

Facts are only ammunition, perception is the weapon



GeminEye

2007 Revision

GeminEye was a website that was online between 2000 and 2006 at www.gemineye.free-online.co.uk.

The Airstripone website:

<http://members.tripod.com/airstripone>

was originally an archive of GeminEye's monthly blog - now it hosts the archive of GeminEye itself!

This is completely new revised edition for 2007... well, ok, it's just been tidied-up a bit.

This publication is designed for both those viewing online and those who do not have internet access.

This PDF may be freely circulated, either by email, disc or in print form.

Mission Statement:
Look at it a different way.

Comments



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Euro Mad

You know, back in 2000 there were just a few things that seemed to crop up in favour of the EU. An end to nationalism and war in Europe, Sharing Sovereignty, Low Mortgages, High Unemployment and loss of inward investment if we failed to join the Euro... And last, but not least, how easy it would be to buy low priced goods on holiday in Europe once we've adopted the Euro.

It seems a bit lame now doesn't it. Adoption of the Euro has been quietly forgotten about (for now) and the failed EU constitution is being replaced by the Reform Treaty.

So we no longer bother ourselves with a referendum on either the Euro or the Constitution. It occurs to me that some MPs may be right in saying we don't need a referendum for the Reform Treaty, what do we have a Parliament for? And given that most MPs have serious misgivings about the Treaty, all they have to do is vote NO. But they won't, they will submit to the Whip, succumb to opportunism or abstain - they are cowards who whimper to the public to save them from their dilemma.

The Euro Crazies are still churning out the same old propaganda and, I'm afraid, I still have the same old answers from 2000...

Pronouncing Euro terms

There are some terms in the following articles that you may be unfamiliar with. Here is a short guide showing the meaning and pronunciation.

ECU

Some people pronounce this E Q, which can sound like a small sneeze, the correct pronunciation is "Eck-you"! It's a close approximation to what politicians do.!

MAASTRICHT TREATY

Pronounced "mass-tricked easy". Unique in any language, in that its meaning is only apparent with hindsight. But a typical EU word really.

BLAIR

Pronounced "bleah", it means "Oh yes we are!". This has largely been replaced by "Gordon Brown", (pronounced "thatcherish"). It has the more assertive meaning "we most definitely are!".

EMU

This is an acronym (Easy Money for Us) used by Euro MP's when discussing their role in the Euro Parliament.

CONSERVATIVE

No one knows what this word means, so pronunciation is unimportant. Not to be confused with "David Cameron" which is pronounced "bleah-ish" and means "oh yes we are too!". It's rumoured that there's a political party called the Conservative Party with an ideology that places it to the left of New Labour, but not as far left as the centre party, the Liberal Democrats.

AMSTERDAM TREATY

Pronounced "oh-bloody-eck". It means the fat lady is about to sing.

EURO

This anonymous sounding word is used to describe anything European. Its pronunciation is difficult - the sound comes deep from within the stomach. Starting off as a soft drawn out "you" and ends in a explosive "Roooow!".

This word is often followed by the words "never again".

NICE TREATY

Pronounced "Knees", not Niece. Think of them as belonging to an overweight lady who likes to sing, but hasn't quite got the X Factor!

REFORM TREATY

Pronounced "Oh-no-not-another-bloody treaty". How can I put this... it doesn't quite mean "it does what it says on the tin". More like "it does what it says on the box nobody talks about hidden in the cupboard under the stairs".

Nationalism is dead

That's what the europhiles are saying. No more war... ahem. Of course, nationalism never started a war. Nationalism was just one of those devices used to rally the rabble around powerful people who had their own motives for wanting to drop bombs on somebody else. We're more civilised now, we use devices like "humanitarianism" instead. War has always been about control of resources - becoming part of a federal union doesn't change that.

Long live nationalism!

Look at that great federation across the Atlantic. The USA, they're not nationalistic are they? So how long before some poor web builder is convicted for un-European activities? No, that would be too obvious - better get them with the XENOPHOBIA weapon instead?

Sharing Sovereignty

What does that mean? I would say that there is another word for it... democracy. Surprised?

Sovereignty at fundamental level could be likened to freedom of the individual. The freedom to live your life the way you choose to. In larger groups this may conflict with the desires of others. We have three choices as a sovereign individual within a larger group:

1. Subjugate others to our will
2. Submit our will to others
3. Accommodate each other by democratic process

If we choose democracy, then we choose to share our sovereignty with others. If we choose subjugation or submission then we choose an autocratic or monarchic group.

So we could say that sovereignty defines the group that binds itself together through co-operation or force. Whatever your choice, there is a price to pay.

Sharing Democracy?

In democratic groups that involves some sacrifice of personal values - it involves sharing sovereignty of the individual with others within the same democratic group. Like any relationship, it involves give and take. It applies to small clubs and to the sovereign nation.

The propagandists promoting the EU now prefer to talk of sharing sovereignty rather than losing it in a 'give and take' democratic process. But if we allow ourselves to stop and think about what sovereignty is, we can see how deceitful talk of sharing sovereignty is.

It is nothing less than the merging two or more nations into one! Power is a top down process, not a bottom up process. Those at the top decide what those at the bottom must do. There is no sharing. Whichever group of individuals holds power, from whichever 'nation states' they come from, THEY become the regime!

DEMOCRACY ONLY THE AVERAGE CAN AFFORD

Even if the EU became more democratic, there is the problem of dilution of democracy in a nation of over 400 million people - the same problem the USA faces. The problems of diluted democracy, democracy for the average man, are spelled out by Leopold Kohr in [chapter 6](#) of The Breakdown of Nations.

ONE SIZE FITS ALL - NOT AVAILABLE FOR DEMOCRATS

So size is very important for democratic process to work properly. Too big and it excludes many who don't conform to the average. Too small, it creates greater conflicts of interests.

But if we accept the premise that the EU is nothing more than a collection of Sovereign Nations (though they keep insisting on calling it a Union) the problem becomes one of hierarchical democracy. No longer is there an elected body looking after the interests of the whole super-state

populated by Mr. & Mrs Average, but a number of nation representatives sharing sovereignty in a democratic group and each looking after their own (nations) interests... So we are told!

