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### **Britain will thrive outside the European Union**

By Nigel Moore

*'But we have our own dream and our own task. We are with Europe, but not of it. We are linked, but not comprised. We are interested and associated, but not absorbed.'*  
Winston Churchill, 'The United States of Europe', The Saturday Evening Post, 1930

*'Every time we have to decide between Europe and the open sea, it is always the open sea we shall choose.'* Winston Churchill, yelled at Charles de Gaulle during a blazing row, 1944

Without membership of the European Union (EU) dragging us down, Britain can once again be a powerhouse of achievement in many fields and an inspiration to the world. We don't need the EU draining away our self-confidence, stoic resilience and resources when we could do so much better, as our forebears did, by 'standing on our own two feet'. Their legacy shows what can be done, if we embrace the future and recognise that the EU and the negativity shown by those who want us to stay within its cramping edifice are the past. An exciting vision of future achievement outside the EU recognises that we have 'natural' characteristics, traditions and historical precedents that differ from our neighbours in continental Europe. Winston Churchill was right: whilst Britain is geographically part of Europe, our island uniqueness and our being a free people should be the foundations of our separate, independent success. Joining the EU in 1973 was an historical error. We should now seize the opportunities offered by a British exit ('Brexit') and 'Leave, Breathe, Achieve!', in preference to 'Stay, Pay, Obey', with 'No Say', as the EU 'Exterminates UK!'

Many people, including me, are excited and inspired by the sheer breathtaking scale of achievement of the Peoples of these islands. It is a long and illustrious story unequalled anywhere else, by so few who have done so much for the good of so many. Where to start this story? Stonehenge, The Heart of Neolithic Orkney, Silbury Hill or, more recently, just 1300 years ago, with the Lindisfarne Gospels, or 800 years ago with Magna Carta? A personal journey of discovery awaits everyone on these islands, with surprises aplenty. You never stop finding out something new about the achievements in everything from art to zoology, which are the products of intellectual curiosity, inventiveness, courage, and persistent hard work, often in the face of adversity and setbacks. The National CV is a great way to start exploring. Indeed a CV is a forward-looking history and this one is an excellent basis for Britain to 'Apply for an Independent Future'.

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The UK, the Empire and the Commonwealth have often come to the rescue of our European neighbours in their 'hours of need', not least during the Napoleonic and World Wars. Yet assistance has not simply been military. It is humbling to read a letter of gratitude dating from the 1920s from the British colonial administrator to the local inhabitants in Bechuanaland (now Botswana) thanking them for their generosity in helping to save the poorer starving people of Poland.

The positive impact of these islands on mainland Europe goes back into the mists of time. During the Dark Ages, Christianity was kept alive on the north western fringe whose missionaries subsequently helped to re-introduce the faith to a largely heathen continent. John Wycliffe's ideas and teachings spread from Oxford to the Continent in the fourteenth century and provided an intellectual spark which was fanned into flame by Jan Hus in Bohemia and later Martin Luther, becoming the Protestant Reformation. Many of the foundations of Enlightenment thought and its predecessor, the revolutionary scientific thinking of the late 17th and early 18th centuries, were laid in these islands by such great luminaries as Isaac Newton, Adam Smith, John Locke and David Hume. In the nineteenth century our country saw great advances in science and technology as the Industrial Revolution, which we engendered, gathered momentum.

These are a small selection of the cultural, intellectual, industrial and political developments which have spread outwards from our enterprising country, as recollected in this website's database, The National CVpedia of Britain (see Appendix I). Let them be an inspiration.

Over the centuries, the United Kingdom has provided Europe with stubborn military resolve, preventing the subjugation of the continent by ambitious, delusional, autocratic leaders. At the same time our ideas have contributed to the advance of enlightened material progress. How could such a small place, with so few people, achieve so much? Be disproportionately influential, in the words of The National CV. The simple answer is because our history, philosophical outlook and national characteristics are so different from those of neighbouring countries.

