



# Brexit and Trump - 10 reasons why I love their positive impact

WORKING PAPER, V1.0

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- Trump and Brexit are already having a globally-felt, direct influence on many questions that this blog is dealing with, e.g.:
  - Where and how to safely and successfully build your own business?
  - Which country or region to base yourself in to have a good life?
  - How to protect yourself against the creeping bankruptcy of government Ponzi schemes in areas such as health and pensions?
- The Western world has started to divide between countries that are successfully disrupting their political systems (UK, USA), and those that aren't (e.g., Germany). This provides increasing clarity where to base yourself, your assets, and your business.
- For anyone with a can do attitude and a positive mindset, the longer-term ramifications of Trump and Brexit could provide opportunities comparable to the 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall, the 1990s' economic opening of China, or the post-WW II economic boom era in the US.

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# FOREWORD: WHY I WROTE THIS EBOOK AND WHAT YOU CAN GET OUT OF IT



Dear reader,

Is this blog turning political?

It is, but only as far as politics are relevant for its core themes.

Let me explain why I decided to write this eBook.

## **The opportunity of a lifetime**

Imagine being given a chance to travel back to the early 1990s and start a business or invest your money in the Czech Re-

public or Poland, just after these countries freed themselves from socialism.

Or, being given another chance to become an expat, investor, or entrepreneur in China during the 1990s, when much of the Chinese economy was the equivalent of a white canvass.

To pick a final example from closer to home, what if you had moved to Britain in early 1985?

The British pound had fallen in value by 60% during the previous years (compare that to the howling and screaming over its 15% decline in the 14 months after the Brexit referendum). Then, with a single stroke of the pen, Margaret Thatcher deregulated the financial industry. Within a year, the value of the British Pound doubled. These developments made a fortune for anyone with pound-denominated investments. Anyone pursuing entrepreneurial activities in the UK benefited from a booming economy.

In all of these examples, far-reaching political changes led to tremendous economic growth and one-off opportunities in different industries:

- In a place like Poland or the Czech Republic, you could have picked up residential property for a song and multiplied your investment many, many times over.
- In China, you could have set up virtually any business and succeeded in what was to become an economy that grew by a factor of 35 (!) over just 30 years.
- In the UK from the second half of the 1980s onwards, being in finance became the name of the game, and many other sectors also did well.

Just as importantly, these countries allowed their citizens to keep much of their gains. Anyone who lived there at the time

experienced the proverbial rising tide that lifted all the boats, and low taxation left the newly created wealth with its citizens.

By virtue of having been in the right place at the right time, you'd now almost certainly be financially independent (single-digit millions). With a bit of entrepreneurial spirit, you would have likely risen to become seriously wealthy (double and triple-digit millions). I know a lot of people who did just that. Many of them weren't even the top of their class as far as education, experience, or work ethic was concerned.

To look at it from a different perspective, imagine you were a young university graduate in Italy in 1998. Your country had just given up sovereignty over its monetary system and signed up to the "euro" experiment. If you had remained in your home country, you would have subsequently experienced two decades without any economic growth (compared to the US, the UK, and China growing 120%, 130%, and 1,100% during the same period – based on a purchasing power adjusted basis). About a third of your local friends would today still be unemployed, and that's after about half of them had left the country to find work elsewhere. You'd be priced out of the property market, and you could probably never afford to have a family. Oh, and your government will now have put legislation in place to ensure that if your local bank goes bust, your savings can be confiscated to bail it out. Your vote in the national election now only has limited effect. E.g., if you voted for a party whose



budgetary aim was not aligned with the goals provided by the EU apparatus in Brussels, then your vote would count for little. Congrats on your life choices! At least the coffee is still good if you can afford it.

Where you choose to live tends to have a tremendous impact on your life.

That's all the more the case when far-reaching political changes lead to countries taking a turn to an entirely new direction (or reverting back to their old, successful way of doing things).

Trump and Brexit qualify as such turning points, and their effects extend way beyond these two countries. The ramifications stemming from these two 2016 votes will create tremendous opportunities in some parts of the world over the coming one to two decades. It will probably also leave other countries and regions fall behind (or fall behind further, to be more precise).

Now is the time to make a decision for yourself, which side you'd like to end up on.

I made my own decision a long time ago. In 1998, I moved from my native Germany to the other side of the British Channel. Since then, I have spent the biggest part of my time in the British Isles (i.e., the UK and the Channel Islands), followed by the US in second place (though only ever as a tourist rather than as a legal resident). I active-

ly contributed to the Brexit campaign, and I have always let it known how delighted I was about Trump running and winning the US presidential elections. Both results I fully expected, based on my confidence in the British and American people having deeply embedded cultures that lead them to do the right thing.

Three years into the seismic changes that these ongoing and growing political movements have triggered, I am giddy with excitement.

It is now virtually certain that these disruptions to the long-established political status quo will continue. Taking Donald J. Trump out of the White House or calling off Brexit would not change that much. I have long moved on from speaking about "Brexit" (a policy issue) and instead refer to it as "the Brexit Revolution" (a broader movement). Ditto for the US. The forces now at play extend well beyond the UK's EU membership or who is US president for four years. Nothing can wind the clock back anymore, no matter how much some people try to. The UK and the US should be in for the biggest set of political changes in the past 75 years.

One way or another, a lot of change is likely to come, and it will not be limited to those who live in the UK or the US. No matter where you currently live, the changes emanating from the world's no. 1 and no. 5 economies will affect how you live, how much you can earn, and what degree of freedom you'll experience in your life. The

US and the UK taken together account for 27% of the world economy. If you add the British Commonwealth, you have an economic, cultural, and legal sphere that makes up 38% of the world economy. Changes in this part of the global economic and political system have a tremendous impact even outside of their immediate realm.

Obviously, though, trying to work out where things will go from here and how best to position yourself for them is easier said than done.

These are non-linear, complex changes. You'd need that proverbial crystal ball to make precise predictions of how exactly all this is going to play out. Add to it the fact that everyone has their own view of going about life. Writing an eBook that combines a perspective of political changes with how-to information about how to best structure your life, is no easy feat.

However, I have decided to give it a go. After all, I see a growing demand for this kind of information and insight among a large section of my readers.

### **Early adopters are already in on the game**

Politics may currently feel all-consuming and chaotic, but the first clear trends are already emerging.

E.g., I have an increasing number of friends from Continental Europe who are

asking me for help with shifting assets, businesses, and possibly even themselves to the UK (or its nearby Crown Dependencies) because of the positive effects they expect from Brexit and the Brexit Revolution.

For assets, that's the prospect of keeping their savings outside of a monetary system that is engaging in unprecedented fudging, such as the Target 2 funding redistribution system operated by the European Central Bank, the exact consequences of which are entirely unclear.

For their businesses, it's the prospect of operating in a much more open, globally connected economy that is light on regulation and taxation. This way of operating is something that is deeply embedded in the culture of the Anglosphere, as opposed to the deeply embedded protectionist, top-down character of the EU.

When it comes to possibly even themselves moving, it's the prospect of living in a country where you are free(-ish) to speak your mind; where there is a long track record of successfully integrating legal, merit-based immigrants into society, and where democracy, as well as the rule of law, is currently on the way up like it has not been at any point during the past decades.

You will find a lot more meat on all of these subjects (and source material) in the chapters that follow.

Since Brexit and Trump, a growing number of people seem to have had their decisive moment of clarity. They have now realised what I have long expressed with a single sentence: "The Channel is wider than the Atlantic." There is a lot of meaning hiding behind that sentence, and I explain my view in more detail in chapter 9.

I'll make no secret, though, that writing up such an overview has been far from easy.

### **Work in progress**

This eBook is an effort to provide a useful, and to some degree actionable, perspective on some of the most complicated subjects of our time.

However, because of the fast-moving situation we are dealing with, I am not even trying to cover every single imaginable aspect exhaustively. Virtually every day, the political and economic landscape changes. It regularly feels like a single 24h news cycle is generating more new developments than a week or a month used to in the past. By the time the edited version hits my website, there'll already be another handful of new developments I would have loved to include.

This is v1.0 of an eBook that I will probably relaunch as a v2.0 and v3.0 at some point in the future, and to which I actively invite reader feedback.

Consider yourself a guinea pig in an A/B test. Depending on what feedback I get

back from this book, I might expand more on certain parts of its content and cut back on others. I hope to get a lot of nastygrams from readers who entirely disagree with me. Also, getting lots of unsubscribes from blog readers will provide further evidence that I am addressing worthwhile issues. Like a piece of hot iron, the more you apply a hammer to it, the harder the resulting product will be for those who are seeking a sharp sword.

In the meantime, you'll find v1.0 to be the following:

- It's ten separate articles glued on top of each other. They are written in such a way that you don't need to read all of them and instead can pick and choose.
- Each of these chapters is political by nature, but the subjects discussed will very likely have direct ramifications on your life. In particular, they will touch on quality of life, investing, building a business, as well as personal liberty and freedom from political persecution. Sometimes, I state these ramifications explicitly; at other times, I don't because they are somewhat repetitive.
- The individual chapters, as well as the document as a whole, are tying in with future articles, eBooks, videos, and events that will appear on my website. Over the coming months, you'll see a lot of changes and additions on the

website you downloaded this eBook from.

What this eBook doesn't aim to, though, is to debate specific policy issues or tell you who will win any particular election next year. Instead, the following article will give you a 33,000-foot perspective and a sense of the overall direction of travel. I am much more interested in what is likely to happen over the next ten years than what election results and policy decisions we'll see over the next 12 months. The value of this book is to focus on strategy, not on noise.

It is also currently still very broad – and possibly somewhat undefined – in its conclusions. E.g., if someone asked me about attractive countries, jurisdictions, and regions to benefit from all of these changes, I would give a fourfold reply (in no particular order):

- The UK.
- The US.
- The British Channel Islands (currently my home – hence my bias).
- A variety of specific countries that are part of the British Commonwealth.

Which, I am the first to admit, will be a confusing choice and not defined clearly enough to be of actionable use. Though in some ways, this is also the point. No generation before us has ever had it so good

when it comes to being able to cherry-pick different jurisdictions. You can base different components of your life in different parts of the world to assemble the ideal life for yourself and become a multi-jurisdictional person. Nothing speaks against utilising several countries to your personal benefit. E.g., my own setup based on having my primary base in the Channel Islands allows me to do tax-free business with anywhere in the world, and spend up to 89 days a year as tourist in the UK as well as up to 120 each year in the US – no visa, no taxes, no hassle. A few further practical examples taken from my own life, which I explain in the first set of conclusions near the end of the document, will make that clear.