There is a problem here. Power does not control from the bottom up, power knows only one place in a hierarchy... at the top - and this is reflected in the highly centralised EU structure. Again - those at the top become the regime!

And those with power have the power to grab more. It's often cited that it is a myth that the failed EU Constitution and the Reform Treaty would mean we will loose control of Foreign Policy. The EU "Foreign Minister" has been renamed "high representative of the union for foreign affairs and security policy" - can't see the press using that title for long! The EU will have a common foreign policy, but only on issues that all states agree on - the EU will be able to sign treaties on our behalf, but again only where all states agree.

Doesn't sound very efficient does it? So, how long do you think this "sharing" will last?

Because that's how the EU works, by degrees, a little step at a time. How may steps before Britain loses all control over its foreign policy?

By the time we find out it will be too late!

PROTECTING SOVEREIGNTY

So it seems that when it comes to protecting your sovereignty, democracy begins to look like a bad thing. If you have to give something up to get your way on something else, your sovereignty is eroded.

So what can you do? There are two ways of protecting your sovereignty. One is to be self sufficient, or isolationist as globalists like to put it. The second is to bully everyone else into doing things your way.

Not surprisingly, the "bullying of everyone else" strategy is used to protect the sovereignty of the global elite. It may be that elected leaders meet to devise global plans, but who are these plans to benefit?

BEYOND THE EU

The EU has not been created to defend Europe from globalization, it is part of the process of globalisation...

GLOBALISTS PROMISE DEMOCRACY FOR ALL - BUT HOLD THE SOVEREIGNTY

Now do the words "cake" and "eat it" come to mind? On the one hand we want democracy and the other hand we don't want to share our sovereignty - we want to get our own way. The solution for the globalists is to abolish sovereignty, but they don't want to know how democracy can function on a global scale - or perhaps they don't care.

Many fear that to turn away from globalism is to return to nationalism and the strife and warfare that it seems to bring with it. Conveniently forgetting that the motive for war is not nationalism - which at worst is simply a propaganda tool - **War is primarily motivated by the control of resources - be they raw materials or markets!**

Globalists might argue that if you expand to a one world state, you remove all possible conflicts over further expansion! That trade can replace war as the tool for merging/sharing sovereignty. **But are the motives any different?**

MARKETING GLOBALISM

Sometimes a product has a downside that isn't advertised very well...

WAR IS DEAD - LONG LIVE TERRORISM

There is something globalists ignore at their peril. In the real world we have to cope with human nature. Human nature is not inclusive, it is exclusive. **We all have one thing in common, we like to be different!**

Trends and fashions change all the time for this simple reason. At a more deeper level, long established religions still spawn dissenting offshoots which seek different interpretations of the orthodox. People explore new ideas and challenge old ones - they may not be looking for

diversity, but it is an unavoidable product of human nature. In small populations diversity can be held in check by peer pressure and tribal loyalties. Globally, diversity cannot be suppressed without force!

Globalists may think the diversity offered by multiculturalism suits their purposes - "states" of strong single minded cultures would create problems for a World Government trying to impose its own will on the world.

But diversity and democracy (rule of the average) mix like oil and water... conflicts arising from the diversity of mankind would seek some way to restore this loss of sovereignty. History shows us that some would resort to force (erm... of course, some already have). One World, but hundreds of terrorist groups fighting against the chosen way, the Global Orthodoxy.

War is the tool that merges nations; Terrorism is the tool that attempts to restore sovereignty.

An end to war and the beginning of constant terrorism - mmm must look at that Terry Gilliam film "[Brazil](#)" again.

The EU. At the Feira IGC in 2000 the EU outlined plans for a rapid reaction force and what it calls civilian crisis management to be introduced as soon as possible at Nice.

What this means is that Member States provide up to 5,000 armed 'police' for what they call "**international missions across the range of conflict prevention and crisis management operations**".

This is supposed to mean places like Kosovo, but (like the USA's National Guard) there are no restrictions on where it can be deployed. The USA's National Guard have been used internationally in places like Kosovo **and within member states of the USA.**

Where will the EU's 'National Guard' be used?

The conclusion is that Federalism is too large and clumsy to master the use of democracy.

You can't have large scale federalism AND a meaningful democracy.

It will be the best of times

That's what the europhiles have been saying. A Europe united under a single currency will bring:

- Cheaper mortgages
- Lower prices
- No restrictions on where you work or travel in Europe
- People will enjoy a higher standard of living

And the terrifying thing is - they're right!

Change will bring these things - and change will take them away again. The EU's economy is not set in stone - It will have its ups and their downs. This will not change simply by being part of a large Federation.

The USA may be said to be booming (amid poverty you would expect to find in the Third World) but this federation's past has known very bad times.

And it will know them again.

It's a bit like saying "be part of the EU, join the Euro - you will be happy"

Only children under the age of six are going to fall for that!

Join, or else!

Some Europhiles realise the simplistic "best of times" approach just isn't going to work. So some now promise the "worst of times" if Britain does not adopt the European currency.

It would be foolish to dispute that. The promise of unemployment and hardship is the one promise British government has always found easy to keep. It's quite easy to ruin an economy - something even the most incompetent MP's and civil servants can manage! Perhaps we should remind ourselves that the purpose of revolution is to destroy and rebuild... or Infiltrate Destroy Rebuild - as CKY might say!

There are two arguments put forward by europhiles to explain why the UK will lose jobs if it does not join the Euro...

The strong currency argument

It's hardly worth the effort to construct a reply to this one. You only have to repeat back what you hear - Say "You mean the Pound is too strong against the Euro so we must join the currency to save jobs" - but an indoctrinated Europhile will only nod sagely.

It's a long shot, but you could try arguing that the time might come when the Euro is stronger than the Pound - after all this is what currencies do - they fluctuate against each other - it's not a motive for joining anything. But, of course, a weak pound would bring with it a different argument for joining.

In 2001 (or a year or two later) over a period of 16 months, out of 44 currencies, only 9 fell against the Euro. The top performing currency was the South Korean Won - it rose over 24% against the Euro (it may be different in 2007, but that just goes to prove the point).

