealand by a far left administration whose fellow ideologists attacked Trump for suggesting the same for the US elections and for exactly the same reason – the COVID crisis.

The very title of the MINDSPACE

report is an admission of mass psychological treatment – a short step from "conditioning". At the very front of the report is a pear shaped illustration of the words and concepts they associate with their Mindspace programme. I list them here:

Mood, intent, motivation, choice, reciprocity, framing, influence, resources, affects, design and then in large boxed letters:

AFFECT - MESSENGER - PRIMING - COMMITMENT - SALIENCE - HABIT - EGO - NORMS - INCENTIVES - DEFAULTS - DANGEROUS GOOD INTENTIONS

Of course most if not all those involved start from democratic principles, a desire to do good and to make Government policy effective. But computer companies built personal data systems in the 1930s which were then used by the Nazis to identify and round up Jews and political opponents. In the 1930s and 1940s British and American big business collaborated with Nazis to increase trade and business links but thereby sustained an evil and murderous regime.

Today in the COVID crisis personal data and DNA are being collected by Governments – but with little parliamentary debate and public scrutiny. Who knows to what uses they will be put?

The road to hell is paved with good intentions.

It is significant how in recent years in the UK, in the Brexit crisis and now in the COVID crisis it has been academics, civil servants, lawyers and State agencies which have driven the decisions which have angered the people. Politicians, being dangerously inexperienced and poorly qualified individuals have gone along with the unelected "experts" – or rather they have chosen which experts to listen to!

The nudge unit ‘PSYOP’ and corporate state power

They did not listen to the Swedish experts but rather to Professor Niall Ferguson who said that 85,000 Swedes could die (when the outcome so far is less - a lower death rate than in the UK which followed his advice).

This MINDSPACE behavioural change programme started with a summit in 2009

“which brought together senior policy, strategy and insight officials from across government, alongside a number of external experts.”

The report,

“.....is grounded in a series of interviews with senior civil servants, academics and behaviour change experts”

And the good intentions are framed in relatively uncontroversial areas:

“For policy-makers facing policy challenges such as crime, obesity, or environmental sustainability”

Just like facial recognition technology is sold as “catching crooks” and “if you have not got anything to hide why should you worry?”. But it is of course the State which has potentially much to hide – not least its infamous lack of control of its own data and the selling of information to others, never mind the political and economic manipulation of voters/consumers for reasons of politics and profit.

So what is important is not the promoted reasons for this kind of psychological method of making government effective but the psychological methods themselves. So when this Report refers to:

sophisticated communications techniques.

and

existing tools such as incentives and information can be greatly enhanced by new evidence about how our behaviour is influenced.....Tools such as incentives and information are

intended to change behaviour by “changing minds”.

Now that is the extreme danger. For “changing minds” has of course two meanings. Firstly and simply that when presented with an argument individuals could, of their own volition, “change their mind” and do something different – and then perhaps “unchange it” again.

Secondly and most insidiously (with the effect of the total resources of monopoly Government behind the programme) it could mean changing the human mind itself by conditioning it to react in specific ways in future in a way pre-determined by Government or the State apparatus. Individuals, families, communities and nations would effectively lose their free will and become mere tools of the State. The “psych ops” would not have to be 100% effective – just enough so that the unaffected were intimidated as powerfully as the majority were conditioned.

The good intentions of those who wrote this MINDSPACE Report are evident in words like the following:

Government legitimacy rests on the fact it represents and serves the people, and thus it is vital that their views are taken into account when considering any attempt to influence their behaviour.

But “taken into account” is not very re-assuring when combined with the following:

Government needs to take a lead on issues despite public opposition, since these public attitudes may actually shift in response to the introduction of the policy.

And who measures the “shift”? – the very powers including the corporatist media who are dependent on corporate and political patronage.

Changing Individuals Through Corporations

Of particular interest – given the corporatist State power base to which we have referred to earlier – is the following distinction between Individuals and companies:

On the one hand, there is a good case that the freedoms of people, rather than institutions, count the most – and government can change the behaviour of companies in ways it could not for private citizens.

A good example is the way in which companies and their employees are now being subsidised by the State to adopt electric cars. Employees will not be taxed on the benefit of their company car – if it is an electric one! This is a big subsidy! We know that people in general are not buying such cars but here we have a classic corporatist pincer movement between business and State to coerce people into doing what they would otherwise not do (and covertly paying for it in higher taxes!).