Our history shows that freedom in its various forms is needed to make progress and operating on the geographical periphery of Europe we have traditionally been more stable, freer and independent. Our national story, with its fair share of happenstance and serendipity, has evolved over a long period in a particular direction, from King Alfred of Wessex and earlier, and moving – at least until 1973 when we joined the then European Economic Community (the 'Common Market') – towards increasing rule by consent under just and equitable (common) law. The concept of government of the people, for the people, by the people first appeared in the General Prologue to John Wycliffe's translation of the Bible in 1384.

Our philosophical divergence – mainly empiricism, where knowledge and reality come from experience, versus idealism, where reality is a product of the mind – can be traced through William of Ockham, David Hume, John Locke and others. Their empiricism provides a stark contrast to the idealism of continental Europe, exemplified by, for example, Georg Wilhelm

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Friedrich Hegel and Immanuel Kant. This is a subject briefly explored by Peter Osborne in an article entitled 'Europe's dogmatic ruling class remains wedded to its folly' in *The Daily Telegraph* in 2013, in which he says 'Anglo-Saxon empiricism and the idealism found on the Continent therefore prescribe directly opposite courses of political conduct...' Our humanity and compassion towards others has deep roots in an empiricist understanding of our Judeo-Christian traditions.

Our behaviour tends to be more individualistic than our European counterparts as shown through research by the late John W. Hunt (Professor of Organisational Behaviour, London Business School). We appear at our happiest and best when can exert our colourful, irreverent individuality instead of being forced to conform to some drab overpowering orthodoxy, such as that which the EU is attempting to impose on us. This national characteristic is powerfully expressed in our great literature. For example, there is the bawdy individuality of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* and the strength of defiant, forthright heroine, Elizabeth Bennett, in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

Yet it is in our attitude to the future where our national temperament really stands out, for we believe – sometimes against formidable odds – that tomorrow can be better than today; and many of us share the belief that we have a responsibility as individuals to make life better for family, friends and indeed society as a whole.

By nature, we don't feel comfortable with EU solidarity, EU autocracy and pursuit of (naked) power over others. So it is obvious that our country, differing from the European mainstream, will always sit uneasily within an ideological federalist nascent EU Superstate called 'Europe', and as long as we do so, our potential will be dramatically diminished. And it is diminished further by the 'management of the UK's decline' (the term given by British officials at the EU in Brussels to their activities).

Some debilitating effects of EU membership are obvious: levels of immigration that are MAD ('More Arriving Daily'), Britain's excessive budgetary contribution, suffocating over-regulation, dodgy accounting at the centre, as well as a single currency straitjacket etc. But there is subtle debilitation too, such as loss of self-confidence, explaining away problems as not our fault and looking for quick solutions elsewhere, instead of fixing them ourselves. Then there is the loss of freedom to speak, think, question or challenge and act outside the EU's increasingly control freak box of orthodoxy. Combined, these detriments remove from us the will to improve or go forward and the means to do so. We cannot invest sufficiently in the future, in research, development, education, skills and training, improving productivity etc, when the EU drains away resources through taxation, inflated salaries, perks, corruption, waste and pursuit of corporatism (government of the privileged few, for the privileged few). In some cases the drain is actually facilitated by arbitrary EU actions to transfer our wealth and jobs to others who don't contribute much, if anything, to our wealth-creating economy. Under EU rule we are in danger of turning into the first third world economy in a cold climate. Staying in the sclerotic EU, with its sluggish economy and stubbornly high unemployment, is the unsafe option.

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Politicians and bureaucrats are happy however with the current direction of EU travel; it gives them more power and increasing control over ordinary people. There is no restraint on their idiocies except that which they weakly impose upon themselves. There is no alternative political socio-economic model for their performance to be judged against. An emasculated UK within the EU can be ignored and dissent suppressed. And ironically, we are already marginalised because we dare to disagree with the EU Superstate integrationist mainstream.