But strength isn't everything - what about stability? The highs and lows of the Korean Won fluctuated by about 42%

over that period - not very stable! - I hear the Europhiles cry. Against the Dollar, the Korean Won rose only 5% over the same period. Interestingly, it only fluctuated by about 12%.

Are any alarm bells ringing yet? Stable against the Dollar, unstable against the Euro... Mmm.

That Ken 'globalist' Livingstone announced on Radio 4's Question Time (17th June 2000) that Britain had only two choices - either join the Euro or join the Dollar. With the strength and stability of the South Korean Won in mind, I would suggest that, at the very least, there is a third: Become part of South Korea!

If strength and stability of currency is the reason we are going to enter into unions with other nations then we should at least be rational about it and adopt a successful currency. I'm sure we would soon get used to calling South Korea "the mainland".

On the other hand, we all know anything can be proven with statistics. Look long enough at currencies, relationships and perspectives - and such a thing as a stable currency begins to look like a myth. But then Europhiles do have a fondness for myths.

The inward investment argument

More and more often we keep hearing about how Britain will suffer from withdrawal of Inward Investment if Britain distances itself from Europe.

We call the cash flow back to this country from overseas investments INVISIBLE EXPORTS, but we don't hear much about INVISIBLE IMPORTS, cash flow out of this country through foreign owned companies. Perhaps the more fashionable "virtual" word should be used, after all we virtually import everything now - food, water, electricity.

No wonder everything is so expensive in this country, our nations wealth comes from tax and mark-up!

At one time there was a phrase that we don't seem to hear

much now - "balance of payments" - it seems to have been replaced by the words COMPLETE SURRENDER. In 1999 inward investment amounted to 244 Billion Pounds -

Everyone, europhiles and eurosceptics alike, seems pleased with this state of affairs.

There may be real benefits for us in terms of jobs and taxation, but companies that invest 244 billion in something also expect to benefit. They're not doing it for fun, they're not doing it for charity.

They expect to profit - they expect a return of 244 billion... and then some.

Inward investment is a loan. We are congratulating ourselves on being the proud recipients of £244 billion debt.

And what of all the jobs this inward investment (debt) brings? Not a month goes by where some company isn't taken over or merged to become one of the "Europe's Largest" along with the accompanying job losses - this is somehow spun into "inward investment creating jobs for Britain" - neat trick eh?

It is inward investment that is driving us into the Euro.

I suppose those from some Commonwealth countries might see it as poetic justice. The British Empire spent the best part of the last couple of hundred years offering "inward investment" to poor nations. Creating highly productive plantation, mining and manufacturing operations - and today those nations are still poor! - how puzzling.

But somehow, inward investment was supposed to make up for the decimation of British industry by the Thatcher Government. A process that has obviously not helped our balance of payments.

The balance of payments for 1999 recorded a deficit of £11 billion - around 1.2% of GDP. To put this in perspective, balance of payments deficit in 1976 was nearly a third less at 0.8% of GDP.

This was the time of the Harold Wilson government.

If you're too young to remember that here are a few keywords:

- Balance of Payments Crisis
- International Oil Crisis
- Collapse of sterling

And what crisis do we have today with even worse balance of payments figures? They are of a size that the media dare not mention it as a yearly figure - it has to be monthly or quarterly. The annual TRADE DEFICIT for 2006 has reached over £55 billion -

but, it seems, there is no crisis... if you have given-up nationhood, how can you have a deficit? A bit like being overly concerned with the trade deficit of Yorkshire!

But for the EU Britains trade deficit is a bonus - it is partly a result of companies within the EU taking over Britains wealth generating industries and services.

Our loss, the EU's gain - so you can see why the EU would be concerned about any loss of inward investment in Britain.

Money Money Money

It doesn't matter what it's called as long as you can spend it - Conch shells and beads will do us fine. So where does that leave us concerning the feeblest argument against federalism anyone could ever devise?

Yes, it's the "SAVE OUR POUND LOBBY" - Who thought this up? Focussing attention on a name change simply diverts attention way from real issues, like the reason why we require a common currency - because we can't become part of a federal super state without one!

And if we ever get a referendum on the Euro (and we will join sooner or later), what would it be worded like?

Could it be something like: do you want to join the Euro - Yes/No?

It looks simple enough, but it is deeply misleading because this is NOT ABOUT CURRENCY!

As the launch of the Euro approached in those countries that have adopted it, Europhiles are predicted that when we 'touch' and 'feel' real Euro currency on holiday (in Europe - where else does one holiday?), we will ask ourselves in a Peggy Lee sort of way: is that all there is to the Euro?

We will fall for it hook, line and sinker. The introduction of the Euro would bring a steady flow of over-hyped inconsequential details followed by an inevitable anti-climax as it all turns out fine in the end - so we would be told... But have we already forgotten the point?

It doesn't matter what you hand over for that prized possession, the owner may even be happy with a few rare shells. The currency we use on the street is not what the Euro is about - therefore it doesn't matter what it looks or feels like - it only has to give us what we want, a beer... a movie... whatever.

That's currency at a personal level - the kind we all understand - the kind on which we will be asked to base our decision to join the Euro (if we ever get that vote).

But there is another kind of currency...

Currency - the lifeblood of the nation

A nation's economic health is measured by the strength of its currency. **SPENDING, INVESTMENT & TAXATION** are all affected by the strength and value of our currency.

Currency DEFINES the economic compass of a nation, or put another way, it is the "house" in which all domestic fiscal activity lives.

BUT WHICH NATION DOES THE EURO DEFINE?

That nation is the United States of Europe.

EuroMad website links

<http://www.free-europe.org>

A well constructed Dutch Eurosceptic website.

<http://www.globalbritain.org>

Lots of well written and researched documents including an essay on the benefits on leaving the EU.

<http://www.eurofaq.freeuk.com>

Has an easy to use Q&A format

<http://www.europeanfoundation.org>

This NGO has Margaret Thatcher as its patron with people like Bill Cash, John Laughland, Frederick Forsyth, Zac Goldsmith on its advisory board. Its mission statement proclaims "YES to European trade! NO to European government!"

<http://www.nejtillemu.com/laughland.htm>

John Laughland reviews French books on Euroscepticism - a Swedish site with French, German & English pages.

