

Essay from the bold pastor

#244 - Brexit -

“What’s hurting the United Kingdom are the restrictions that come from the bureaucrats of the European Union. Your jobs are at risk because of immigrants and refugees. We can gain back our freedom by leaving the EU. We will prosper.”

That’s how UK’s politicians for Brexit stirred up a sense of crisis within its people. Making references to the once popular phrase from the 19th century “Splendid Isolation” and inviting people to reminisce about the supposedly good days of the old British empire, they scored a historically significant victory. Obviously a lot of votes came from those not pleased with the current situations: stagnant wages, insecure job prospects, cuts to social security and other public services, worries about the future, a class-based society, and more. However none of these problems are the direct consequences of the EU, as similar events are occurring all over the world. If the solutions really were as simple as withdrawing from the EU, they would have done it a long time ago.

The EU came about as an attempt to unify the continent and avoid conflicts similar to those that have led to the World Wars. At its center of formation were Germany and France, and other nations also taking part in its design and creation. The pragmatic UK took a step back at first, joining later once it seemed sure that joining the union would mean a benefit to the UK. Not completely pleased of Germany and France’s leadership, the UK still managed to influence the entire union with its diplomatic talent, and industries such as finance and manufacturing benefited from being able to do business with the people of EU’s member nations. The EU represents an important market to the UK. There aren’t many positives of withdrawing from it. Ian Buruma, a renown Dutch journalist, after observing the panic of the citizens after casting their short-sighted votes without a full understanding of its consequences, wrote about his concerns for the UK whose citizens have so easily given up a prospect for future freedom with their votes. His writing is spot on.

This whole ordeal is actually similar to one story from the Bible. Humans, created by God, were walking closely alongside God in the Garden of Eden, but one day, the Satan, disguised as a snake, approaches them and hints at “withdrawing” further from God by eating the forbidden fruit:

**“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened,
and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”** **Genesis 3:5**

The result of eating the fruit were the beginning of sin and death. Mistaking God for a dictator and seeking a better life by stepping away resulted in losing God’s blessing and freedom. This isn’t a mere fable from times past, it’s a problem alive and well today. Jesus saved us from sin by dying on the cross, yet there still are so many people who consider themselves more knowledgeable than God. Christians who don’t attend church, don’t read the Bible, and don’t serve others are not that rare. Let us remember that nothing good will come of looking away from God.

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