The situation changes dramatically for the better – both here and in the EU – with the emergence of a free, independent UK. We can do our own democratic, self-reliant, enterprising thing and provide an alternative model for the peoples of Europe and beyond – a model they could possibly emulate and from which they could certainly gain inspiration. An independent UK would provide a reality check on the EU's ruling elite and act as a potential facilitator of popular restraint upon their self-delusional excesses. It would be harder for the EU elite to continue to ignore the wishes, hopes and fears of their subject peoples when people could look across the Channel and see the benefits of, for example: lower taxes; fewer and better thought out regulations; more transparent, accountable and therefore, effective government; greater personal liberty; less corruption and waste; the rule of law and protection against arbitrary actions by an overbearing state. Most of all, perhaps, is that they could see us bravely expanding our horizons with our natural boldness, curiosity, practicality, and ingenuity.

Our example as a free country, independent of the EU, empowered, rejuvenated, and focusing on what we do best could help 'toughen up' the rest of Europe, helping our neighbours survive in a dangerous world and inspiring them to build prosperity in a competitive one. They may well soon have to deal with the fragmentation of the euro currency, debt crises, economic collapse in Greece, etc. For our part we must seize the opportunity offered by Brexit to rise again and become super-competitive, an inspiration to less happy lands! Most of all, Brexit could provide the peoples of Europe and the wider world, with something that is sadly missing these days – hope for tomorrow.

If we choose freedom from the EU, and the exciting prospects it offers, we will need to empower and inspire the next generation to take up the opportunities of the future. They will need: the self-confidence to go forward bravely; the freedom (including from fear) to challenge orthodoxy and push out the boundaries of restrictive assumptions, performance and knowledge; suitable techniques and skills to facilitate success such as the scientific method and an innovation methodology; and rewards in recognition or financial terms for their achievements. Will you help create a new, better world, free from the ideologically driven EU Superstate, where the next generation can thrive?

The coming hope, the future day,  
When wrong to right shall bow,  
And but a little courage, *everyone!*  
To make that future—NOW!

*(adapted from The Song of the Future, Ernest Jones, Chartist and poet, 1851)*

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Nigel Moore founded and heads a technical consultancy advising clients worldwide in the Rail industry. He has lived and worked for many years overseas. Having experienced first hand how EU legislation adversely affects small businesses he is enthusiastic about the potential for the UK outside the EU.

### **Acknowledgement**

The National CV Group thanks journalist Jon Danzig for clarifying the Churchill quotations that form this essay's epigraph. The source for the second quotation is Antony Beevor's *D-Day, the Battle for Normandy*, 2009.

### **Appendix I. Extract from The National CVpedia of Britain, 6.11 Overseas** (<http://www.thenationalcv.org.uk/overseas.html>)

**European Union:** Britain joined what was then the Common Market in 1973; the idea of a united Europe was first mooted by William Penn in 1693, who also founded Pennsylvania in North America

'In his essay on the peace of Europe, he [Penn] virtually invented collective security and with amazing foresight planned in detail something very like the present European Union.' [Source: W M S Russell, 'William Penn and the peace of Europe', *Medicine, Conflict and Survival*, **20**, 19-34, 2004]

Penn called for the establishment of a 'European Dyet, Parliament or Estates'; the anthem of the EU is the *Ode to Joy* finale of Beethoven's *Choral*, which symphony was paid for by the Philharmonic Society in London; Europhiles extol the role of the EU in rendering unthinkable another Franco-German war, in giving Europe collectively a greater voice for constructive change in the world based on Western values, in encouraging democracy and the rule of law among new and aspiring members, and, as they see it, in boosting European prosperity, notably via the creation of a single market; meanwhile Eurosceptic Britons - recalling that they voted to join a trading group called the Common Market not an expensive foreign club of 28 members bent on an ever-closer political union - see the EU as less democratic, more bureaucratic and much more prone to corruption than their homeland, and as having a byzantine political process unwholesomely dependent on horsetrading behind closed doors and to be perennially conspiring against their interests to boot; every crisis is an opportunity for 'more Europe'; island sovereignty is being exsanguinated away, the Eurosceptics say, and with it Parliament's life-blood; some remember that Belgium declined to supply Britain with armaments during the Falklands War of 1982; the even more historically minded note that when Henry VIII broke with Rome in 1534, a lot of money that had left the country bound for the Vatican no longer did so, provoking a long-term economic boom at home