<http://www.lesc.org.uk>

LESC was created by Labour MP Austin Mitchell. Its primary concern is monetary union, but recent visits show that it's also extremely concerned with the move towards federalism.

There was a similar website for Conservatives, but they no longer seem to think dissent fits with Conservative policy!

<http://www.silentmajority.co.uk>

This site obviously hasn't been updated for a while, but still has lots of interesting links including one to Eurorealist.

<http://euobserver.com>

Doesn't take "sides", just reports the news on EU matters

<http://www.eurunion.org>

The face the EU presents to the USA. An official EU website that has a very readable PDF titled "EU Guide for Americans" – an informative guide to the structure and workings of the EU.

<http://europa.eu>

Official European Union web server. Like the European Parliament, a sprawling site of mammoth proportions.

Provides access to all its many web sites: Parliament, Council, Commission, Court of

Justice, Court of Auditors, Economic and Social Committee, Committee of the Regions, European Investment Bank, European Central Bank,

agencies and other bodies. Don't expect to find many clear answers here!

<http://www.captaineuro.com>

This takes the 'put head in the sand' approach and avoids all the ramifications of federalism by just concentrating on how wonderful it is to be European! They've nicked the nationalistic Captain America idea and made it Captain Euro. And they've got the nerve to ask you to login to access this feeble propaganda!

Empire Builder

Imperialism is dead - Imperialism died with the British Empire - we don't have people like that now do we. We are civilised people of the world, politically correct and willing only to serve others. None of the lessons of the past apply in an age where utopia is almost within our grasp...

Can anyone smell burning?

Must be the smell of red hot text searing your browser. Throw it at colleagues and watch them get hot under the collar. Read on and remember: Empires can fall as well as rise!

Democracy - who needs it?

Some say the importance of democracy is vastly overrated! That freedom is more important. Freedom to settle where you wish; freedom to say what you think; freedom to live the life you desire - and above all else - freedom to turn a blind eye to the awesome power in the hands of a few people. Those few people would argue that freedom is more important than representation.

But without honest representation, freedom is irrelevant and impotent.

If a handful of people could decide:

- That the industry that employs you will no longer be required in your region
- That the lifestyle you lead is not desirable
- That your pension will be worth less than you expected
- That the free medical support you expected should be taken away
- That it would be a good idea to wage war on China

What would your freedom be worth?

What is it worth now? All the above can be done now by un-elected cronies of the powerful - courtesy of the Internationalisation of decision making.

Clearly our vote is not required for any body making major

policy decisions! Voting has become a form of entertainment - Election night is treated like a race, the media makes sure our attention is focussed on who's winning or losing. But democracy is about representation, not about winning or losing.

It's very convenient for the media to treat elections like this, for we all like to pick a winner - and more often or not we are implicitly told who is "the winner" long before we get to vote! **We don't have democracy, we have psychological warfare.**

When all voting is done digitally we will vote in elections, the X Factor and the Eurovision Song Contest - and we will be challenged to find any difference in our commitment or priorities.

Oh damn, did I vote for my MP or the Norwegian entry in the Eurovision Contest - these menus can be so confusing!

Size is important

Democracy in its purest form is where each of us represents ourselves in an organisation.

This is 100% proof Democracy! Intoxicating stuff. It's only practical in small clubs, so for the big world out there, we need a specialist to represent us.

If there are a hundred people and they elect one person to organise their affairs according to their wishes. Those people could be said to have a democracy of 1%. On this basis, the people of Britain could be said to have a democracy of around .001%. Well, you're not going to even get tipsy on that! A thousandth of a percent gives 90,000 people representation by one person.

Of course only around half those people have the vote, constituency size averages about 50,000 registered voters in the UK. The rest are children, and adults ineligible to vote.

In 2001 the EU could be said to have a democracy of about .0001%.

Now there's a sobering thought, over half a million people represented by one person (on average*). And this figure is likely to get worse as more countries join the EU.

The USA has a population of around 275 million people. To represent them there are 435 members in the House of Representatives. By an amazing coincidence, this gives the same ratio of representation as the EU - over half a million people whose interests are represented by just one congressman.

No wonder Americans make so much of their freedoms - they have so little democracy.

But it's not just about numbers - just who are those Congressmen beholden to?

The anonymous half a million or so voters? Or the friends and financial backers who helped put them there?

So, we have to ask just how so many can be effectively represented by so few - especially in a multi-cultural society - and how to avoid abuse of so much power in the hands of so few.

Of course Americans will argue that they have a written constitution to protect them from the abuses of power. Like, say, in the 30's when enforced sterilisation was practised widely in the United States - was there a different constitution then?

This is the future the European Union has for us - and worse - for the EU is set to expand to a far greater size than the United States, but all the Europhiles can do is point at the telescreen and scream XENOPHOBE!

Democracy is not scalable

The conclusion is: the bigger a population of a democracy gets, the closer it moves to an autocracy.

If we really want to spread democracy throughout the world. then these countries are going to need downsizing:

The EU (OK it's not a country, it's an elephant in the room!)

The United States of America

Russia

China

India

* There are 626 EU constituencies at this time (2001), so with a population of 370 million people that gives us an average constituency size of around half a million - London South East constituency has a population of around 11 million people!

Trade - the building blocks of empire

The British Empire was founded on trade. The Globalists also create their empire from trade.

Trade is a much more effective way of gaining power than conquest. If Adolf Hitler had been a little less impatient we would have seen a united European nation by the time he had reached his seventies.

In 1941 Carl Goerdeler informed Nazi Generals that if Germany stopped the war, a European confederation under German leadership could be achieved in as little as twenty years.

From Lindsey Jenkins book "Britain Held Hostage", page 90, I take the following:

He forecast accurately, "If we do everything to make our leadership invisible, going out of our way to defer to others in superficial matters, it would be child's play to guide the European states for our mutual benefit. Then, and only then, we shall... unite the military forces of the European Nation States... The unification of Europe cannot be achieved by ruthlessly forcing nations to toe the line: it must be guided by the kind of Wisdom that Bismark showed over the unification of Germany."

And how is this done? Goerdeler goes on to say...