You will also see how I am currently looking at probably evolving my life over several phases, i.e., my base in the Channel Islands is not set in stone. Based on what we will see unfold over the coming one or two decades, I might shift my base elsewhere and use other jurisdictions for domiciling and operating a business or investments. I am writing down all these individual aspects to expose it to my readers. Any feedback that I may get helps me to form my own intellectual framework for what I plan to do with my next two decades.

### **Everything will remain politicised for years to come**

I think a lot about how current developments will change the way we live in 2025,

2030, and beyond. Identifying emerging new trends in all walks of life and working out how to benefit from them (or, at least, preventing them from doing you harm) is part of the core of this blog.

There used to be a time in the not too distant past when politics was something you could safely ignore. As recently as the early 2000s, hardly anyone was interested in politics anymore because it didn't seem to matter (see chapter 3). Not anymore. Politics is now heavily influencing virtually all influences of life, which can (bizarrely) even include partnerships, dating, and marriage. No one can operate anymore without being affected by what is playing out in the political arena. I expect this to become even more pronounced over the coming years. 2020 will send us off to a dynamic start, but it is also quite likely that we ain't seen nothing yet.

That's why it is essential to view the issues and solutions that I describe on my websites within a framework that includes a view on politics.

Make no mistake about it, Brexit and Trump are mere symptoms of much more significant changes that are coming our way no matter where you live and what you do. I hope that my readers will exploit some of them for their benefit. Many pundits in corporate media have a negative view of these changes, which I primarily attribute to the fact that these changes are threatening their privileges and lifestyle. By virtue of being a reader of my website,

you are unlikely to be a Guardianista-type journalist fearing for his or her job. More likely, you are a 20/30/40-something entrepreneurial-type person looking for opportunities. For someone like yourself, the developments triggered by Trump and Brexit should be cause for unprecedented optimism. It's now up to you whether you, too, want to utilise some of these changes to your own benefit.

If you are in your 20s, 30s, or 40s, what is coming our way is likely to qualify as your chance of a lifetime. In 2016, the people of the two most established and prosperous democracies in the world showed the middle finger to large swathes of the established political, economic, and financial order of the past few decades. After several decades of watching the establishment's failure to tackle a multitude of serious issues, the voters of the two biggest and most mature democracies on the planet decided to act based on the evidence. They drew a line.

These developments have by now taken on a broad scope, and the genie is literally out of the bottle. I see all this continuing no matter what happens with Trump and Brexit from here onwards. The clock cannot be turned back. From these changes stem opportunities, if you are ready to grasp them.

The following is my current mental framework for analysing and utilising the set of changes that have kicked off ever since.

You will find that this eBook has a positive, can do attitude. Brexit and Trump have kicked off changes that make me hugely optimistic for the world in general, and which have already led to specific opportunities arising for myself. I am currently evaluating my options for the future in such a way that I frame them by the ten points I am writing about in detail below.

### **Doing my bit (or trying to)**

This eBook is also my effort not just hone my understanding of underlying issues, but to also publicly take a position.

After all, there is the question of whether we shouldn't all actively contribute to public debate. Should we? Few people doubt anymore that during the coming years, politics could lead to the most profound changes we have seen in generations. The overall situation feels like politics will have a robust and direct influence on all aspects of our lives.

As the saying goes: "If you are not turned on to politics, politics will turn on you."

At the same time, there are now unprecedented efforts by those who don't like recent political developments, to suppress debate. No doubt, my publishing this document will lead to another raft of friends and acquaintances "unfriending" me. They'd rather not see anyone contradict their own beliefs and interests, and will stop at nothing to ban viewpoints that contradict their own. Some will do so be-

cause they don't know any better, and others because they have a financial stake in the system that the Brexit Revolution and Trump are aiming to unravel and throw into the dustbin of history. Either way, if I still know any more people who will break off contacts with friends, acquaintances, or professional contacts because of different political views, then I am looking forward to seeing them leave my life. I don't unfriend people over politics, but those who do, aren't the right people for anyone to be friends with. Anyone who cuts people out of their lives for the way they vote is not worth anyone's time.

I prefer to spend my time with the vast majority of fully functional citizens that have reconciled with the fact that it's one of the greatest strengths of any political system if it allows a range of different viewpoints. To everyone else, I say: "Bye!"

### **Life is what you make it.**

As someone who has found his or her way to my website, you are probably looking for heretical viewpoints and alternative perspectives. After all, you could have also spent the last fifteen minutes reading The Guardian – but you didn't.

All of which comes together to the plethora of reasons why I wrote this 10-point essay and its subsequent two sections of conclusions. It took me several months to write this, even though I had collected research material for over a year.

I am excited about sharing some lesser-known perspectives that I recently noticed others found interesting when I brought them up in conversation.

If you'd like to provide feedback of any kind – ideally, of a harsh nature so that I am challenged to learn something new – then do drop me a note on [sl@swen-lorenz.com](mailto:sl@swen-lorenz.com).

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Lorenz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Swen Lorenz

# 1. THE OVERTON WINDOW FOR DISCOURSE IS FINALLY GETTING WIDER AGAIN







ou may not have come across the term "Overton Window" yet, but you will undoubtedly have heard of a closely related one that has crept into the system during the past decades.

I have a vivid childhood memory from when I first heard the term "political correctness". I heard it from my brother at a family gathering, where we sat at a table with my cousins. I must have been eight or ten years old, and I remember well that I found the term puzzling.

The concept of so-called political correctness has been with us seemingly forever, and today it's almost universally known. During the months leading up to me writing this eBook, I tested in conversations how many people recognise the term "Overton Window". I wasn't surprised to learn that it is lesser-known by a factor of 10, if not even more.

E.g., I source most of my images and illustrations for my websites from one of the world's largest image databases, Shutterstock. For "political correctness", it has 12,958 photos and illustrations; many of which are a good match to get across points relating to the actual subject. For "Overton Window", it has 13 photos and illustrations, three of which are somewhat illustrative and ten of which are simply miscategorised.

The Overton Window defines the range of ideas tolerated in public discourse. It limits what you can speak about without getting expelled from polite society. It is named after the late Joseph P. Overton, a

public policy academic from the US. In a political context, it refers to the range of policies that a politician can recommend without appearing too extreme.

Political correctness, on the other hand, is used to describe policies or language that are intended to avoid offence or disadvantage to members of a particular group in society. In some ways, it's the opposite of the Overton Window. Political correctness as a term and a concept was invented in the 1970s and used initially as a joke – no kidding! During the 1980s, it was popularised as a political term by a variety of media outlets – leading among them none other than the New York Times – and by several books.

Being of 1975 vintage, I came into this world just in time to have watched the entire life of the term and all that comes with it.

Over the decades, I have witnessed:

- The concept of political correctness getting applied to an ever-increasing number of subjects and terms. Politicians are now scoring points on how "PC" they are, rather than how effective they are. Entire government agendas are nowadays driven by political correctness culture.

- What started as a joke was gradually turned into a weapon to go after political opponents. In recent years, it has become a political cudgel used to bludgeon others into silence. Up until Trump entered the stage, it was a potent, terrifying weapon indeed. It has also led to far-spread self-censorship.
- Through a variety of measures, political correctness is gradually getting turned into legislation (or at least de facto regulation created through so-called administrative orders).

Europe and the US used to be places where virtually any subject could be put to the test by public discourse. Thanks to the concept of political correctness, this is not true anymore. The range of topics that are within the Overton Window became narrower until 2016. For this eBook, I want to avoid (as much as possible) using the names of specific areas that are widely known to fall into this category. However, if you haven't lived under a rock during the past one or two decades, you will know what some of them are.

I often wonder what it takes for someone to actively be in favour of political discourse getting limited to a list of pre-approved subjects and viewpoints. Why would anyone want to prevent a topic or a particular view from being discussed openly? That's what political correctness is about. It is a concept aimed at preventing subjects from getting discussed in

such a way that all viewpoints are taken into consideration. It's aimed at stifling speech and limiting thought. Who, on earth, would want that?

Before Trump got elected, I had a conversation with a friend who at the time was a staunch, publicly visible supporter of Hillary Clinton. As he put it (I am paraphrasing from memory): "If Trump gets elected, I wish that the ONE thing his administration will achieve is to roll back political correctness. If he achieves just this one thing, his presidency will be worth it for everyone."

I worded my view differently, more along the following lines: "Only a street fighter can take on the monster that political correctness has morphed into. We need someone who takes the gloves off and punches it until it's dead."

Much as we used different terms to describe the issue, we were united in our position. After all, what kind of person could possibly be in favour of limiting political discourse to approved subjects and viewpoints?

Those who are could do well to question how they feel about something that even the BBC felt compelled to report about. [A BBC news report](#) transmitted to a broad audience the finding that political correctness is playing into the large-scale prosecution and murder of a minority religion around the world.

The British government, with co-leadership by a bishop of the Anglican Church, had investigated the prosecution of Christians around the world. [The report](#) concluded that "in some regions, the level and nature of persecution (of Christians) is arguably coming close to the international definition of genocide, according to that adopted by the UN."

As the final version of the report wrote in its conclusions, one of the factors that were found to have played into this issue is "Fear of ... political correctness". The political correctness culture is explicitly pointed at because it has led to diplomats being too afraid to bring up the problem because of a "fear of upsetting local government."

Aren't we all glad those highly-paid diplomats didn't have to live through the stress of upsetting someone? They really shouldn't have to experience any challenging situations as part of their job and deserve living a quiet, entitled life. I wonder how "upset" the persecuted Christians feel the moment they get killed?

The widespread, but seldom reported-on prosecution and genocide-level murder of Christians around the world is a great example to illustrate the issue. It plays into political correctness on several levels, including how the political correctness culture is shaping what subjects we discuss and read about, and which ones we don't.

