

Resistance

'P.M. BROWN': SAINT OR SINNER?'

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Resistance has exposed David Cameron's federalist connections. However, some well-meaning 'sceptics' are asking whether Gordon Brown is a 'Eurosceptic' alternative

The pundits got the 'race for the top' wrong in 1992 with Kinnock, and (in France) in 1995 with Balladur. But few seriously don't expect Gordon Brown to succeed Tony Blair as PM....

Brown is reputed to be a lot less keen on 'the EU project' than Blair. But what does the Chancellor really believe in?

It's been quite a challenge to piece together research, but we've tried to look beyond the media hype and some untraceable 'briefings'....



TOOTHLESS TIGER?

Brown caved in over VAT on church repairs and recently on our EU budget contributions.¹

ON COURSE FOR THE EURO

★ Britain has escaped joining the Euro, with the credit going to Brown.

In the 1980s², he was certainly pro-EU and supported the dry run, the ERM.

Although the debacle of 1992 made him cautious, in government, he claimed that he'd be one of the leaders of the pro-Euro campaign in a referendum!³

His 'desire' and track record have been of moulding our economy into shape for joining the Euro.¹ Over the past 3 years, the Pound's value has been pegged closely around €1.47.⁴

Brown also lost the UK £2Bn in the botched sale of our gold reserves – with the proceeds effectively being used to prop up the ailing Euro. At the same time, local authorities were also pressurised to prepare for the Euro.

★ What of his 'objections in principle' to both the Euro and EU Constitution? His outburst seemed to be a more of a reaction against being excluded from Labour's governing body, the NEC.^{5,6}

Months later,⁷ he supported adapting Government policy to allow a referendum on the Constitution, so long as it had his 'red lines' to avoid the EU setting tax rates. The Wall Street Journal reported his doubts on tax harmonisation.⁸

Ironically, in 1998⁹, Brown and ten other 'Social Democrat' EU Finance Ministers agreed on 'The New European Way' - a policy document claiming different national tax systems created a "distortion of competition".

HARM(ONIS)ING OUR ECONOMY

"the spectre of big tax rises to smooth Britain's path into the Euro".¹⁰



Taxes duly rocketed towards continental European levels; while ironically, our neighbours reduced theirs towards our rates.

Brown¹¹ however objected to savings tax harmonising measures that would have hit the City 'Eurobond' market.

He also 'Europeanised' the way¹⁰ that inflation figures are calculated.

★ His attack on UK pension funds destabilised an area where Britain was seen as well ahead of Europe. He also collapsed North Sea Oil production through doubling charges²¹, and caused alarm by looking at how to push home buyers onto 25 year fixed rate 'continental' mortgages.¹²

The Business's editorial on Brown's competence and trustworthiness is damning; claiming interference with all areas of the economy; '*constantly manipulates rules... uses creative accounting*' to cover its real state'.²¹



Brown wants 'a new sense of national identity'¹¹ - 'Britishness' means being 'pro-European'.¹³

★ Ironically for someone who has intervened in our economy so much, Brown is notorious in Brussels for lecturing on the benefits of free-market economic policy, and of leaving EU meetings early through frustration.¹

★ Brown's objection is not to 'pooling sovereignty' (sic) – he supports that in EU trade talks. He wants economic integration through a total EU 'single market'. He spun the propaganda line '*3 million jobs depend on Europe*' on the BBC radio programme, 'Today'.¹⁴

Rather, he sees the EU as being an out-of-date trade bloc that needs more 'globalisation'¹⁵ (Ditto the CAP).

He recalls a President Kennedy quote that '*independence is over, the age of interdependence has begun...*'.¹⁶ He feels an 'EU' approach is essential to economic reform, and to combat terrorism, global warming, poverty¹¹ (echoes of 'EU Presidents' Barroso and Merkel, and even Cameron!).

★ We've tried to minimise speculative material, but an interesting website¹⁷ attributes to the late Peter Shore MP:

Both [Blair and Brown] are genuine Europhiles, eager to carry forward the whole process of European integration in foreign and defence as well as in domestic policies, keen to bury the pound in the single currency, seeing Britain's future as above all centred in the EU... Both men want, if not a Federal Europe, then something very close to it indeed.

Brown is working closely with Blair on negotiations for a new 'Constitutional' treaty that can be slipped through without the trouble of a referendum.¹⁸

Polly Toynbee believes that their political differences are 'wafer thin'.¹⁹

Like Blair, Brown feels you can '*stand for Britain and advance British national interests as part of the EU ... Britain can lead the next stage of European development*'.²⁰ Brown believes German leader Angela Merkel shares common ground on many EU issues.¹¹

★ Former MEP Brendan Donnelly (now of the Federal Union think tank) believes that Brown and his advisers try to keep in with 'the Eurosceptic press' to maintain a reputation as a protector of British interests.²²

Brown's ally Ed Balls (MP and chair of the Fabian Society) visited Brussels in July. He assured Commission officials that Brown was really quite pro-EU, and that he saw its failure to reform was being due to being over-reliant on seconded national civil servants. The latter were open to political pressure from home to stand up for their own national interests.²³



Don't get mad – get even...