"All that is needed to begin with is a system of co-operation so that the member states play the game by the same rules - harmonising their budgetary policies, stabilising their currencies, gradually reducing customs barriers and obstacles to travel... Given that degree of co-operation they could advance in a few years to customs unions, regional associations, currency regulation and so on, and in due course there would be a federal state with military agreements".

And so it came to pass!

But of course this is also happening on a global scale. NAFTA is also becoming more politicised - James Tucker

reported in Spotlight (closed down by a court ruling) that The Loewen Group ruled that NAFTA can overrule the US Supreme Court. No doubt harmonisation of law and other matters of state will follow. In 2005 the president of the USA met with the president of Mexico and the prime minister of Canada to discuss a NAFTA "superhighway" - which many now see as a step to remove borders and create a North American Union (USA, Canada and Mexico).

Sound familiar?

Meanwhile on the other side of the world Business World (Philippines) reports on China's petroleum economy:

"What the WTO promise has done is to rev up the world's multinationals towards the business of peddling that economy car to the middle classes of this country of 1.3 billion people."

The promise is for a higher standard of living, but what China really getting is pointed out elsewhere:

"Steinfeld makes the point that the matter of who owns the shares of these large enterprises can be tackled later. The more urgent tasks are: firstly, to set up the legal infrastructure governing issues pertaining to property rights and property transfers and, secondly, to infuse these government corporations with the mechanisms of sound management and straight-shooting corporate governance."

So the people get a carrot - along with some of that lovely carbon monoxide - and a global organisation gets power and influence in another land. One small step to global political integration.

Get that feeling of deja vu again?

The evil empire

In Noam Chomsky's book, Year 501, the author takes great delight in pointing out the irony in the US propaganda portrayal of the USSR as the evil empire.

Throughout the history of the USA there is littered the injustice and brute force used against less powerful countries.

Noam Chomsky is careful to avoid crackpot conspiracy theories though and concentrates on cataloguing the grief the USA has brought upon the world throughout its 500 year history. If you think you have the stamina, read it. It's available from WH Smith Online and Amazon.

At the end of this book, the inescapable conclusion is that the USA is NOT the evil empire, nor are its people any better or any worse than anywhere else in the world. The USA, as an entity, is a victim. In the same way that psychopaths are victims of their own condition.

The condition is an age old one. Absolute power corrupts absolutely. The USA is the most powerful country in the world and, relatively speaking, only a handful of people control this monster.

This is what federalism does. It concentrates a lot of power in to the hands of a few people.

The question is this: Is Europe a new empire with ambitions to take over from the old one - or is European federalism simply a step toward a union between the EU and the NAU (union between USA, Canada and Mexico) - a step to a one world nation?

Either outcome does not look good for humanity. A political form of the "one world" concept will not work democratically.

Challenging the shadows

A look at many websites that examine political impotence soon reveals talk of shadow governments - Bilderberg Group and so on - some even lay the blame for globalism at the feet of one family: the Rothschild family.

I guess it's to be expected really. In the past sovereignty has only been surrendered to a more powerful sovereign. So if we have surrendered our national destiny - we must ask, if not speculate, as to what or who has our sovereignty been surrendered to?

But what is sovereignty? Put simply it is the right to choose your own destiny. If an Individual has effective control over their life - that individual is Sovereign. If a group of individuals have effective control over their lives - that group is Sovereign. Groups have in the past been defined by geography. The nation state is a sovereign group.

This has changed towards the end of the last century. Wealthy individuals have acquired sovereignty for their group, but are only loosely connected by geography.

This group has also achieved sovereignty over nation states. It is a conqueror and an empire builder. It is going to be a real source of conflict, but it is difficult to do battle with a group that is not easily defined.

Members of this group may not even be able to identify each other! Just as two people passing by in a street can only assume that they are members of the same nation, so members of this group can only assume that they share the same interests of others of their kind. Members of this group may even be fierce competitors - but then what is democracy for, if not to allow the powerful to negotiate!

So nebulous is this group, that it can HIDE behind conspiracy theories and talk of shadow governments.

Where does that leave us? In the dark, without sovereignty, in the hands of an unknown force.

Dodgy Builders... Shoddy Democracy

The conspiracy theories, the secrecy, the black limos and remote locations. Like the villains in some James Bond movie the people who know best, plot and enjoy the best - at public expense. Well, we all deserve some fun now and again...

Infamy

In for me, they've all got it in for me! This is the cry of our times. There are conspiracies at every corner. But what is so unusual about a conspiracy, human nature surely. If it were not, all those soaps and TV thrillers would be at a loss for a plot! People from all walks of life involve themselves in conspiracies of all sorts, in work, at play and in Internet chat rooms.

With today's technology, the members of the Bilderberg Group do not need to meet face to face for their discussions. Particularly as they are all very busy high profile people for which such meetings must impose a heavy logistical strain and no small expense on the public purse. So why have the physical meetings?

Well, there is a problem for secret organisations, the world around them is constantly changing. People who get elected may not share the same goals as the group. The outsiders must be brought in - and an exclusive invitation to join the world's shakers and movers for a secret assignation is great ego massage for someone new to the game. As Tony Gosling's website puts it (see links) - not so much a conspiracy as a means of creating an artificial consensus.

On the other hand, if you want to sell a big idea you need face to face contact and the safety of numbers. So the Bilderberg Group may not just be one of those bonding things for new recruits, it could be there to sell big ideas. And, it seems, they would prefer it if not too much attention was focused on those ideas.

Ve haf vays of making you join!

The Bilderberg Group first met in 1954 at Prince Bernhard's Hotel de Bilderberg in Holland. Prince Bernhard organised the event after an inspirational meeting with Dr Joseph H. Retinger. Prince Bernhard has a chequered past. It appears he was a member of the SS during the war (never a good sign). His biographer explains that this was simply the expedient thing to do if he wanted to get a job after a leaving university.

So simple isn't it. All those people living in fear of the jack boot thumping down their door when all they had to do was join the SS... There's a comedy sketch in there somewhere, but I'm not going to go there!

But there is a serious point to be made here - at the time a "political correctness" test had to be taken by all students graduating from university. Members of the SS did not have to take the test, they were seen as being above suspicion. Prince Bernhard, who thought he wouldn't pass the test, knew the right people to get him into the SS - connectivity, it seems, rises above ideology.