When was the last time you read of "Christophobia" and what it does to the lives of Christians? You are probably 100 times more likely to have learned of another religion-related phobia because that one falls within the Overton Window rather than outside of it. Google has 35,600 search results for Christophobia, but no less than 10,200,000 search results for that other well-known religion-related phobia. Political correctness culture has consequences, including in what you get to see and hear about.

The BBC subsequently reported: "Mr Hunt (the then Foreign Secretary) said he felt that "political correctness" had played a part in the issue (the genocide of Christians) not being confronted."

It is nowadays more likely that you hear someone publicly caring about the fate of panda bears than setting out how Christians are now the world's no. 1 persecuted religious group. Try bringing up the genocide of Christians in the Middle East and Africa at a cocktail party in London, Berlin or New York. You'll then realise what "PC" culture is.

We have now been through decades of ever-increasing political correctness culture. There are many figures that illustrate how dominant and stifling political correctness culture has become. E.g., in Germany, only 18% of the population feel they can still freely express their opinion in public. This figure was the result of a [survey carried out by one of the country's](#)

[most respected polling institutes](#), the Al-lensbach Institute, and Germany's 2nd largest newspaper, the centre-right Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung.

Picture this! Over four-fifths of the population of Western Europe's largest country (and politically dominant member of the EU) feel they are not able to speak their mind freely in public anymore. It is the result of 40 years of efforts to restrict what can be discussed and under what circumstances. A German friend recently joked that even in former East Germany, speech wasn't quite that restricted. He was half-serious about it (to the degree that this could ever be measured and compared like-for-like, which it can't). Elsewhere, the same phenomenon has different symptoms. E.g., imagine what it must feel like to be a black Trump supporter in the US (watch Candace Owens' videos if you want to get a first-hand impression).

**No one should make any mistake about PC culture not being a deliberate mechanism put in place by those who benefit from it. It is an effort to establish an authority that dictates how the rest of us should think, speak, and behave.** If you take the time to research its history, you will find that there have been dedicated efforts to promote and establish political correctness culture. It's a business and aimed at steering resources towards the groups that put this culture in place – politicians, the permanent state bureaucracy, NGOs and think tanks with public funding, as well as similar groups. It's crept into

all aspects of life. E.g., it even affects how some people make their partners and spouses compliant to their whims. Some people make their entire living out of outrage culture, instead of taking up a job that contributes something positive and useful to society. It's become insane.

One of my favourite results of PC culture is the [continuously updated catalogue of "forbidden words"](#). You are now considered un-PC (with all its societal consequences) if you use expressions such as:

Hip hip hooray => Nazi, antisemitic

Long time no see => Racist

Rule of thumb => Sexist

Though the absolute no. 1 winner in PC-defined wrong speak is the State of California's recent official redefinition of "convict" as a "justice-involved person".

Something similar has taken place on the level of the EU. The Cambridge-based anthropologist, Maryon MacDonalds, wrote the 2005 research paper "EU policy and destiny: a challenge for anthropology". In it, she describes how, since the 1970s, it has increasingly become difficult to criticise the project of ever-closer European integration without being cast a fascist or racist. Political correctness culture has been weaponised by the EU, too.

It may seem amusing, but its ultimate consequences are not.

The redefinition of our vocabulary is, ultimately, an abrogation of the right to hold an opinion contrary to established doctrine. It is used to defend concepts and special interests that could not withstand logical examination. Promoting political correctness culture is another way to try and establish a monopoly over truth. Most of the time, it is ultimately aimed at amassing power and resources.

The movement that is in favour of political correctness culture deems dissenting views to be "unsafe". They are asking to be provided a "safe space", which is code for demanding censorship (as well as its closely related cousin, i.e., fear-induced self-censorship). Five hundred years ago, there would have been church clerics whose blessing represented the unquestionable token of revealed truth. Today's PC culture has managed to recreate the sway that the church held over society during the Middle Ages. The PC movement has thrown us back by about 500 years, and it has put us on par with some of the most regressive cultures and religions. Thanks to the political correctness culture, an individual with a Twitter account and a talent for stirring up hysteria and outrage can now exert similar influence to that of the Spanish Inquisition. They cannot kill (yet), but they can and do destroy entire lives and livelihoods. Given phenomena such as the media-lauded Australian theatre play, "Kill Climate Deniers", one wonders where it will all end. More cynically minded observers will point to the 100m

people killed by socialism during the 20th century alone.

Politics and public discourse should focus on what is good for the common good. As part of that, there has to be room to disagree and to argue.

Two people picking an argument with each other isn't bad. In a relationship where there is no conflict, nothing gets done. Thought is conflict. You just need to make sure that the relationship is solid enough to withstand decision-making. Preventing arguments, discourse, and disagreement only leads to pressure accumulating that eventually discharges into something ugly. Unsurprisingly, science has shown that relationships where there is less than a certain percentage of dispute do not tend to last.

Today, we are at a point where even questioning if political correctness is a good thing can have severe consequences for you. E.g., I fully expect that following this eBook, a particular type of company will not invite me to join their board of directors anymore. What if I ever used offensive words or engaged in viewpoints that are outside of the narrowly defined range of those who believe that political correctness is a virtue? I'd be deemed a risk for the company. Customers could form an outrage mob on Twitter and call for the company's products to be boycotted. It has happened many times by now. Such is the world of political correctness culture!

All of this leads back to the title of this eBook, i.e., the positive impact that Trump (and Brexit) have had on rolling back political correctness culture.

I did publicly welcome the fact that a streetfighter-type Manhattan property billionaire has entered the world of politics. Also, I sincerely hope he gets to serve a second term.

I have spent 40 years living under the influence of insane, and increasingly aggressive, political correctness culture. Where it affects me directly in the most significant of ways is in the choice of politicians that are available to serve in office and what they can (and cannot) do once they are in office. Politicians, too, are shackled by political correctness. Because of the constraints they face, many issues aren't tackled. Problems accumulating and growing instead of getting solved affects my life in every imaginable way. It affects yours, too. Make no mistake about it.

During the past one or two decades, it has become evident that conventional politicians will not anymore tackle issues that are deemed tricky from a political correctness viewpoint. Nor will they address the current concept of political correctness itself. They are too dependent on their current careers and their public service salaries. Tackling the special interest groups that want to keep political correctness culture firmly in place is one of the single biggest career risks any politician

could face. That's why they stay out of it altogether, even if they privately oppose it. It then trickles down to a wide variety of problems not getting tackled, which touches everything in our lives.

Trump has the financial independence to tackle the subject, and the right personality to address it with the necessary streetfighter mentality. From the first steps of his campaign, it was clear that he was going on the offensive as far as political correctness culture was concerned, rather than remaining on the defensive. It worked wonders! Despite everything that was thrown at him for not subjugating himself to political correctness culture, he won the election. Since getting into office, he has been tremendously effective in showing everyone that the sway PC culture holds over us is waning. Trump is now the world's no. 1 role model for anyone who wants to break free from political correctness culture and have a blast while doing so.

The success he has achieved in this regard has already rubbed off on other countries, particularly the UK. In many parts of US and UK society, political correctness culture is now fighting a retreating battle. How much of that you get to observe does, of course, depend on who you hang out with. However, I have even seen hardcore Guardianista-types, and New York liberals switch to the other side of the political correctness argument because they simply had enough of it. The recent tremendous interest the "Joker"

movie has generated is another interesting indication. I am convinced that the tide has started to turn.

Just like in the discussion with my Hillary Clinton-supporting friend, I want people from opposing spectrums of politics to focus on what they can do together to get things done. Taking such a collaborative approach is more urgently necessary than ever during my lifetime. During the 2020s, incredible amounts of accumulated problems will come to the fore, following multiple decades of career politicians (and their affiliated beneficiaries and support industries, such as NGOs and think tanks that are co-funded by the government) kicking a variety of cans down the road. This stretches across financial issues, societal challenges, the environment, and the stability of our political and legal systems. Solving the real problems facing us shouldn't depend on whether someone feels offended by hurty words on Twitter. Broad, substantive discussion needs to be had across the entire swathe of possible solutions. If this doesn't happen, it will affect nearly every aspect of life. Countries and cultures that manage to do this will thrive. Those who don't, won't. Anyone who doesn't realise that the so-called progressives are the regressives and need to be treated accordingly will suffer.

The Overton Window needs to be widened so that any problem (and their possible solution) can be discussed. Nothing that fits within the rule of law and Western values can be off-limits within these dis-

cussions. There cannot be any social stigma attached to any particular viewpoint, and people mustn't be demonised for their views or their choice of words. Public contestation without the freest possible space in which to debate, and including the right to blaspheme, is not debate, but dogma. Unlimited public contestation is the only way that counts for proving and winning an argument.

This much-required return to a diversity of thought cannot be achieved under the new hegemony of political correctness and groupthink. I spent much time in London during the lead-up to the Brexit referendum. Anyone daring to speak up among so-called metropolitan elite types about backing "Leave" was quickly labelled bigot, xenophobe, idiot, and worse. I lost many a "friend" and was expelled from some social circles. Tolerance towards other viewpoints? Nope. Anyone who acts like that towards views they disagree with is unlikely to have logic and truth on their side. They deserve to be taken to task, which is what is happening now that the world has seen Trump and Brexit enter the equation.

I salute the fact that Trump and – to a lesser extent – the Brexit vote have led to the power of the political correctness movement crumbling. Much more needs to be done, but a start has been made.

I am not surprised that these developments originated in the two largest, leading Anglo-Saxon countries. Standing up

to the aberration of political correctness was only ever going to start in the UK and the US. It is simply not in the American or British make-up to shake in your boots because someone calls you a name. Whereas countries like Germany currently seem to be slipping even deeper into political correctness culture (which is also in line with their deeply embedded culture of being obedient to authority), Britain and the US appear to be gradually, slowly emerging from it.

In the US and the UK, the subject is now very much out in the open. An increasing amount of discussion is happening. There are now many public cheerleaders for cutting back political correctness culture. Trump is one of them, but there are countless others if you care to look for them. In the UK, the widely-followed TV host, Piers Morgan, has recently started to go full-frontal against PC culture, despite being a life-long liberal. He has recognised that these so-called liberals are now fully illiberal. As I said, the tide has started to turn.