So whether it is health, COVID, freedom of expression or electric cars the problem is not that such matters are the concern of Government but that unaccountable elites of business and politics have accrued such power at the centre (and neutered the votes and voices of parliamentary democracy and even national sovereignty itself) that psychological and behavioural manipulations of the populace are so dangerous. Such programmes in the hands of a powerful elite, even with good intentions, will inevitably gravitate towards totalitarian systems.

Sources: *The Report: “MINDSPACE – influencing behaviour through public policy available at <https://www.bi.team/publications/mind-space> R. Atkinson at www.freenations.net*

Time for a real Brexit

Douglas Carswell

We cannot 'Get Brexit done' without reforming the country.

"The past three years alas have demonstrated that competent public administration is something in precious short supply in Britain".

"Get Brexit done" was a brilliant campaign slogan. But Brexit won't be "done" on December 31st, even if that marks the moment when the process of legally separating ourselves from Brussels is complete.

Leaving the EU was never an end in itself, but a step towards national renewal. It's time for Boris to outline what that might look like.

A quarter of a century ago, the MP Michael Spicer, did two things of great significance. Firstly, he set up the European Research Group. Secondly, he wrote "The challenge from the East and rebirth of the West", a blueprint for what post Brexit Britain could achieve.

Spicer foresaw with a clarity few then possessed how China's rise was going to dramatically transform the global balance of power. By 2020, he wrote, China's economy would be drawing level with that of the United States. We must, Spicer understood, become much more competitive. That means ensuring free trade and radical economic liberalisation.

Spicer suggested something strikingly similar to what the trade minister Liz Truss has been quietly doing, negotiating a series of free trade deals around the world. Should Britain

join the Trans Pacific Partnership, we will not only be at the centre of a nexus of free trade arrangements; if the United States under Joe Biden decides to join, we could find we had a trade deal with the United States almost by default.

But once Britain is outside the protective wall of the European Single market, the country also needs to recognise that the world doesn't owe us a living. We will only prosper if we produce what the rest of the world wants to pay for.

That means eliminating unnecessary regulation. In the EU, too many areas of economic activity are smothered in compliance requirements. The so-called precautionary principle has been used to determine what should and should not be permitted. As the author Matt Ridley observes in his recent book on innovation, the effect of this has been to stifle technological progress.

Our tax system, too, needs to be dramatically overhauled. Targeted tax breaks are needed to encourage those that create wealth. For years, the conversation about corporation tax rates has been about what businesses pay in Britain compared to other EU countries. We need to start thinking about how we can compare to countries such as Korea and Malaysia too.

Too much of our country's infrastructure was designed and built in a different age – and it shows. If we are

going to prosper, we need to see a massive investment in not only new housing stock, but in roads and runways. As Singapore and other countries show, being crowded does not mean being congested, if you have competent public administration.

The past three years alas have demonstrated that competent public administration is something in precious short supply in Britain. Too many state organisations, from Public Health England to Theresa May's negotiating team, have proved hopelessly out of their depth.

In the late nineteenth century, a radical overhaul was made to the civil service through what is known as the Northcote Trevelyan reforms. It served us well for the century or so that followed. A similar, far-reaching overhaul of the entire architecture of our administrative state – from Parliament and the Cabinet, to the quangos and the civil service - is desperately needed today.

From the end of this year Britain will be entirely self-governing. Boris now needs to focus on the fact that we are going to have to dramatically overhaul the way we are governed if we are to make a success of it.

Douglas Carswell is a British former Member of Parliament who in 2014 became the first elected MP for the UK Independence Party (UKIP), representing Clacton in the UK parliament.

The new largest trading zone

Asia has announced the creation of a mammoth trade deal that took a decade in the making, covering fifteen Asian countries.

The deal includes ten members of the Association of Southeast Asian

Nations (Asean), plus China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

In total the members make up a third of the world's population and account for 29% of Global Gross Domestic

Product. (GDP)

The new trade Zone is bigger than both UK-Mexico-Canada Agreement and the EU.

For all those who believe the EU is the only future, a re-think is necessary.

EU farming pollution

Direct and indirect CO2 emissions from the EU's animal farming industry amounted to 704m tonnes in 2018, compared to 656m tonnes from

cars and vans, according to a new study by environmental pressure group Greenpeace. Meat and dairy production in the bloc also rose by 9.5

percent between 2007 and 2018, the CO2 equivalent of putting 8.4m new cars on the road, in a worrying trend, it added.

UK trade deals ready for post-Brexit future

The main media and the pro-EU lobby keep harping on about the UK becoming isolated after Brexit, but that ignores the facts.