From the very beginning of the Bilderberg Group, Prince Bernhard knew what it took to get people to join.

The world's worst kept secret

The Bilderberg meetings were, at first, a very well kept secret. You were some kind of crazy conspiracy theorist if you had even heard of them. You were in there with the flying saucer people - and there are some that still are!

At the beginning of a new millennium there is very little we don't know about them... apart from what is discussed at the meetings. Even that is not quite true. Some news of the topics discussed have escaped, but not the details.

It is known, for example, that the 2007 meeting in Turkey discussed topics on:

Iran and nuclear proliferation, global warming, Turkey's EU membership, the Middle East and "democracy & populism."

But the nature and content of the discussions are not known. So for all we know they could be talking about (outside of the lectures) how best to manage news of an attack on Iran, how global warming could be used to subvert democracy, how to get Germany and France to accept Turkey's EU membership, how to move all the Palestinians into Iraq and undermine "democracy & populism". Well, it's anyone's guess!

We know best

The Bilderberg Group could be described as an imperialist group. They presume they know best. We elect representatives according to our perceptions of what is right for us and our nation. Our representatives strive to understand our desires and seek out how best to fulfil them (ok - just pretend). It is only natural for them to meet others from politics and the world of commerce to discuss these matters to get a broader perspective on the problems to be solved.

Many of us do exactly the same, in an impotent sort of way. We meet at work and in bars and clubs and, if not discuss, at least touch upon our concerns.

We know this process as moaning.

We moan about transport, we moan about hospital care, we moan about crime, we moan ... and then we vote - with increasingly little conviction. What else can we do?

Those of the Bilderberg Group don't moan, do they?. Surely they don't live in the same world, how can their concerns be the same as someone, say, working in McDonalds. Clearly they can represent only their own concerns.

This much is recognised by the Bilderberg Group - each visitor arriving at a Bilderberg Conference is stripped of all titles of position - they become just individual citizens of their country. They are specifically NOT representatives of an electorate. They can only represent themselves and their humanitarian concerns (please try to keep a straight face - this is serious stuff). They may well discuss in earnest

matters that could benefit all mankind, but even if they were all saints (Saint Thatcher, Saint Blair and Saint Mandelson are just some of the Brits that have attended Bilderberg meetings) should it be for them to subvert democracy - to take the position that they know what's best for all of us? That we do not need to know what is discussed in case it makes us angry? That if we were to eavesdrop on them it might inhibit frank discussion!

Or perhaps what is discussed is all very dull and ineffectual and the world's movers and shakers spend all that money organizing these meetings just to have a moan.

Empire Builder website links

<http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=14965>

Interesting article reports on how NAFTA is advancing towards a North American Union.

<http://www.counterpunch.org/kyer0912.html>

Another great article on the expansion of NAFTA

<http://www.citizen.org/trade/nafta>

Informative look at globalisation from a concerned Americans point of view.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independent_Task_Force_on_North_America

A good starting point for those interested in finding out more about the North American Union.

<http://www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/wto>

Keeping an eye on what the World Trade Organisation gets up to – and why it's such a raw deal for so many people.

<http://middleburyinstitute.org>

The separatism movement is getting stronger in the USA and this website is one of the main forces behind it. This site also publishes large sections of Leopold Kohr's book "The Breakdown of Nations".

<http://www.converge.org.nz/pirm/index.html>

A New Zealand based NGO explores the effects of Globalism on this planet. Featuring many writers you've probably never heard of before, like Penelope Lemov on Dumping the Public Hospital - health care PRIVATISATION in the USA! And Benjamin Schwarz on WHY AMERICA THINKS IT HAS TO RUN THE WORLD.

Also review of Noam Chomsky's "Deterring Democracy" and an article on Globalisation by Ralph Nader and Lori Wallach (particularly recommended).

<http://www.poclad.org>

Has some very interesting articles on the global corporate takeover.

<http://www.thirdworldtraveler.com>

Really worth a browse. There's a lot of scrolling to do, but it's worth it.

<http://www.zmag.org>

Four radical websites in one – ZNET the most interesting.

<http://www.johnpilger.com>

You've read his books and newspaper articles, you've seen his films - Now see the website. Not content with re-writing Whitehall press-releases, he launches this website to look at the HIDDEN AGENDAS. Well worth a look.

<http://www.bilderberg.org>

No, they don't have one - at least not one with public access. This inspired web site is the work of Tony Gosling and is the definitive web site on the Bilderberg Group. If "Dodgy Builder" has remotely aroused your interest then go there right now!

<http://antiwar.com>

Some countries just aren't interested in 'free trade' or capitalism. If you can't expand your influence in the world through trade - what is left?

Keeping an eye on empires that just can't resist expanding their sphere of influence by force. This website is constantly updated with fresh links every day and new articles published weekly.

Too Big

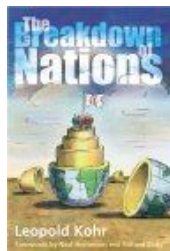
The opening paragraph in the introduction to Leopold Kohr's book "The Breakdown of Nations" tells us everything about why we should all go out and buy this book:

As the physicists of our time have tried to elaborate an integrated single theory, capable of explaining not only some but all phenomena of the *physical* universe, so I have tried on a different plane to develop a single theory through which not only some but all phenomena of the social universe can be reduced to a common denominator. The result is a new and unified political philosophy centering on the *theory of size*. It suggests that there seems only one cause behind all forms of social misery: *bigness*.

Kohr's theory, even if you disagree with it, is clearly an important and significant one - yet it has been ignored. But despite efforts to bury this theory, the book and Kohr's ideas keep popping up. 'Breakdown' was originally published in 1957 and didn't get a warm reception from the establishment.

Kirkpatrick Sale tracked down Kohr and got the book republished in 1978. Just over 500 copies of the original book were imported to the USA (a place where BIG matters) and Sale had to give the publisher his only copy for them to set the type from.

In April 2001, the book surfaced again, this time published by Green Books with a forward by Neal Ascherson and Sir Richard Body who reminds us "What is so striking about this book is the amazing relevance it has to our own affairs today". He is, of course, referring to the debate about the future of Europe - will it be a community of nations, or in effect a superstate?