Compared to 2016, I already face fewer consequences for speaking freely about hot button issues that were not until recently (or still aren't) inside the Overton Window. The first time I was called nasty names, I was upset. Today, I take great pride (and even joy) in the right kind of people despising me for bringing up a variety of subjects. I have also started to get business opportunities because of my viewpoints and my being outspoken

about them. The latter is yet another reason why I am putting all this into writing. That is, besides the fun involved with the intellectual exercise of constructing an argument in my head and writing it down to expose it to the thinking of others.

Much of these ongoing changes are down to the power and inspiration provided by Trump's presidency. By telling things as they are, he is showing not just his fellow citizens, but the entire world, that people cannot be muzzled anymore by the Speech Police of the political correctness movement. Watching him untie his fellow Americans from the bonds of political correctness inspires and encourage others to take similar steps forward, and it does so around the entire world. Once again, American leadership provides an inspiration that resonates around the world.

In between Trump and Brexit, it is the US where the weightier developments are taking place in this regard. The UK is merely tagging along with a time lag. Which is fine, not the least given how much Trump enjoys doing it and how entertaining it is to watch him from the sidelines. Even Trump's fiercest opponents would likely agree that he hates to walk away from a good fight. His rhetoric, his style, his long ties, his hair, ya-da-ya-da are not to everyone's taste. Nor do I always agree with him (which is stating the obvious, because there is no political office holder in the world with whom someone would agree on 100% of the issues). But he doesn't let anyone censor him, and he is the tough-



est fighter imaginable. His motto seems to be: "Keep fighting, keep attacking, never give up." I consider this among Trump's most excellent traits. He may be the most relentless human being in world history. You can stall Trump, but you can't stop him. That's inspiring.

There are more reasons than I can count for political correctness culture deserving to be fought. E.g., do you have children? If nothing is done, they will suffer under "offence archaeology" for the rest of their lives. For as long as political correctness can be used in the way it has been used recently, everything your children have ever said or posted can be used to destroy their life years or even decades later. If you want to prevent that from hanging over them as a perpetual threat, then you should care about the subject.

For me, this fight is about having a choice of places where I would be happy to live and spend time, and where I can thrive. I care deeply about Europe and the US, and their closely-linked regions such as the culturally often quite similar countries and territories of the British Commonwealth. They are going to face unprecedented political and economic challenges during the 2020s and beyond. If these countries and regions aren't able to openly discuss their challenges, then the future will not hold much good for them. These interconnected countries and two continents are the only two parts of the world where I have a feeling of belonging. My life and my business will be significantly affected by how

all these changes pan out, and I have nowhere else to go.

Political correctness culture strikes me to be an extreme form of denial of reality. It has made it difficult even for the most reasonable and careful thinkers (which I am not) to say anything critical about a long and growing list of important subjects. Of all the threats I can think of, I see political correctness culture as the biggest threat to Western civilisation. All the other bad stuff pales in comparison and can be dealt with once one can have an open, diverse debate about how to deal with them. There is a reason why I put it first on the list and dedicate by far the most space to it.

Taking on political correctness culture had to start somewhere, however imperfect that starting point may have been. It was reached on both sides of the Atlantic in June and November 2016, respectively. Luckily, it's not in my DNA to live in fear of being ostracised or shunned by any particular group or person. I continue to salute the election of Trump and the result of the referendum on Brexit as two important cataclysmic events. With all their direct and indirect consequences, they are the most influential factors (up to now!) in starting to roll back political correctness culture.

I care about what I can say publicly, and whether anyone has the right or the de facto power to silence me just because "someone might be offended". The ability

to speak freely is essential for creating the future, and losing it means that you will let others determine the course of your life.

That's why I will happily now take that cudgel and do anything that is required to help bludgeon political correctness culture to death. I am super grateful to the American people and their president for showing the world how taking on political correctness culture is done. I hope that Trump will get to bludgeon away until 2024. Once political correctness culture is down on its knees, he should fire a few bullets in its head to be on the safe side. Political correctness culture has to die. If for any reason, he doesn't get to do it, then there'll be others to follow in his footsteps.

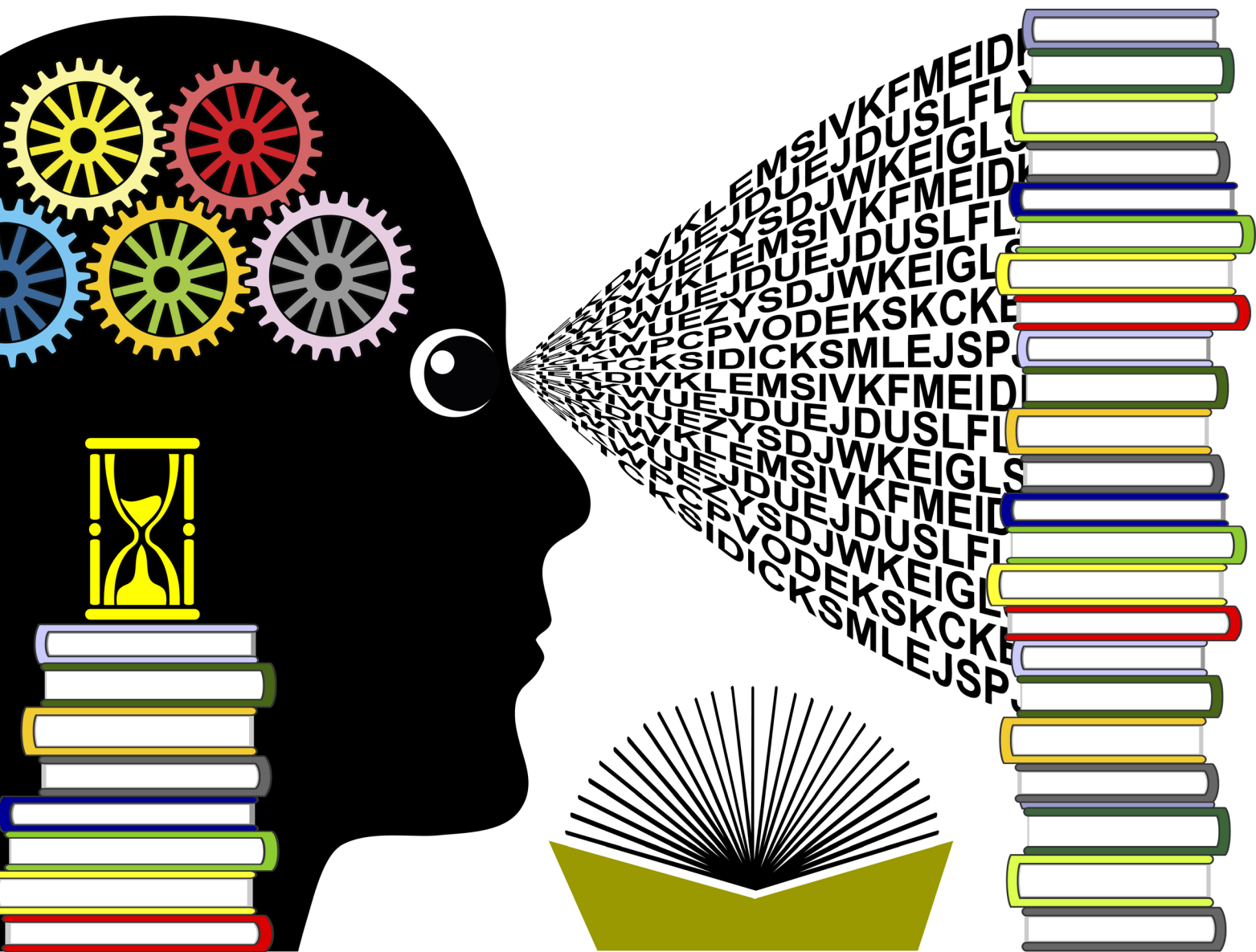
Once that's done, the Overton Window will move around flexibly again.

That has to be the goal. Without being able to speak your mind, nothing else counts.

It is the fight for our lives.

With all that in mind, choose wisely which jurisdiction you are based in. This is a complex issue, but one that will touch on most aspects of your future, if only indirectly.

## 2. ALL OF US ARE NOW LEARNING RAPIDLY ABOUT POLITICS





ere is a confession. I despise politics. There is so much more to life than the nonsense that tends to go on in politics. That's why I did virtually nothing in politics (or about politics) for the first four decades of my life.

There is so much more to life than the nonsense that tends to go on in politics. That's why I did virtually nothing in politics (or about politics) for the first four decades of my life.

My lack of involvement until very recently also led to me being quite ignorant about the machinations of politics and government.

How wonderful is it that since 2016, one only has to open ANY newspaper on ANY day to learn the most staggering things about politics and government that one could dream up? The amount and edginess of news coming out of politics have changed, and we are now learning about facts and relationships that we heard little (or nothing) about previously.

E.g., I had no idea that the following was the case:

- One can reasonably make the point that just 124,000 people in Britain decided who the current Prime Minister was going to be. Only registered Tory members had a direct say in the choice of Boris Johnson. What about the other 66m Britons? (Never mind the fact that this group's average age is 71, and that one third of them are in favour of re-introducing hanging.)

- The speaker of the US House of Representatives is the third in line to the presidency should something happen to the president and the vice president. Oddly, this could lead to the acting president coming from a different party than the one that got elected. Right now, that would be Nancy Pelosi (D).
- Central banks, not just in Britain but virtually anywhere, are extraordinarily powerful political actors. It is now becoming obvious that they operate mostly outside of any effective accountability. Just consider, for a moment, that a negative interest rate is nothing but another form of taxation – but not one that is controlled by the legislative. Get a copy of "Unelected Power" to read up about this. It's a globally relevant issue that is likely to have a more direct effect on your financial well-being than you could imagine. The largely unaccountable operation of central banks is also an issue that until recently, virtually no one even spoke about. [Both Brexit and Trump have done a lot to bring this complex subject to the fore.](#) Trump, during a second term, could have more influence on a reform of the global central banking system than any other politician (or group of politicians) in the last hundred years.

A considerable part of the population has by now realised that central banks operate based on a pseudo-science that is designed to grant economic privileges to a select few and is ultimately paid for by your taxes. There is a whiff of change in the air. This subject is on my list of areas I want to write one or the other separate article about (possibly appearing on my other website, the investment-orientated [www.undervalued-shares.com](http://www.undervalued-shares.com)).