While the UK is still actively pursuing trade arrangements with many countries, it appears a large number are already in place. According to a recent list from the Department for International Trade the following countries have already agreed trade arrangements with the UK for post-Brexit:

Antigua and Barbuda - Barbados

Belize - Botswana
Canada - Chile
Colombia - Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire - Ecuador
El Salvador - Eswatini
Faroe Islands - Fiji
Georgia - Grenada
Guatemala - Honduras
Iceland - Israel
Jamaica - Japan
Jordan - Kenya
Kosovo - Lebanon
Lesotho - Lichtenstein
Madagascar - Mauritius
Mozambique - Namibia

Nicaragua - Norway
Palestinian Authority - Panama
Papua New Guinea - Peru
Saint Christopher and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Seychelles - South Africa
Switzerland
The Commonwealth of Dominica
The Commonwealth of the Bahamas
The Dominican Republic
The Republic of Guyana
The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia - Ukraine
Zimbabwe

Obituary

Stuart Gulleford

Lord Stoddart of Swindon, who was a tireless campaigner for British independence, passes away

The death of the independent Labour Peer, Lord Stoddart of Swindon has been announced by his family. The Peer, who spent much of his political life campaigning for Britain to leave the European Union, died on 14th November, after a short illness. He was 94 years of age.

David Stoddart was a member of the County Borough Council of Reading from 1954 to 1972 and was the Leader of the Council from 1967 to 1972. He became the Labour Member of Parliament for Swindon in 1970, a seat he held until 1983. He served as a Government Whip 1975-78, PPC to the Housing Minister 1974-75 and was a Lord Commissioner of the Treasury 1976-77. He later became Front Bench opposition spokesman on Trade and Industry.

In September 1983, David Stoddart was awarded a life Peerage and became Chief Front Bench spokesman on energy 1983-1988 and House of Lords Whip. He became an independent Labour peer in 2002, following his principled opposition to a defector from the Conservative Party

being parachuted into a safe Labour seat, in the north of England.

His great passion was for an independent Britain. He vocally opposed British membership of what was then called the Common Market, as early as 1962. He was the Chairman of the cross-party Campaign for an Independent Britain from 1985 to 2007 and spoke at public meetings and rallies all over the country. He was tireless in his work in the House of Lords, calling the Government to account through regular speeches in the Chamber and submitting hundreds of written questions on matters relating to the EU but also on issues affecting Reading and the surrounding area, where he lived and on issues such as equality, transport and energy.

Lord Pearson of Rannoch, who worked extensively with Lord Stoddart in the House of Lords over many years said: "David Stoddart will be hugely missed in the Lords, even by those who disagreed with his passion to take this country out of what he saw as the corporatist project of European integration. He was forensic in debate, sure of his facts, firm but kind in how he put them as well as good natured and humorous outside the Chamber

with those who didn't agree with him.

"Not bad for someone born the son of a coal miner in the Rhonda Valley, who rose via grammar school to take his place in the Lords, and to see what in 1962 was a very lonely vision brought towards fulfilment.

"We have lost a truly great and generous man."

He leaves behind his wife Jennifer of nearly 60 years, daughter Janet, son Matthew, three grandsons, two granddaughters and one great granddaughter. They are so proud of what he achieved and will miss his loving presence, knowledge, wisdom and companionship.

[*Eurofacts*, would like to add our sincere thanks to the late Lord Stoddart for all his work in the Lords and his constant uplifting speeches at many eurosceptic meetings throughout the UK to save the UK from those who would see it consumed into the EU project.

Furthermore we were also saddened to hear of the death of the Journalist and Author Bill Jamieson. Bill was a true Brexiteer and spent most of his life trying to get the UK out of the EU organisation.]

LETTERS

Tel: 08456 120 175 email: euofacts@junepress.com

Scottish Independence

Dear Sir,

I believe after 1st January 2021 Nicola Sturgeon call for an Independence vote for Scotland should be allowed and the true true cost to the Scottish economy including jobs should be clarified.

Firstly, all UK naval ships would be stationed, serviced and repaired in UK ports only.

No subsidy payments for Scotland from the UK would be received.

Scotland would have to deal with creating a border and protecting it from the UK.

Should Scotland be able to join the EU as a new Independent country, then it would have to prepare for euro membership, this is already the case for any new applicant.

When it comes to fishing in Scottish waters the EU would demand access, this would be at the expense of the local fishing industry.

The shrinking oil supply from the North Sea would most likely be seen by the EU as a common resource. However, as the green economy takes place it will be a dying resource.