The Breakdown of Nations
by Leopold Kohr

Available from
WH Smith, Amazon
or the publisher Green Books

Biography

Leopold Kohr (1909-1994)

Leopold Kohr was born in a small town called Oberndorf in central Austria. He left gymnasium in Salzburg (grammar school) in 1928 and registered that same year at the university of Innsbruck to study law. But Kohr was a restless fellow, he got a friend to sign his name to attendance records while he went off to England to study at the London School of Economics. When he returned to Innsbruck he had to work hard to catch up on all the courses he missed. Kohr graduated from Innsbruck in 1933.

His interest in becoming a lawyer didn't last long, around a year later he enrolled for another degree course. This time in political science at the University of Vienna. He graduated in 1935 and moved to Spain where he worked as a freelance correspondent.

In 1938 Kohr was based in Paris, but Hitler's rise to power caused Kohr to leave for the USA. It would seem, unlike in the case of Prince Bernhard, joining the SS just wasn't an option. Kohr went through a lot of difficulties in North America - the financial difficulties meant he had to do any kind of work he could find - this included some heavy manual work in a Canadian gold mine. By 1946 he had found his way into teaching, first at Rutgers University in the US and then as Professor of Economics and Public Administration at the University of Puerto Rico (1955-1974).

Leopold Kohr later moved to Wales where he taught political philosophy at the University College of Wales (1968-1977), Aberystwyth. Kohr finally settled in Gloucester and was preparing to return to his home town of Oberndorf when he died in suspicious circumstances.

Neal Ascherson writes in his forward to the 'The Breakdown of Nations' that police stood by as local youths wrecked his home and then destroyed the papers for his book, provoking a fatal heart attack in February 1994.

Kohr, in the late 90's, would have been witnessing the birth of globalism and the shift from EEC common market structures to EU superstate structures. He had much to write about in his new book - but didn't get a chance. He did get a chance to air his views on Maastricht though (see link in panel).

Overview of The Breakdown of Nations

Although the brief description of each chapter given here doesn't reveal much, Kohr's Arguments are often put forward with a good sense of humour. So, not just an enlightening read, but an enjoyable read.

I. THE PHILOSOPHIES OF MISERY

Before putting forward his own theory of a cause for social misery, Kohr takes a look at some of the imagined causes and solutions to human misery offered down the centuries. He kicks off with the most primitive, which he calls the witch theory. You know the sort of thing: sacrifice made to gods, followed by a good harvest - or perhaps not, they didn't seem to notice it didn't always work.

Kohr quickly moves on to the more advanced theories of economics. Capitalism, Communism and Fascism - is either system more or less prone to war or poverty?

Radically, Kohr suggests not - and offers examples of why this is so. The first chapter continues in this "call and reply" kind of style to show that mankind has yet to find the reason for it's destructive nature.

II. THE POWER THEORY OF AGGRESSION

The focus shifts in the next chapter to what lies behind the destructive nature of mankind and starts to associate the properties of size and proportion with aggression.

He does this by examining the kind of societies responsible for atrocities and wars with other societies.

He is looking for a common factor. He finds it is not race, ideology or how 'advanced' society is.

Once his attention has settled on size, he starts to explore other areas of human misery with this factor in common. Among them the joys of window smashing!

III. DISUNION NOW

Now Kohr starts to get stuck into the meat of his theory. But some of the text starts to look dated (this was first published 1957):

"All our statesman seem to have in their mind to cope with the threat of atomic warfare is the unification of mankind. But where does this lead too?"

Well atomic warfare is no longer the perceived global threat - but we have new bogey men to justify 'one-world' co-operation now. Substitute a few modern contexts like global warming and Leopold Kohr's writing soon starts to look as fresh as ever!

Kohr continues to return to the subject of conflict between nations in this chapter and it is here he makes an interesting point: nearly all wars have been fought for unification!

IV. TYRANNY IN A SMALL-STATE WORLD

But Kohr is not offering a theory on which to build a utopia. It is in this chapter that he looks at all the problems covered in the previous chapters and reflects on how they change in a small-state world. In this chapter he asks what would have happened if Hitler had only managed to become a petty tyrant of Bavaria - instead of a tyrant with all the resources of the massive German Federation at his disposal.

He argues that in the small-state world problems don't disappear, but they do become reduced to manageable proportions.

Putting things on a human scale seems to increase our humanity!

V. THE PHYSICS OF POLITICS

Kohr continues with examples of why small is better than big, using analogies with physics, biology... and even theology. He argues that, in all things, division is the principle of progress. Everywhere we see the balance of diversity and nothing to unity:

"So overwhelmingly manifest is this principle that many of us conceive even God not only as Unity but as a Trinity".

VI. INDIVIDUAL AND AVERAGE MAN

Here we compare the effects of the small-state world and the collectivists world on the individual. He asserts that we can only be individuals in a small state world. Kohr touches on a favourite topic of mine here. That of democracy and representation. He points out:

"In 1790, the average constituency of a member of the House of Representatives in the United States comprised 33,000 citizens. If this ratio were still to prevail, the membership of the House would today (1957) be in the neighbourhood of 4,560, a figure that would make any sensible legislative action all but impossible."

Today there are a manageable 435 members of the House of Representatives. The price paid for this is that each represents over half a million people. More power to the individual eh?

VII. THE GLORY OF THE SMALL

We see here all the advantages of managing things on a small scale. It takes time to grow big so we have to look back at historical evidence for the advantages of small scale. Leopold Kohr then asks us why it is that so much great art, so much creativity, came from the small city states and why so little, proportionally, comes from the superstates of today.

VIII. THE EFFICIENCY OF THE SMALL

When it comes to economics Leopold Kohr is on his home

ground, even though he considers himself to be an expert only on customs unions. In this chapter he looks at the myth of economy of scale and the rise of living standards in large scale economies.

He also looks at the causes of business cycles in capitalist societies and how they relate to scale. But here he also tells us that his principle argument comes not from his own theories, but something every student of economics must acquaint themselves with ... the law of diminishing productivity.