For a long time, political news mostly had the slant and scope that those who could best be described as "political establishment" wanted it to have. This entire system was propagated through state-backed TV (such as the BBC), schools and universities, and think tanks that receive government funding of one kind or another. It was much more difficult to find alternative perspectives, and there was less talk about the technical machinations of government. Everything was "under control"; in some ways, quite literally!

Today, there is a lot of additional "diversity" – to use that term – in the information that emanates from the political arena. The 200-decibel national screaming match that goes on around us daily is the single best opportunity for picking up how it all works.

Compare the old times to how much fun it now is to educate yourself about the system on a nearly daily basis.

Why is that a good thing, and why is it relevant for readers of my blog?

If you aren't informed, you won't be able to make carefully considered strategic decisions for your life.

The daily screaming matches might be annoying at times, but they can help you to make more robust decisions for where you are heading in your life.

Long may it last!

(I will have to check if the last sentence has an offensive, non-PC historical origin. Just kidding! See previous chapter.)

# 3. VOTER PARTICIPATION IS WAY UP, AND THE ERA OF POLITICAL FATIGUE IS OVER FOR GOOD





o many people, the current times feel like politics is dominating or at least penetrating all of daily life. Come to think of it, a mere two decades ago the opposite was the case!

Around the turn of the century, [interest in politics and voting had reached a low point](#). In 2001, just 60% of the British public turned up to vote. The apathy of voters was widely considered to be a problem at the time. During this period, political apathy was fashionable even.

The BBC reported back then that the government was brainstorming ways how to "cure" what was widely known as "voter fatigue". The Economist wrote of "worrying signs", and The Guardian called for "radical measures". The lack of interest in politics filled newspaper columns. It was widely seen as an impending national crisis, both in the UK and elsewhere in the Western hemisphere.

Compare that to voter participation in Britain's Brexit referendum. Brexit mobilised so many people to come to the voting booth that it became "one of the largest ever political mandates given for something in the UK" (this is the "politically correct" term to describe the result, [as per this PC-adhering and Remain-orientated fact-checking website](#)). Voter turnout was 72.2%, higher than in any election since 1992. It would have probably been higher still, had large parts of the public not been lulled into the sense that the outcome was practically a foregone conclusion.

The US election of 2016 didn't see quite such an unusually high turnout. However, both sides of the US' political spectrum now seem to work on the assumption that the 2020 election will be won primarily through voter mobilisation and turnout. As a result, next year will likely see an unprecedented effort to get Americans to the voting booth. The US has long been notorious for a mediocre voter turnout. It's entirely conceivable that the 2020 US presidential will see the highest voter turnout of any election since 1980. [It would only take 67.8% to crack the record of the past 40 years](#), which goes back to the Ronald Reagan election.

Ditto for the UK. The upcoming British election in December 2019 is going to be seen as the decisive election of a lifetime.

A similar trend is destined to emerge in a variety of other countries. Voters in countries like Italy, Austria, and Spain are all likely to have a sense that the stakes for them are so high that it is worth getting out to vote. Even the May 2019 election for European Parliament, which has historically been the dullard among European elections, saw the highest turnout this side of the year 2000.

Come to think of it, in 2016, I voted for the first time in my life. I registered for overseas voting in Germany, given the then-

situation of my country of origin. (Though it will have been the penultimate time I can vote there, given that you lose your right to vote in Germany once you have lived abroad for more than 25 years.)

Voter fatigue as a problem?

Less so since the cataclysmic 2016 US election and UK referendum! More people participating in voting is good news for everyone because it puts democracy on a stronger footing.

Democracy and overall affluence are highly correlated. Since I prefer to live in an affluent country and do business with thriving economies, watching this trend has a lot of immediate relevance outside of the political realm.



## 4. REFERENDA AND (DIRECT) DEMOCRACY ARE ON THE WAY UP





Why did voters get fatigued and disengaged in the first place? (See previous chapter 3.)

Many would agree that it was influenced by the feeling that whatever the outcome of elections was, not much changed anyway:

- Leading "competing" parties often only differed slightly in their policies. In retrospective, there was usually more of an illusion of choice than a real policy difference. Voters both in the UK and US (as well as elsewhere) now recognise that there is very little daylight between a neocon and a neoliberal, or between a Tory and a Labour member. That back and forth fighting over power between these two camps – which defined political life for decades – now appears to have often been not much more than a manipulative pro-wrestling circus. The previous alternation with limited change has now been disrupted or swept away in many countries.
- Inertia on critical issues had become a permanent feature of the political system. Politicians have had a strong tendency to kick the can down the road rather than to tackle difficult issues. Politics has changed into a business that was keen on avoiding ugly pictures. (See also chapter 1.) How are ugly images best avoided? By pushing the issue into the future! Mark Carney, the governor of the Bank of England, coined this the "tragedy of the horizons". Most politicians only think about themselves – what do they need to do to get re-elected in five years? Under these circumstances, critical issues like the pension black hole or the NHS will never be resolved.
- Subjects of real importance were often not even exposed to the verdict of the voting booth at all. E.g., it took Britons decades before having a real say on the matter of EU membership (which fundamentally changed since they voted to join the European Common Market in the first half of the 1970s). Germans are prohibited entirely from having referenda altogether. Other forms of significant public participation, such as 1m people protesting against the second Iraq War, were all too often ignored. When the "Weapons of Mass Destruction" that the political establishment had conjured up turned out to be a fraud, no one was held to account. There is a fair argument about decisions getting delegated to representatives, which would leave referenda an unnecessary feature. However, when a large part of the population feels they have been getting lied to over and over again throughout the decades, something will give, eventually. The career politicians who are now in the cross-

hair of these developments brought all this unto themselves.

- Peculiarities in national election systems also led to some viewpoints not getting any representation. In the UK, the controversial "first past the post" system led to 4m UKIP voters in the May 2015 election not getting a single seat in parliament, despite accounting for 12.6% of the votes filed. Whatever you think of the issue as such, it did lead to a significant part of the population getting so frustrated that a lot of pressure accumulated. Keeping such issues unaddressed is never a good long-term strategy, but it ties back to the previous point about the current political system not being geared towards resolving issues.

Some now say that the term "representative democracy" does not anymore capture the nature of the system of governance across Europe. Indeed, a more accurate term could be to speak of "constrained democracy". The public is kept at a distance from decision-making, and those who are making the decisions are widely found to be incapable of their jobs (to put it mildly, and without going into some of the more sinister objectives some career politicians may be pursuing).

All of this is out in the open and under active discussion since the Brexit referendum. Not only did the referendum show that voters do care, given the high turnout. The result and subsequent develop-

ments also showed voters that they do, after all, have power. In the case of the Brexit referendum, it led to voters not changing the overseers of political life, but to changing political life itself. Think about that! It's truly extraordinary how the Brexit vote moved the needle. Politics has never been the same ever since, and no one will have witnessed anything of a comparable significance in the UK since Maggie Thatcher governed in the 1980s. All of this is set within a wide-spread reckoning that Britain cannot afford (financially and otherwise) to carry on with a political class that has grown used to dodging essential decisions on social care, infrastructure, the environment, or national indebtedness.

Brexit is the single most inspiring event in recent history when it comes to showing the population that their vote does matter.

What's more, it led to an unexpected but powerful development that in my estimation will only increase the desire and the push to have more such referenda.

More than 1,200 days after the referendum (i.e., on the day of publishing this eBook), the UK was still shackled to the EU. When, how, and if the UK leaves the EU, no one can currently say with certainty. What has become clear, however, can roughly be summed up as the following:

- Large parts of the "political establishment" (for lack of a better word) have

organised themselves around the idea of preventing Brexit from happening. That's not a surprise, given that [an estimated 73% of British Members of Parliament at the time of the referendum were Remainers](#), which made for a mismatch with the public's instructions given the percentage results of the referendum. (Fun fact in this context: In 2015, 544 British Members of Parliament voted in favour of holding the referendum, and only 53 against.)

- Equally large parts of the mainstream media are describing anyone who voted in favour of Brexit, or who cares about subjects such as national sovereignty, as – in essence – idiots. The deriding of Leave voters continues unabated, and some say it is now more unhinged than ever before (I finished this eBook during the first half of November 2019).
- There are seemingly never-ending attacks on peoples' ability to vote. E.g., there have been calls to not do such single-issue referenda anymore in the first place, with the explicit or implicit message being that most people would not be able to judge complex issues. Obviously, a political class that has presided over decades of accumulating problems describing their ultimate masters as imbeciles does not precisely further their standing with large parts of the population, nor does it hold up to any form of scrutiny. Though to this day, nothing tops

the public plea issued by the famous author, Richard Dawkins. [He advocated that the right to vote should involve an IQ test](#). His statement was a thinly veiled reference to aforementioned "idiots". Large parts of the mainstream media were happy to run with Dawkins' call, showing once more their complicity in the political class' contempt for anyone who they don't consider to be part of the circle of anointed geniuses. And, of course, so-called "climate change" has recently been used to call into question whether everyone should have a vote. All of this follows a specific pattern and playbook.

The people are the politicians' masters, and they also happen to be the paying clients of the media. Most recently, the politicians and the media didn't treat them as such, and I am bracing myself for the ongoing consequences. Historic precedents show that when the mass of the people gets pushed too hard, they push back eventually. When a ruling class, and their beneficiaries, go to extreme measures to cling to an outdated system, then serious change is usually not too far off. Brexit has revealed the detritus on the seabed as the tide goes out, and having the ugly foibles in full view is triggering action for what will likely be once-in-a-generation change to the entire political system. [Even a written constitution is now being talked about seriously in Britain](#) (the country is one of only three major nations in the world that does not have a written consti-

tution). I have no position whether Britain does need a constitution or not, but these discussions show just what a severe degree of potential changes there may be in the pipeline.

Had Britain's class of career politicians been smart rather than arrogant, they would have focussed on quickly creating some kind of associate EU membership for Britain. Instead, for the past three years, there have been never-ending efforts to undo the entire referendum result. These self-appointed gatekeepers of good manners had no problem with democracy until they lost a vote that is endangering their privileges (ditto in the US, where the latest effort to undo the 2016 election is now taking shape in the form of an impeachment drive). They have been busy ever since trying to argue that 50% plus one vote isn't really a democratic decision.