★ 'The EU50' jollies were memorable only for the moves to revive the EU Constitution, spun as an 'amending Treaty'. Germany's Angela Merkel let it slip in a briefing that the game was "to use different terminology without changing the legal substance".....²⁴

The UK response of suggesting new 'red lines' ('no-no's) was seen as a decoy;²⁶ powers like supremacy of EC law have effectively been given away.



Betrayed with a kiss? Blair toed Merkel's line of avoiding an embarrassing referendum rejection...

Czech PM Topolaneik is 'a sceptic' and Cameron's ally for 'EU reform'. However - under coalition pressure at home? – he dropped his opposition to more integration. He backed German plans for a new [Constitutional] Treaty by 2009.²⁶

Polish President Kaczynski will support a Treaty subject to a small change in Polish voting weight.²⁷

Although Dutch PM Balkenende²⁸ had said that he'd respect the 2005 result, he conspired to avoid a referendum on a new Treaty.²⁹ Amazingly he claimed that the EU needed 'rule changes' to 'increase democracy'.



...but Germany's boss wants to preserve as much as possible of the rejected Constitution.²⁹

It looks like defeating the stealthy EU Constitution in a referendum might again fall to the awkward Danes and Irish, and possibly the House of Lords – if it has any teeth left!

★ Murky Angela won the German election by promising repatriation of power from Brussels. She wanted to take back employment law, industrial policy, social policy, regional policy. Needless to say, these promises were dropped after she took office.³⁰

★ Some Germans warn against the threat of a German-led power-grab. Horst Teubert noted: "In 2006, an exclusive Bertelsmann Foundation conference was told that the EU could only develop further, if external threats were included at the centre of political propaganda. "Energy, Terror and Migration" were suitable themes to bring the European states under external pressure in order to weld them together. "Energy, Terror, Migration" are the central slogans of Germany's EU presidency."³¹

★ New 'Con' Treaty proposals are expected out around 21.6.07 – the Portuguese 'EU Presidency' will seek to get them agreed in late 2007.

SHAUN THE SHEEP?



New Hammersmith Tory candidate, Shaun Bailey, is a bold new 'Cameronite' face of Conservatism. Once in the army, he now works with inner city teenagers with drug problems.

He told the 'Conservative Home' news service: 'It's nice that we are members of the EU but we should think very long and hard before we give up any more of our sovereignty' and that we should not just surrender 'over 100 years' of democracy to Europe'.³²

- What sane soldier would support his country being 85% taken over by an enemy? The existing EU overrules 'our democracy', and its Court can also creatively decide when giving more power to the EU is convenient.

OPERATION OWN GOAL?

★ Some of the 'sceptic' think tanks' put out useful PRs on the EU's faults. But is it necessary to talk up the EU?. On 'EU Referendum blog' website, Dr Helen Szamuely noted **Global Vision** credits the EU with 'a real sense of achievement', and the **European Foundation** argues for 'the renegotiation of our existing European Treaties in order to ensure that the European Union is beneficial to all countries and peoples involved'.

★ We add that, in October, **Speakout Campaign** director John Yates called for renegotiating our membership to be based on 'trade and association agreements only'. It **cannot be said too often** that this is against the small print of EU Treaty obligations, and only **withdrawal** protects sovereignty.

THE FIGHT BACK: We are running a tailored mailing campaign to educate 'sceptics and other opinion formers on the real nature of the EU.

We'd like to cover your **questions** and **suggestions** on fighting the new Treaty in the next *Resistance*, please!



BETTER OFF OUT? - The Investors' Chronicle. Had a feature and attacked MIFID (the financial services Directive)

BETTER OFF OUT? – Merkel! 'The question of full membership will no longer be so relevant in fifty years, because of close links between the EU and other states'³³ (...at home!)

REDS TROUNCE THE FEDS

★ In the EU50 'celebrations', the 'EU XI' lost to Manchester United. Of our top teams, United have a relatively high number of players from the British Isles and non-EU countries like Norway. Maybe it's an omen....

★ Labour Movement for Europe's Chris Bryant MP warned that those seeing Brown as a 'Eurosceptic' were in for a rude awakening! (Parliament's 'The House' magazine, June 2003).

'Brown' research gives media reportage 'as found' but without endorsing opinions.

- Refs: 1 DM bulletin, 4/07; FT, 21.3.07
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 8 Resistance, Autumn 2003 9 see also Telegraph, 22.10.97 10 The Sunday Times, 15.6.03 11 Reuters, 11.3.07 12 Express, 18.11.03 13 Guardian, 2.12.04
 14 8.12.04; in a Jan 2005 report – www.bbcgovernorsarchive.co.uk/docs/reviews/independentpanelreport.pdf
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 20 Fabian Society conference, 14.1.07
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 23 David Rennie, Telegraph, 17.7.06
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