

On 06/24/2016 03:13 PM, **DB** wrote:

You are really in the thick of it. Just reading a bit about it this a.m. Thanks for your blog posts.Â

I'd love to hear your interpretation of what this means. Is it the most conservative faction that wanted independence. Is this about immigration as much as anything?

Anyway, enjoy.Â Looking forward to your next report.

D,
Yes, quite thick things are here.Â I've just come from the [Book Arts Book Shop](#).Â When I got there all the talk was of the collective hangover people feel today about this.Â One gentleman had spent the entire past week campaigning for Remain, and said he hadn't slept yet.Â Tanya, the proprietress, complained, "I talked with my neighbours, I talked with my friends.Â Everyone I know voted Remain, so what more could we have done?" She then announced that it was her birthday, and she did intend to celebrate, despite the long faces all around.Â I do believe I helped in that undertaking, buying a pile of books.Â "I feel like shutting the store and going to celebrate right now!" she exclaimed.Â "You say that every time I'm here," I replied. "That's because you spend so much."

My thoughts on this are still resolving.Â I think, for the short term, there will be much upheaval.Â The financial markets are a mess, and a recession is widely anticipated.Â Some have suggested the pound sterling may ultimately lose as much as 30 - 40% of its value, although the BofE seeks to ensure it will not.Â The FTSE will doubtless continue to suffer, although at present is up for the week, mostly on the strong pre-Brexit trading volume.



Cameron's resignation, pending until a vote can be organized — first within the Tory party, and then, perhaps, nationwide — sets up an epic power struggle. Boris Johnson, former mayor of London, is widely expected to stand for PM, and just might win. Meanwhile, in Labour, there is already a call for a vote of no confidence in Jeremy Corbyn, and challenges have been mounted.

This all in just the past few hours.

Scotland have threatened secession, again, but will no doubt succeed this time. SNP, the standard bearers of Scottish independence, control over 70% of the Scottish parliament, and Scots voted overwhelmingly for Remain. They feel more tightly bound to Europe than England lately.

Wales, while not asking to leave the UK, have demanded assurances on funding levels. They feel England forced through this referendum, and even though they voted Leave by roughly 60%, they are now complaining about the effects of that.

And this all in just the past few hours.

See what I mean? The dust has hardly settled, and already ever sharper lines are being drawn. France, Holland, Greece, Denmark and more are queuing up to Leave now, too. If that happens, the entire experiment is as good as over. Marine le Pen has already called for a French exit, Frexit I guess it will be called, or perhaps Fraisser, to introduce a new, French, portmanteau. Last country out, please douse the lights!

Similar nationalistic parties are surging all across Europe, and if their main economic and security apparatus crumble and fall away, what is to stop another march towards war? We already see borders being closed against each other; crude characterizations of *the other* in the press and campaigns. Waning religious majorities in France and elsewhere are waking up from decades-long slumbers to discover that in fact a significant portion of their fellow countrymen worship differently than they do. Intolerance on one side is met with intransigence on the other, and vice-versa.

Then along comes Donald Trump to rub salt in the wounds. Thank you The Donald. May you choke on haggis.

UK leaders are variously calling for immediate invocation of Article 50, or a more deliberate course, leaving such actions for the next PM, who, in any event, wouldn't take office until October, earliest. The EU, meanwhile, are impatient, like a jilted lover.

A senior EU leader has confirmed the bloc wants Britain out as soon as possible, warning that David Cameron's decision to delay the start of Brexit negotiations until his successor is in place may not be fast enough.

Martin Schulz, the president of the European parliament, told the Guardian that EU lawyers were studying whether it was possible to speed up the triggering of article 50 — the untested procedure for leaving the [European Union](#).

“Uncertainty is the opposite of what we need,” Schulz said, adding that it was difficult to accept that “a whole continent is taken hostage because of an internal fight in the Tory party”.

“I doubt it is only in the hands of the government of the United Kingdom,” he said.

“We have to take note of this unilateral declaration that they want to wait until October, but that must not be the last word.”

Sounds like the UK may come home some day soon to find their clothes dumped on the curb. Okay, this started out as a note to you, but it seems to have grown into my next blog post. I haven't even taken time to enjoy my new artist books yet! I'll be sure to share them when I return.

Ciao!