These efforts have now led to a situation where the Members of Britain's Parliament are pitted directly against the people. It was recently evidenced in a YouGov poll:

- 80% of British MPs believe they can act based on their own judgment even when this goes against the wishes of their constituents, and including the Dave Cameron promise to "respect the referendum result no matter what the outcome is".
- Only 7% of the British public agreed with that view.

When incumbents use their privileged position to try and preserve a status quo at the expense of their challengers, it usually makes for explosive developments. I have high hopes that now that they have been pushed so far (i.e., too far), the British people will use their position as the ultimate sovereign of the politicians. The push will now likely go in the other direction, though what exactly that will look like no one knows.

I base that on anecdotal evidence, first and foremost. However, observations from social encounters, especially when they happen in ever-increasing number, can make for a powerful impression. E.g., I recently took particular delight in meeting a 22-year old graduate from a rabidly "Remain" university. He told me that he had actively campaigned for Remain, but recently changed to "Leave" because of how disrespectful politicians have been treating the electorate. That's only one of the stories I have to tell, and I know from friends that there are countless others. Such encounters do make for powerful impressions. Something extraordinary has been happening across the UK recently.

The Brexit referendum, with all that followed, has left me optimistic. Wherever I look, I see the beginnings of a new political movement for more democracy and a more direct form of democracy. What started as a single-issue referendum, has begun to evolve into a discussion about a potential full-scale political reform of Brit-

ain with the likely result of more (direct) democracy.

I did once have an opportunity to enjoy Richard Dawkins undisputed knowledge of zoology over a delightful dinner, and I continue to keep his (signed) pop-science writing in a special place on my bookshelf. However, I do not know many British people outside of the London Zone 1 bubble who don't love the fact that the woman or man who cleans loos in their local McDonald's has the same power as them when it comes to determining the political future of the nation.

On the side of the political establishment, this notion seems to be met increasingly with horror. Granted, they probably thought just as little of the plebeian voter in the past. However, it wasn't an issue to be mentioned because voters behaved nicely. Voters didn't have much direct influence on their careers and their access to financial resources. The façade has started to crack. The most infamous example is, of course, Hillary Clinton's rant about the "basket of deplorables". This statement is something that Hillary Clinton will go down in history for, and she deserves being remembered for it more than for anything else because it showed her true self.

Today, there is a long list of code words to express why technocratic elites should have the ultimate say in matters, rather than voters. It is now entirely out in the open that there is a political estab-

lishment that does not want the voting population to have too much influence over policies. This permanent class of career politicians has multi-billion support industries, such as a mostly compliant corporate mainstream media. It's a situation that can nowadays be found in many countries. Which, in my view, cannot be allowed to stand.

The European country where this problem is most likely to get rectified over the coming years or the coming decade is Britain. It is the politically most mature and experienced European country in many regards. It's even quite experienced with holding referenda! Would you have known?

Few people outside the United Kingdom realise that the country has seen [no fewer than ten referenda since 1997](#). Seven of these referenda were held in the individual nations of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Three of them were held across the entire UK. Also, local referenda have been permitted in England, Wales and Scotland since 1913. There have been numerous such local referenda in recent history, and they usually cover local government administration, transport, temperance, and similar local questions. (Fun fact, the legislation regulating referenda in the UK since the year 2000 originated from Tony Blair. Just in case you ever wondered who, ultimately, brought the Brexit referendum your way.)

None of this should be surprising. The UK is one of the longest-standing democracies in the world. It is one that has championed (if not even spawned) democracy all over the globe. It is this unique standing in the world that puts the British people into an ideal position to now discuss the future of human governance. Once more, Britain will lead others along. The Brexit referendum and all that followed in its wake have long become an inspiration to people around the world.

The British people, in turn, have now tasted what having real influence over policies that affect everyone looks and feels like. As a direct result of that, I sense there'll be growing interest in having more democracy rather than less. The future will most likely involve more direct democracy, and voters having a say in specific matters more often.

As it turns out, Britain has already worked out an incredibly detailed document to provide guidance along that journey. One of the most impressive, inspiring and informative texts to emerge from Brexit Britain, is the "[Report of the Independent Commission on Referendums](#)" (they speak of "referendums" which has become an accepted part of the English language, whereas I prefer the old-style plural "referenda" based on Latin; both are accepted as a correct use).

This report appeared in July 2018. As it sets out, historically, there has only been limited evidence about the UK public's attitude

towards referenda. Individual data points do stick out though, such as 74% of Leave voters supporting the idea of more referenda. In light of recent developments, the notion of holding more frequent votes on specific issues would probably find more support across the entire population.

When politicians fail, the people need to take matters in their own hands. Indeed, this would merely reflect a long-established global trend. For the past 120 years, the use of referenda has gradually increased around the world. Everything else would have been surprising. When given a more frequent opportunity to have a say on important matters, who would not welcome that? All the more since the world's wealthiest and politically most stable significant country, Switzerland, has direct democracy as one of its long-standing key features. Democracy, stability and affluence – it tends to go hand in hand!

Much of this will appear to be a pie in the sky concept right now, given the infinite loops that the Brexit referendum ended up in until now. However, I do have full confidence that the British people will eventually overcome these issues. The British public will finally get to the point where it can look beyond Brexit.

From there onwards, the question will be what consequences need to be drawn based on what has happened during the past few years? Based on what is known right now, it appears likely that a strong case will then be made for reforms that will



disempower politicians and empower the public. More frequent referenda are likely going to be one aspect of these reforms. Going down such a route is, ultimately, deeply embedded in British culture. Even after many years of mostly uncontrolled mass immigration from countries with different belief systems (such as Germany) and insufficient integration of these new arrivals, the democracy-loving Britons will still be able to sway any future vote into the direction of more democracy rather than less.

One further aspect of driving this will be the new possibilities for digitising politics and disintermediating politicians.

"Direct democracy" is a complex subject that would be worthy of a separate analysis. I will only touch superficially on the nascent signs that indicate we are going to experience massive transformational change relating to forms of human governance.

As the Stanford Social Innovation Review wrote in a January 2018 article titled: "[eDemocracy: An emerging force for change](#)"

"The maturing field of 'eDemocracy', once seen as a fringe endeavour, is revealing its depth and potential to address this crisis. eDemocracy (also known as digital democracy or Internet democracy) uses 21st-century information and communications technology to extend community engagement, expand suffrage and citizen agency, create realtime decision-making,

rapidly aggregate opinion data, and pave the way for a shift from representative to more direct forms of democracy."

You can also read up in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Innovation Review: "[The simple but ingenious system Taiwan uses to crowdsource its laws](#)"

".... the system has proved useful in finding consensus on deadlocked issues such as the alcohol sales law, and its methods are now being applied to a larger consultation platform, called Join, that's being tried out in some local government settings. The question now is whether it can be used to settle bigger policy questions at a national level—and whether it could be a model for other countries."

Even the Remain-orientated newspaper, The Times of London, has already chimed in, with an opinion piece titled: "[Computers may take the place of parliament](#)"

"We're entering a world where voters' wishes will be so well understood that arguments for direct democracy will grow."

This emerging field of governance and technology still has many challenges to overcome, but it also offers surprising solutions. The MIT article is worth reading for its description of how technology can now be used to bridge gulfs in public opinion.

Sceptics, and in particular those who dislike the result of the two cataclysmic 2016



votes, regularly point towards technology having been used to manipulate hapless voters into the wrong views. Obviously, politicians and institutions to whose financial resources the 2016 votes represent an existential threat, will argue that the opposite is the case. The more optimistic view is that technology has the potential to improve politics on many levels, even if some weaknesses remain to be ironed out.

If you take the time to explore the concept, you'll be confronted with a broad range of terms, such as eDemocracy, liquid democracy, referendum, initiative, and recall – to name just a few. Much remains to be worked out to get functioning systems. The most likely scenario is that future forms of democratic governments will consist of a hybrid structure. It could include elements of representative democracy, but combined with technology and involving new mechanisms of a direct vote on issues.

Brexit has crystallised this issue, though in reality the underlying crisis has been brewing for much longer and it isn't limited to any specific country. E.g., in 2012, a Future of Europe survey had found that only 18% of Italians and 12% of Greeks believed that their votes counted. Across the Western world, large parts of the population are increasingly frustrated with the political status quo. They feel helpless in the face of what they perceive to be corrupt and centralised bureaucracies, and they view themselves as having virtually no power or influence on public policy.

How will democracy survive if voters hold such a low opinion of it?

This is a global problem, and it's why the time has come to think about how to best alter human governance.

The answer could be quite easy and consist of giving voters a more frequent direct say in matters that are important to them, and of using technology to facilitate aspects of that. Switzerland has a centuries-long history of direct democracy. Other countries, such as Estonia, have already made significant advances towards better use of technology in this process. The necessary models are out there.

I have a sense that eventually, there will be a spark that will make direct democracy catch on like wildfire. That spark could come from technology. We will know once it has happened. It will most likely in parts be traced back to talent shows like *The Apprentice* and *The X Factor*, as a form of direct voting that touched and inspired the masses. Not surprisingly, Boris Johnson already made a reference in this regard: "The sad truth is that voters have more say over "I am a Celebrity", than they do over this House of Commons that refuses to deliver Brexit..." ([6 minutes and 2 seconds into this video of his October 2019 conference speech](#)).

Given recent developments and the overall trends of the past few years, I'd place my bet on that entire spark originating from the United Kingdom. It will trace

back to Brexit, and add yet another reason why the 2016 referendum will go down in history both as a cathartic event and a catalyst for long-overdue change. It will lead to more democracy, and as an indirect result of that, probably also to more market economy and more freedom. The hunger for reform stirred by the Brexit referendum will likely be capitalised on.

I have full faith in the British people, based on their deeply embedded culture and their understanding of these matters, will come to the right conclusions and take actions. [A ComRes survey published in September 2019](#) already pointed towards support for a far-reaching change of the political system in Britain growing. Most notably, the poll showed that:

- Almost eight in ten believed Parliament is in desperate need of reform.
- 74% thought it is not fit for the 21st century.
- Seven in ten thought it failed to reflect the nation's views.
- Three-quarters believed that, internationally, parliament (i.e., the career politicians) did not show Britain in a good light.
- Almost six in ten said that parliament had not respected the 2016 referendum result.