Scottish workers who currently are employed inside the rest of the UK would be subjected to foreign worker status and would have to abide by UK rules of employment.

Scotland would be represented in the European Parliament by less than 10 members. (The UK had 73 and little control over the direction or rules and regulations created inside the EU.) In other words it would be a rule taker with little or no influence over its future inside the EU. In plain language it would have far less influence than it currently has at Westminster.

Should the EU decide Scotland was the place to send immigrants due to it

being fairly low population density, as we (Independent Scotland) would be unable to prevent it happening.

These are only a few of the dangers that the Scottish people will face in the future. Therefore, it makes sense to let the Scottish people decide if they wish to subject themselves to the powers of the unelected bureaucrats of the EU.

The idea that it would be a truly independent appears hollow in the light of reality.

I for one hope that my fellow proud Scott's will see sense and decide we are better with the devil we know, it may not be perfect but it is more democratic than the EU system.

LINDA MACKENZIE
Glasgow

Political Interference

Dear Sir,

We hear so much about communist countries trying to influence political decisions in the West and how dangerous that is to democratically run countries, but what about democratically elected leaders trying to influence other democratic countries!

The newly elected US future president Joe Biden has immediately applied pressure to the UK/EU political negotiations over Ireland, but instead of complaining about interference the UK media praises his input.

Should Putin or any other dictator make statements or try to interfere with such negotiations the main media would be quick to denounce them for interfering in another countries politics.

What this demonstrates is how the main media has its own agenda and will promote and support anybody or country that agrees with its aims or

objects. In plain english it is not the politics that they object to but the content.

GEORGE RICHARDS
London

EU Brexit trickery

Dear Sir,

The EU Withdrawal Agreement was deliberately formed so that the UK would be forced to make compromises over a trade deal, or no longer be able to supply many basic food and other materials to Northern Ireland.

This trickery was designed to make sure that post-Brexit the Northern Ireland people would be forced to buy most of their goods at inflated prices from the EU only. This type of trickery by the EU is common place to all those who have observed the workings of the EU for the last 40 years.

The next step would be for the EU to demand that Ireland becomes one country regardless of the wishes of the electorate.

Despite any costs to the UK economy in the short term, to be outside the control of those untrustworthy officials is a price well worth paying.

MRS SANDRA REYNOLDS
Derby

Meat supplies

Dear Sir,

The latest games of the EU include the control of exports of frozen meat that includes sausages. For years frozen meat has travelled quite safely between countries but the EU wants to force EU members to buy their meat to support their expensive subsidised CAP.

SAMANTHA DAVIS
London

*euofacts wishes its readers the compliments of the season.
Our next issue will be published on the 5th February 2021*

MEETINGS

This year as all large group meetings are not possible due to the coronavirus, it is anticipated that all future meetings will be virtual and available on line.

Gresham College
020 7831 0575

Thursday **7th January**, 6.00 pm

“Annual Lord Mayor’s Gresham Lecture”

The Rt Hon Lord Mayor

PUBLIC MEETING (ONLINE)

@gres.hm/2021-lord-mayor

Registration required at:

www.gresham.ac.uk

Monday **11th January**, 6.00 pm

“The Political Jury”

Thomas Grant, *Visiting Professor of Politics and Law*

PUBLIC MEETING (ONLINE)

@gres.hm/political-jury

Registration at: www.gresham.ac.uk

Wednesday **20th January**, 6.00 pm

“Will Computers Outsmart Mathematicians”

Kevin Buzzard, *Imperial College London*

PUBLIC MEETING (ONLINE)

@gres.hm/smart-computers

Registration at: www.gresham.ac.uk

Wednesday **3rd February** 6.00 pm

“England’s Tudor Reformation”

Alec Ryrie, *Gresham Professor of Divinity*

PUBLIC MEETING (ONLINE)

@gres.hm/tudor-reformation

Registration at: www.gresham.ac.uk

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United Kingdom Independence Party

www.ukip.org

Veterans For Britain

http://www.veteransforbritain.uk

DIARY OF EVENTS

UK Parliamentary Christmas recess start date to be announced December

Current date for completion of EU/UK Transition Deal and exit from the EU 31st December

2021

UK regains Independence Official Date 1st January

Portugal takes over EU Council Presidency 1st January

UK Parliamentary Christmas recess end date to be announced January

Slovenia takes over EU Council Presidency 1st July

2022

France takes over EU Council Presidency 1st January

Czech Republic takes over EU Council Presidency 1st July

2023

Sweden takes over EU Council Presidency 1st January

USEFUL WEB SITES

Brexit Party

www.thebrexitparty.org

Brexit Watch

www.brexit-watch.org

Briefings For Freedom

www.briefingsforfreedom.co.uk

British Future

www.britishfuture.org

British Weights & Measures Assoc.