IX. UNION THROUGH DIVISION

In this chapter Kohr compares successful federations with unsuccessful federations. Leopold becomes slightly schizophrenic here. He actually holds up the USA as a shining example of a successful federation!

He qualifies this bizarre stance by suggesting that the USA has a weak government and that it gets away with that because no member state has significantly more power than any other.

I'm not so sure that could be the state of affairs today.

Kohr also views Switzerland as a successful federation - a bit easier to understand. Switzerland itself is a very small country, but when you divide it into 21 autonomous regions you begin to see how democracy should work.

Kohr also puts forward ideas that he suggests could make federalism work - nice try!

X. THE ELIMINATION OF GREAT POWERS

Kohr now asks that all important question. In a world using trade and ecological politics to harmonize national structures with a global state, Kohr asks can the existing oversized states be reduced to a more manageable size?

Here he examines the instability of the United Nations and the European Council and how a reduction in the size of member states could save them from oblivion.

XI. BUT WILL IT BE DONE?

We have to ask ourselves here, is this an example of Kohr's humour? Or is it a painful reminder of the realities of this world? Well, it's a bit of a downer for the anti-globalists.

XII. THE AMERICAN EMPIRE?

Here we return to the subject of the USA. Natural enough - it is a big and powerful nation. But Kohr's view is a bit ambiguous. Perhaps because he first found refuge in the USA at the start of World War II, he identifies himself so closely with this nation:

"We find ourselves just as much in possession of one-half of the world as Russia is of the other. Our plan was to build an anti-empire. But an anti-empire is empire, too, as we can see from the fact that the capital of this side of the Iron Curtain is not the seat of the United Nations but Washington. This is where the statesmen of the free world pay their respects."

It would seem, in the end, even Kohr believes that the USA also needs to be cut down to size.

Too Big website links

<http://www.globalideasbank.org/site/bank/idea.php?ideaId=1918>

Not as ironic as you might think! Shows the ten Principles of Scale drawn up by Professor Leopold Kohr and Kirkpatrick Sale. While I would agree that nations like India, China, Russia and the USA need to be scaled down, their proposal for breaking down the UK into a dozen smaller states is acceptable if it is based on the Swiss model – not acceptable if it is for the purpose of integrating the UK into the EU!

http://www.digitalnpq.org/archive/1993_winter/moon.html

A report on an interview with Leopold Kohr and NPQ Senior Editor Marilyn Berlin Snell. The article is called "The Moon Over Maastricht"

<http://carolmoore.net/articles/leopold-kohr.html>

Carol Moore, the author of "The Davidian Massacre", is a fan of Leopold Kohr and met in Los Angeles in 1984. This link is to a page she has dedicated to kohr on her website.

<http://www.resurgence.org/resurgence/184/illich.htm>

"The Wisdom of Leopold Kohr", an article on Kohr from the magazine he used to write for.

<http://www.schumachersociety.org>

Said by many to be the father of decentralism, even though EF Schumacher himself said he learnt everything he knew from Leopold Kohr! It's not easy to find your way around this site, but it does provide a search engine. A handy resource if you know what you're looking for.

http://www.eu-un.europa.eu/articles/en/article_2880_en.htm

Oh the irony of it, Ambassador John B Richardson, Head of the Delegation of the European Commission to the United Nations (2001-05), quoting Leopold Kohr!

Quotes

I may have nicked a few bits here and there (printed in Times Roman). Or to put it another way: I quote others only in order the better to express myself. (Michel de Montaigne)

Read on and express away...

People who should have said...

Sometimes a quote or aphorism given doesn't sound like it should belong to the originator. Someone else should have said or written it. Jim Gemineye explores the possibilities.

" All I want is a warm bed and a kind word and unlimited power. "

- Peter Mandelson (Ashleigh Brilliant)

" It's kinda fun to do the impossible. "

- William Hague (Walt Disney)

" Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past. "

- Tony Blair (Eric Blair - spooky!)

" Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power. "

- Saddam Hussein (Abraham Lincoln)

" War is delightful to those who have had no experience of it. "

- Bill Clinton (Desiderius Erasmus)

" War is like love; it always finds a way. "

- Robin Cook (Bertolt Brecht)

Never put off until tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow.

- Gordon Brown (Mark Twain)

Things we always forget

It's always those little details that we are obsessed with. Getting to work on time, remembering to pick up something for dinner on the way home...

The important things are often forgotten. Strangely, the media often makes little effort to remind us.

"Give me control over a nation's currency, and I care not who makes its laws."

Mayer Amschel Rothschild

"No nation was ever oppressed, ruined or enslaved by the prodigality of individuals; all nations have suffered some of these evils from the prodigality of governments."

John Taylor of Caroline

" Those who rule the symbols rule us. "

Alfred Korzybski

" In individuals, insanity is rare; but in groups, parties, nations, and epochs it is the rule. "

Friedrich Nietzsche

" The direct use of force is such a poor solution to any problem, it is generally employed only by small children and large nations. "

David Friedman

" Whatever you do will be insignificant, but it is very important that you do it. "

Mahatma Gandhi

" Politics is the means by which the will of the few becomes the will of the many. "

Howard Koch

" I'll be an old man before I understand any of this. "

Mika Hakinen

Enough said

To some quotes, there is nothing more to add...

On war:

" When the rich make war it's the poor that die. "

Jean-Paul Sartre

On apathy:

" There was a power outage at a department store yesterday. Twenty people were trapped on the escalators. "

Steven Wright

On peace:

" I prefer the most unjust peace to the most righteous war. "

Cicero

On imperialism:

" Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power tends to corrupt absolutely. "

Lord Acton

On revolution:

"In a time of universal deceit - telling the truth is a revolutionary act."

George Orwell

Quotes website links

<http://www.aphorismgalore.com>

A huge database of phrases and sayings which you can search by category or author. A good first stop if you're looking for a quote to enhance your essay.

<http://www.quotationspage.com>

Offers an array of 12 collections to search. Choose from Michael Moncur's collection, Steven Wright, The Devil's Dictionary, 20th Century Quotations, The USENET Fortune File and so on.

<http://www.ashleighbrilliant.com>

The wacky author with something to say on just about everything.

<http://www.quotegeek.com>

Something a bit different - quotes from film and television.