I have never been happier that the Brexit referendum took place, and that it ended with the result that it ended with. Ever since the British people started to view Westminster through the prism of Brexit, politics and democracy are on the way up again.

Democracy and economic success are heavily correlated. I said it before, and it cannot be repeated often enough. That's why these developments also provide us with useful clues about where to find the most prospective markets and jurisdictions for your future commercial endeavours.

# 5. THE RENAISSANCE OF THE CITIZEN POLITICIAN HAS BEGUN





s Henry Kissinger once said during the 1970s: "Ninety per cent of politicians give the other ten per cent a bad name."

Little did he know to what depth the reputation and societal standing of career politicians as a whole would fall over the decades to come.

Even the Queen has chimed in. The Sunday Times carried a title story in August 2019: "[Queen: Our politicians can't govern](#)":

"The monarch's views .... are among the starkest political statements the Queen is known to have made during a 67-year reign."

It's telling that a book called "Why we get the wrong politicians" was voted "A Book of the Year" by the Daily Telegraph, The Guardian, and the Evening Standard. It set out on page XVI:

"MPs are the least trusted professional group – below estate agents, bankers, and journalists with just 21% of Britons saying they'd trust an MP to tell the truth. The public doesn't like politics as a line of work generally, but they also tell pollsters that the quality of the politicians is the feature they dislike the most."

Back in 2017, I wrote on my Facebook profile that as a result of what was going on then, I was expecting the rise of the "citizen politician" as a concept.

This concept can best be summarised as:

- Citizens with no political background putting themselves up for national elections.
- Frustration with the political establishment and fear for their future acting as the main driver for their decision.
- Voters are reacting favourably to them and voting them into office.
- The citizen politicians, once elected into office, subsequently enacting real and quick change. After all, they aren't there to make a living for the rest of their lives. They already have successful careers and business and want to return to their existing profession once their job in politics is done.

The stand-out case of them all was, of course, the election of Donald J. Trump as President of the United States of America.

President Trump has proven as inspiration for many, given how much he has been able to get done in office. He has even already created a long-lasting legacy that will make his work remain in our lives for decades. E.g., his record-level replacement of judges across the entire US court system will make his influence felt for well over a generation. Since US court decisions often enough have a global impact, I watch all of these developments with bat-



ed breath. In any case, Trump has shown how easy it is to make conventional career politicians look bad by winning and delivering. The benchmark for success is, after all, very, very low in politics.

Indeed, there is a broader issue at play that consists of the adverse selection process for politicians. The entire system is currently geared towards attracting mostly the wrong kind of people:

- Pay for politicians is low, and certainly too low to attract large numbers of high IQ candidates. It has been proven scientifically many times over that there is, on the whole, a positive correlation between IQ and income. Exceptions always apply. On the whole, though, jobs in politics cannot compete for talent because they receive lousy pay (and then have to rely on various forms of legal, soft corruption to make up for it, such as working as lobbyists).
- Political careers are primarily based on party membership. Party membership, in turn, requires subservience to the party's goals and policies, which in turn attracts candidates that have no backbone. Backbone is a career hindrance if you want to advance within a party.
- In recent times, quotas dictated by political correctness and similar policies have further decreased the overall quality of the gene pool of politics. It is

now entirely possible to rise through the ranks primarily because of sex, race or other identity-related aspects. Such positive discrimination has negative consequences for candidate quality.

Taken together, we currently have a political system that is primarily geared towards attracting the less intelligent and the unprincipled.

What could possibly go wrong?

There is also a notable, special kind of "ambition" that characterises many career politicians. It is a false, risk-averse ambition. It's one that involves not doing anything of importance, and never rocking the boat. It is based on hoping that as a result of this behaviour, your master will elevate you to a higher status sinecure. It is the "ambition" of a servant playing for scraps. ([I noticed the same when I was CEO of an environmental NGO, the Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands.](#))

The board members of this organisation had the same "fake ambition".)

Many of these people would be stacking supermarket shelves if they hadn't found their way into politics.

Literally, with every month that passes, new information emerges that only further enrages citizens and makes them want to run for office themselves. E.g., you would have thought that the epic 2009 expense scandal involving Britain's

Members of Parliament would have led to some lasting, positive changes to how Members of Parliament handle their expenses. [In May 2019 it turned out that the British Parliament's watchdog \(!\) tried to prevent the public from being told that no less than 377 \(!!\) Members of Parliament had official credit cards suspended for breaking the rules on expenses.](#) This renewed affair included nine Cabinet ministers (!!!) and – which is less of a surprise – Jeremy Corbyn. The Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority tried to stop disclosure of this issue because "it would have a chilling effect on its relationship with Members of Parliament and reduce public confidence in the regulatory system."

Drain the swamp, anyone?

It is no surprise that voters are not only frustrated with the results they get out of politics but that they also find it relatively easy to compete against the existing class of career politicians. The evidence how citizen politicians easily beat career politicians at their own game is all over the place:

- Donald Trump won during his first-ever presidential run against no fewer than 16 Republican career politicians. He had no prior experience in running a campaign but ended up wiping the floor with the professional politicians. He also obliterated the person who many considered to be the most experienced politician of them all, Hillary

Clinton. Trump managed to connect with voters. He also reconnected voters to the system, unlike anyone else before him in living memory.

- The spring 2019 election for the European Parliament has seen a whole swathe of citizen politicians win seats for the UK's Brexit Party. The Brexit Party had existed for a mere four weeks at that stage, and it achieved the single fastest launch of any political party in British history. This unprecedented electoral triumph was achieved mainly on the back of citizen politicians making up the heart of the new party. E.g., my old investment writing colleague Annunziata Rees-Mogg took time out from being a full-time mother to run for European Parliament on behalf of the Brexit Party. She won, and [her Twitter feed](#) is well worth following for a different kind of perspective.
- Across the entire Western hemisphere, there is a growing tendency for ordinary citizens standing against career politicians. The list is too long even to begin to spell them all out.

It is not difficult to stand against candidates who have for too long been focusing on preserving the status quo while enjoying the trappings of power. They are weak opponents to fight against. The fledgeling trend towards citizen politicians entering the fray and being successful at it will only grow further as more people get

inspired to follow in the footsteps of pioneering citizens like Trump. The writing is already on the wall, e.g., there is an ever-increasing number of citizen politicians getting ready to stand for the Brexit Party in the upcoming UK national election. (There are probably similar developments in other European countries, but I haven't researched this in any depth.)

It is no wonder that the political establishment and their support industries, such as establishment-aligned media, think tanks and NGOs, are crying foul at these new challengers. This emerging class of citizen politicians is putting the incumbents' economic existence at risk. The class of career politicians knows that they will have nowhere else to go if they lose their current job. Their careers in places like Westminster and Washington, DC, are under threat. For many, that's ultimately all they care about because they know that it is likely the best they will ever have.

Establishment career politicians whose mortgage payments, lifestyle, and self-worth depend on their current jobs will cite a long list of "unfair" factors for these developments. E.g., they love pointing out that social media is allowing would-be politicians to run based on alleged fake messages. The other side of the coin is, of course, that social media has empowered citizens and citizen politicians to dis-intermediate politicians and mainstream media. Everyone can now exchange information directly and build their audience, and previously inaccessible information

becomes publicly available and adds to overall transparency. The resulting conflict between established players and new ones is the entirely normal process that happens whenever a market gets disintermediated. Travel agents went onto the barricades when online booking sites threatened their business. Unionised, over-priced taxi monopolies staged traffic blockages to protest against UBER. Career politicians being upset about new competitors isn't any different, and it mustn't be over-interpreted. The recent efforts to spurn judges into judicial overreach to protect the existing system – repeatedly observed on both sides of the Atlantic – doesn't need to surprise anyone either. Any outdated system will fight for its survival until it dies, and it will fight with any (dirty) means necessary. After all, when you are with your back to the wall, you have nothing to lose. Though what such tactics lead to, is usually an even stronger backlash.

The fact that this has become so obvious will only fuel this trend further. E.g., I have long joked that the reason why Theresa May didn't negotiate harder for the United Kingdom, was that the EU probably slipped her a brown envelope under the table. That was a joke and a mere mental image, but the heart of the matter was both serious and spot on. The EU in Brussels has long served as a place where British career politicians who lost their job could go and be sure of a comfortable living. In the current system, everyone protects everyone else. For many, it's the best

(or even only) economic support they can count on.

Nowhere else was this as beautifully documented for everyone to see, than when Britain's Speaker of the House, the "neutral but rabidly Remain" John Bercow, announced he's stepping down from his position recently.

Guy Verhofstedt, the Brexit Coordinator of the EU, offered Bercow a position in Brussels. [He did so publicly](#) and via Twitter.

You can argue whether Verhofstedt's tweet was arrogance and brazenness, or only benighted ignorance about how the populace would feel about his tweet. The fact of the matter is that a growing number of people have woken up to the situation of politics attracting the lower end of the talent pool. There is even a lot of entertainment coming out of it, such as [the hilarious 90-second monologue by Neil Andrew on the "quality" of new EU leaders](#) – highly recommended to watch! Equally entertaining is [Richard Burgon's epic car crash interview](#). Seriously, how did these people even manage to get into office? Some of them seem challenged by the concept of stringing together a whole sentence.

Brexit and Trump have made a growing number of people aware of this situation. These political events have put the malignant horror circus that is politics on stage. It has exposed for everyone to see that the current elite – as a whole, with few no-

table exceptions such as the razor-sharp Jacob Rees-Mogg (who, not surprisingly, has a successful career outside of politics) – isn't up to the task.

Elements of this have already turned into trends that create their own momentum. E.g., the recent elections for the European Parliament resulted in the election of several citizen politicians who started to blog about their impressions. The [blog posts from Claire Fox](#) and [John Longworth](#) about the insane level of wastage they encountered in their new job are well worth a read. Whereas mainstream media journalists all too often became part of this system and benefitted from it, citizen politicians turned bloggers (or bloggers turned citizen politicians) are more likely to expose it. People who end up reading about it, in turn, become more likely also to want to run for office. Thus, a virtuous cycle starts, and the old system is gradually unravelled.

