

## **ADEPT View From Westminster October 2019**

Happy Brexit! Welcome to the new world order. Enjoy your commemorative coin depicting this joyous moment, and feel free to apply for the blue passport you so craved. It is here, dear readers. The chlorinated chicken and the easiest trade deals in history. Let the flow of restored parliamentary sovereignty wash over you. Britannia is again ruling the waves. Singapore-on-Thames here we come, and if you voted remain, commiserate yourself with the fact the deed is done, and you can move onto the campaign to rejoin; Euro, Schengen and all.

Alas, that opening paragraph has about as much truth and validity to it as, well, most utterances coming from Westminster these days. The reality, of course, is that we are still in the European Union, the coins have been pulped, the blue passports remain in storage alongside the trade deals, the flow of sovereignty has hit a blockage and Britannia is stuck in dry dock. I dread to think what's happened to the chicken.

On the bright side, however, there's going to be a General Election on December 12th.

It is staggering to think of the choice that faces us. Our forefathers had to choose between political giants such as Clement Atlee and Winston Churchill. We get Dopey and Sleepy (you can decide which is which). So, just how have we stumbled into this election pickle?

The Government is led by a Prime Minister who won a leadership contest against a man who told us that an extension beyond 31<sup>st</sup> October might be necessary. To see off Jeremy Hunt, Boris Johnson told his voting audience that he would rather die in a ditch than send the extension letter to Brussels. He indicated that the United Kingdom would leave "come what may", "do or die", by Hallowe'en, and the old boys and girls that are the Conservative Party grassroots lapped it up like purring kittens discovering a saucer of milk. Mr Hunt was duly beaten for the crime of being honest. Stupid boy! As Mr Hunt has himself tweeted, "all's fair in love and war."

So, surely the Labour Party is capitalising on this great political embarrassment. Surely, they are poised to sweep to power and usher in a new age of socialism for the masses. That would be a no. In the truest socialist tradition, the unimportant issue of campaigning to win a general election has been replaced by reselecting its candidates and bickering over new ones. Purging the Blairites, rather than beating the Conservatives remains mission critical. Indeed, the best comedy on television can be found on the news channels as Labour Party spokesmen emerge with evermore absurd excuses for not wanting a General Election. The rest of the world, insofar as it cares, can actually see the real reason depicted graphically in opinion poll after opinion poll.

In the end they were bounced into it by an unlikely double act. Enter Ian Blackford and Jo Swinson. Once they had indicated a willingness to go to the polls, Jezza had no choice. Of course, both the Liberal Democrats and the SNP have entirely selfish motivations for pushing this. Mr Blackford will be aware of polling that suggests the SNP can win everywhere in Scotland, and that's the perfect launchpad for the second referendum and to ride out the pending Salmond trial. The Liberal Democrats know

they have at least 4m liberal conservative remain voting folks in play this time around. Never mind the country, there's political advancement to be had!

And so, against that backdrop (and with the smiling Nigel Farage still lingering in the background) we will go to the polls. You pays your money and takes your choice. Just remember that the money you pay with won't be a 50p Brexit coin!