www.bwmaonline.com

Bruges Group

www.brugesgroup.com

Campaign Against Euro-Federalism

www.caef.org.uk

Campaign for an Independent Britain

www.campaignforanindependentbritain.org.uk

Democracy Movement

www.democracymovement.org.uk

EU Observer

www.euobserver.com

EU Truth

www.eutruth.org.uk

European Commission (London)

www.cec.org.uk

European Foundation

www.europeanfoundation.org

Fishing For Leave

www.ffl.org.uk

Freedom Association

www.tfa.net

Freenations

www.freenations.net

Futurus

www.futurus-thinktank.com

Get Britain Out

www.getbritainout.org

Global Britain

www.globalbritain.co.uk

Global Vision

www.global-vision.net

GrassRootsOut

www.grassrootsout.co.uk

June Press (Publications)

www.junepress.com

Labour Euro-Safeguards Campaign

www.eurosafeguards.com

Leave means leave

www.leavemeansleave.eu

Leave.eu

www.Leave.eu

New Alliance

www.newalliance.org.uk

Policy Exchange

www.policyexchange.org.uk

Statewatch

www.statewatch.org

The Foundation for Independence

www.foundationforindependence.com

The Taxpayers’ Alliance

www.taxpayersalliance.com

Special Offers

The European Question and the National Interestby *Jeremy Black***£16.99 - 2006 Hdbk - 149 pp**

A leading historian's interpretation of Britain's relations with the EEC/EC/EU. (NOW ONLY £9)

A Throne in Brussels

Britain, the Saxe-Coburgs and the Belgianisation of Europe

by *Paul Belien***£25.00 - Hdbk 2007 - 217 pp**

What the EU as a single state might be. (NOW ONLY £15)

A Democratic Europe:**An Alternative to the EU**by *Richard Body***£10.00 - Hdbk 2006 - 141 pp**

Sir Richard lays out the case for a truly democratic EU as opposed to an undemocratic super power. (NOW ONLY £6)

Anthony Fisher: Champion of Libertyby *Gerald Frost***£20.00 - Hdbk 2002 - 268 pp**

Fisher founded the IEA, which influenced public policy and the views of Reagan, Thatcher and others. (NOW ONLY £10)

**Whip's Nightmare
Diary of a Maastricht Rebel**by *Christopher Gill***£17.50 - 2003 - 242 pp**

A fascinating insight to how parliament pressures MPs to obey party directions. (NOW ONLY £8)

A Life Mayhem Money and Unintentional Treasonby *J. Brian Heywood***£9.99 - 2007 - 259 pp**

This novel shows how easy it is for good intentions to be used by anyone with ambitions for a world government. (NOW ONLY £4)

**Why Did Britain
Take The Wrong Path?**by *Christopher Hoskin***£9.99 - Pbk 2009 - 270 pp**

How and why the UK lost its way and ended up with a fear of self-government and gave up democracy. (NOW ONLY £5)

Britain Held Hostageby *Lindsay Jenkin***£11.99 - Pbk 1998 - 339 pp**

The how and why of the EU explained and exposed. (NOW ONLY £8)

The Missing Heart of Europeby *Thomas Kremer***£11.99 - Pbk 2004 254 pp**

Can nations survive in an integrated EU. A European businessmen's view of the likely impact of the divergent EU national cultures. (NOW ONLY £6)

Europe: A Concise Encyclopedia of the European Unionby *Rodney Leach***£14.99 - Pbk 2004 - 249 pp**

A jargon free guide to the EU speak and its organisations. (NOW ONLY £7)

**A Nation is a Nation
is a Nation**by *John Murray***£7.00 - 1995 - 86 pp**

A gentle trot through the different cultures of Europe. (NOW ONLY £3)

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CROSS PARTY THINK TANKS

British Future	www.britishfuture.org
Bruges Group	020 7287 4414
Global Britain	www.globalbritain.org
Global Vision	www.global-vision.net
Open Europe	0207 197 2333

POLITICAL PARTIES

Brexit Party	www.thebrexitparty.org
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Conservative	020 7222 9000
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English Democrats	01277 896000
Robin Tilbrook (Chairman)	
Green Party	020 7272 4474
Jonathan Bartley and Sian Berry	
Labour	020 7783 1000
Sir Keir Starmer MP	
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Mr Rob Wheway	
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