

Once we were all democrats are we still?

Before the twin triumphs of Brexit and Trump, we all claimed to believe in democracy or at least we said we did. We didn't trouble ourselves overly about what it meant. Clearly it should mean that, just as we are all equal in the sight of God, so we are equal at the ballot box. But no! Both in USA and in UK all votes are not equal otherwise the majority of votes cast would decide the question every time.

Most of us knew this but didn't care as long as the prize was allocated to each of the two main parties in turn excluding all others. We chose to turn a blind eye to the inequities of the ballot box; UKIP getting 20% of the vote but only one MP or the Liberal party being similarly illiberally treated. We told ourselves by way of self-justification that such unfairness served the cause of stable government and one able to actually govern unlike those unworkable coalitions in Italy and elsewhere. It was a fixed system that kept the center in power even when it was not the will of the people. We were in no doubt that our constituency first-past-the-post electoral system was superior to others despite it having been designed for another age in which politics was a local rather than a national pastime. Others might call it gerrymandering.

Consider what might happen if the UKIP 20% were to become 30%, a tipping point would be reached where the present loaded system would make UKIP the alternative choice in many constituencies; a Labour party that polled 20% might find it had only a handful of MPs. UKIP might be elected on just 40% of the popular vote; how many people would cry foul then?

The vote for "Brexit" was a majority, both of votes cast and as it was a referendum, a majority under rules that couldn't be fudged. A simple majority vote was chosen presumably because a "remain" vote was considered to be a shoe-in and would have put an end to the debate, neutered UKIP and defeated the anti-EU section of the Tory Party with a single blow. To complicate the ballot paper with multiple choices might have muddied the result. How sad for "Remainers" that it didn't go according to plan – that's democracy, folks.

We have seen a wave of objections by those who didn't like the result. People who should know better called for a second referendum or suggested that parliament attempt to frustrate the result by blocking the triggering of article 50. Some have tried to float the argument that as lies were told by the "Leave" campaign the result is invalid, as if lies were not told by "Remain". Was there ever an election where lies were not told on all sides? It is true we were not given sufficient information to make an informed decision and nor were the different Brexit choices spelt out but that was all behind us when the question was slated on the ballot paper. The people who voted cannot be held responsible for any of that.

This was not a general election with a party platform nor was the “Leave” campaign going to be responsible for extricating us from EU; that is the responsibility of the government in power. The “Leave” campaign could hardly have been expected to set out a prospectus for a government it was never going to form as some sour losers have suggested. Government posed a simple question and we gave a simple answer – leave.

If our politicians now use weasel words or slight of hand to deprive the majority of what it voted for don't be surprised if the electorate turn to extreme parties at the next election. “Remainers”, be warned that, if we don't leave the EU wholeheartedly as well as in name, many voters will turn to a fourth party which they believe will deliver what was promised when the referendum was offered.

As always in life, it is a good idea to imagine what you would feel like if roles were reversed. Imagine that “Leavers” were trying to frustrate or overturn a vote for “Remain”; only then will you start to appreciate just how angry and cheated people feel.

The USA has spent the last seventy years forcing democracy down the throats of countries to which it is entirely unsuited if not downright dangerous, now it is having to experience for itself what it really means - the tyranny of the unsophisticated masses.

The West didn't seem to care that by supporting the Arab Spring we were paving the way for civil wars and Islamist regimes that sought to suppress dissent and impose absolutism on others by dictat or by force of arms.

America forgot that democracy can only work successfully in a unitary and homogenous state comprised of educated people.

By telling people through the liberal media that what they might secretly want is not a subject that can even be discussed by decent people, the liberal establishment has permitted a dangerous head of resentment to build-up; it has now blown its top and produced a revolution. If you try to tell people what they can think you will probably not like the way they vote.

Now that the USA has woken up to the catastrophic truth that thanks to its form of democracy, the candidate with the most votes, Hillary Clinton, lost and that the country now faces four years under the presidency of a demagogue and preacher of hate. The world has been here before; in 1933 Hitler's Nazi party gained control thanks to winning the election but with a minority of votes. So now the USA has a choice to make, either to accept the democratic mandate or abandon democracy. A re-think of their undemocratic Electoral College system might also be a good idea.

If, on both sides of the Atlantic, we are committed to democracy we must accept the results wholeheartedly. We must make our systems truly democratic and representative of majority opinion however distasteful that might be to the liberal chattering classes. Systems that are less than wholly

democratic are not democratic at all, they risk making people feel cheated of power and angry people seek out extreme redress.

As the saying goes, “I may disagree profoundly with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it”. Once the people have spoken, we must accept and defend their choice – that’s democracy. Anything less is special pleading and doomed to failure unless you bring in the army with bayonets fixed.

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