There are several longer-term solutions for the underlying issue. For once, I find myself agreeing with Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez (D - NY), [who recently stated that to stop politicians from becoming corporate lobbyists, they need to receive higher salaries](#). Members of Congress in the US get a salary of just USD 174,000 per year. This amount is far lower than what people with the skills and experience required for such a position of national importance would attract elsewhere. Any 25-year old equity analyst in New York who is worth his or her salt gets the same



amount. Evidently, there is a structural problem.

However, in the short run, it is probably necessary for much larger numbers of non-politicians to run for office first. The existing clique of career politicians needs to be put out of business first so that a new system can be installed. Under the old guard, nothing will change. They have shown their complete and utter inability to carry out significant change in the aftermath of the 2016 votes. To any intelligent actor, the 2016 events would have been a wake-up call as well as a call to action. By now, it has become clear that cleaning out the stable is the only way to reform those parts of the system that need changing.

Trump, in particular, is turning into an inspiration for citizens to run for office. His inspiring effect is only aided further by the three years of nonstop character assassination that large parts of the mainstream media have carried out as a vain effort to dispose of him. These attacks have not had any significant effect, which goes to show that it's now safe (or safer) to stick your toes in the water. If anything, the never-ending campaign of demonisation against anyone who questions the political status quo too much has led to the mainstream media losing influence. Alternative sources of media, on the other hand, have been gaining traction. This is yet another factor driving the rise of citizen politicians. They bypass the entire established media apparatus and feature each other on their social media channels. Done!

Consider all this within the context of emerging new trends, such as a growing number of direct votes (see chapter 4) or the use of technology for communicating. It is easy to foresee a decade-long bull market for ordinary citizens running for office. As one aspiring citizen politician put it on a television show: "If this is all they can do, then we will take their places and show them what has to be done." Given the difficulty voters have had with trying to shock the political system into change by way of vote, they will probably in increasing numbers strive to make their own hands-on contribution by running for office.

This development will inject much-needed talent and actual diversity (as opposed to fake diversity, e.g. based on sex or race) into the current pool of politicians.

It's hard to imagine a scenario in which this doesn't lead to a whole swathe of positive developments in those countries where this trend is taking hold.

## **6. SUPRA-NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS ARE HAVING THEIR ACCOUNTABILITY RECKONING**





y favourite achievement of President Trump? His slamming the door on the Paris Climate Accord. Thinking back to this particular, early day of his term still gives me butterflies in the stomach.

Not because of the underlying issue, which is a separate subject altogether (although the PC Speech Police will not allow you to differentiate these points and instead will brand you an evil person – as per their usual *modus operandi*). But because it was a first step towards closing down a whole raft of supranational organisations that previously were deemed untouchable no matter what their failings were. These include:

- United Nations
- UNESCO
- IMF
- World Trade Organisation
- World Bank
- OECD
- Etc.

I admit that I hesitated whether or not to include this point in my list. It is SUCH a complex subject, and I had long wanted to write a stand-alone article about it. In the end, I decided it should go in here as a short, aspirational point that ends with "watch this space" (for further reporting).

Some of these organisations I know vir-

tually nothing about other than their mission. Others I have some inside experience with, because of some CEO work I once did in the broader orbit of the UN/ UNESCO complex. For the IMF, I have an in-depth professional opinion because I have been following the organisation's way of operating since the early 1990s due to my decades-long work in the finance sector.

For the past two or three years, I have occasionally been mentioning in conversations: "The UN should be shut down and the New York HQ replaced with affordable housing". I did so to test peoples' reactions and to gather some feedback.

It's undoubtedly a polarising subject. You tend to get reactions only on the extreme ends of the spectrum. You get either "Yes, shut them down asap!", or "How dare you even suggest such a blasphemous possibility?"

There is a long list of valid arguments for both sides. What I salute Trump for, is the fact that he made a clear statement that none of these organisations will escape scrutiny and accountability in the future, no matter what infantile tantrums they throw. Trump's work to hold these organisations' feet to the fire includes even the holiest of holy organisations, i.e., the global climate change movement that is

now latched onto all these different supranational organisations as a form of over-arching activity.

Once you start looking at them in detail, you'll quickly learn why there is a growing need to inspect these organisations more closely and question all aspects of them:

- The UN has banned a journalist off its premises because of his ongoing reporting about (rampant!) corruption at the organisation, including its Secretary General. Does this not strike anyone as the behaviour of an organisation that has a problem with systemic abuse of power?
- German news magazine *Wirtschaftswoche*, which is no friend of Trump, recently openly questioned the continued existence of the World Trade Organisation. The magazine cited the WTO's inability to carry out reforms as the reason why it might end up breaking into pieces. Obviously, a WORLD Trade Organisation that breaks into pieces needs to change its name and mission.
- The IMF, then led by Christine Lagarde, [made its single biggest bail-out investment ever when it granted \\$57bn in loans to Argentina in 2018](#). Just one year later, Argentina was in default. At a time of continued austerity for large parts of the population in Western countries, the IMF threw a record sum down a well-known rat hole. Lagarde,

subsequently, got promoted to now head the European Central Bank. Honi soy qui mal y pense.

These organisations have tentacles into all walks of our lives and command enormous financial resources. Yet, there is little in terms of real accountability.

One can even go a step further. It is entirely reasonable to make an argument that over the past few decades, their mandates have evolved and changed, but without that being given sufficient democratic legitimacy. E.g., the UN has been trying to put in place a global policy on immigration. Who authorised them to reach that deeply into national sovereignty? How can the UN be held accountable if such policies lead to undesirable developments in a country?

There is a good chance that at some point in the future, I will write more about this subject. It's a subject that interests me as a concerned citizen journalist.

For now, I want to point out how optimistic I feel about Trump having sent a signal that going forward, these organisations will face a lot more scrutiny and potentially severe consequences. No one will be able to hide from their responsibility anymore, and everything will be looked at and questioned. Whether that leads to reforms or closure is another matter altogether. In any case, these supranational organisations cannot be allowed anymore to operate in a bubble. They cannot be al-

lowed to escape receiving the right degree of scrutiny and getting subjected to modern-day standards of accountability and governance. They also will have to prove their legitimacy in the areas they nowadays attempt to operate in.

No doubt, all of this is something Trump could spend more energy on during the second term that I hope he will get to serve as President. His country hosts the UN headquarter and provides the most substantial chunk of funding to the organisation, which gives the US unique leverage over the fate of the organisation.

These supranational organisations affect all of us. It was high time that someone pulled away the curtain and shone some disinfecting sunlight on them.

## 7. LINGUISTIC WARFARE HAS BECOME A RECOGNISED TOPIC



I still remember my first "Brexit clash" over Facebook (when I still had a Facebook profile).

My longest-standing friend in London posted on my wall: "We must not leave Europe."

To which I replied, half-jokingly and half-seriously: "Britain can't leave Europe anyway. Europe is a landmass, a continent. You can't pull the country two hundred miles out to sea to separate it from the landmass that it is attached to. What you mean is leaving the European Union, which is a political institution. Right? "

My friend: "No, no, no. We must not leave EUROPE!"

It continued for a while, and I felt confused about how a PhD scientist could not tell apart a landmass from a political institution.

Little did I realise at the time that she was using linguistic warfare on me.

It's a dark art utilised in politics to trick and deceive people. There is absolutely no intention to be precise when putting something into words. Quite the opposite, terms are intermingled with the aim of manipulating people and outcomes.

E.g., large parts of the Remain-side of the Brexit argument and their aligned media outlets to this day refer to "Europe" when what they are actually referring to is the

EU. You can quickly expose their method by asking them if Switzerland is still part of Europe, given that it never joined the EU. Did I miss Switzerland getting airlifted off the European continent and now being a separate landmass altogether? But that question would miss the point. Accuracy is not the aim, but manipulation and deceit. It is entirely intentional. There is an entire industry built around it. (Though some have been so brainwashed by media and academia that they genuinely cannot fathom the difference.)

Since the Brexit referendum and the Trump election, the subject matter of linguistic warfare has been pulled out into the open. There is now a gamut of articles and videos that have appeared about the subject since. E.g., I loved the book ["4D Warfare"](#), which was authored by the independent, Washington D.C.-based citizen journalist and [voracious Tweeter, Jack Posobiec](#).

It has made me sensitive for what language reveals about the intentions and the characters of a person, primarily in politics but also in other walks of life.

[The EU makes a fine example of the successful application of linguistic warfare](#), and how it regularly replaces one word with another one:



- "Cooperation" means "integration".
- "Collaboration" means "subordination".
- "Unity" means "some people have to do what others are telling them".
- "Impossible" means "We'd rather not".

Or, for that matter, speaking of "Europe", a landmass and geographical area, when it means a political institution, the "EU".

The EU had long gotten away with all this because enough people repeated it, either for lack of awareness or because of their hidden political or financial agenda.

Much of this could be taken right out of George Orwell's "1984" playbook. Come to think of it, sales of "1984" have seen a revival in the past few years as part of all these developments. The book also gets referenced much more often again, because a growing number of people have started to question the era of political correctness (see chapter 1).

The more people are aware of this subject, the harder it gets to pull the wool over their eyes through manipulation of language. [The growing awareness](#) also contributes to the increasing number of people who are now standing up to the political correctness issue I described in chapter 1. A "friend" calling me a bigot and an idiot because I want to "leave Europe" (i.e., lift Britain out of the sea and

putting it back into the ocean elsewhere) has so much less of a sting once you realise that said person is purposefully using the wrong word to make you look bad.

The 20th-century terms of "left-wing" and "right-wing" are not particularly accurate and useful anymore to describe what is going on right now. However, it can be said that historically, what would have constituted "the left" was much better at linguistic warfare than those who were deemed to be on "the right". If you don't have truth and logic on your side, developing superior skills in manipulation and deceit becomes the name of the game. The left used it to implement all sorts of measures that I am not in favour of, which is why I am happy that the subject is now getting exposed to a more significant degree.

That said, I would much prefer if this now led to both sides getting brought together and communicating in objectively accurate language about measures that further the common good.

Or, whenever clever wordsmithing does get used, it should be used to achieve a joint goal rather than to divide people. For example:

- The "Right" wants to tax China.
- The "Left" wants to tax anything that leads to climate change.

Since China is the world's biggest polluter, why not implement a "carbon tax on Chi-



na"? If done in the right way, this would achieve both sides' goals.

Now, here is some linguistic warfare for you to bring both sides of the aisle together!

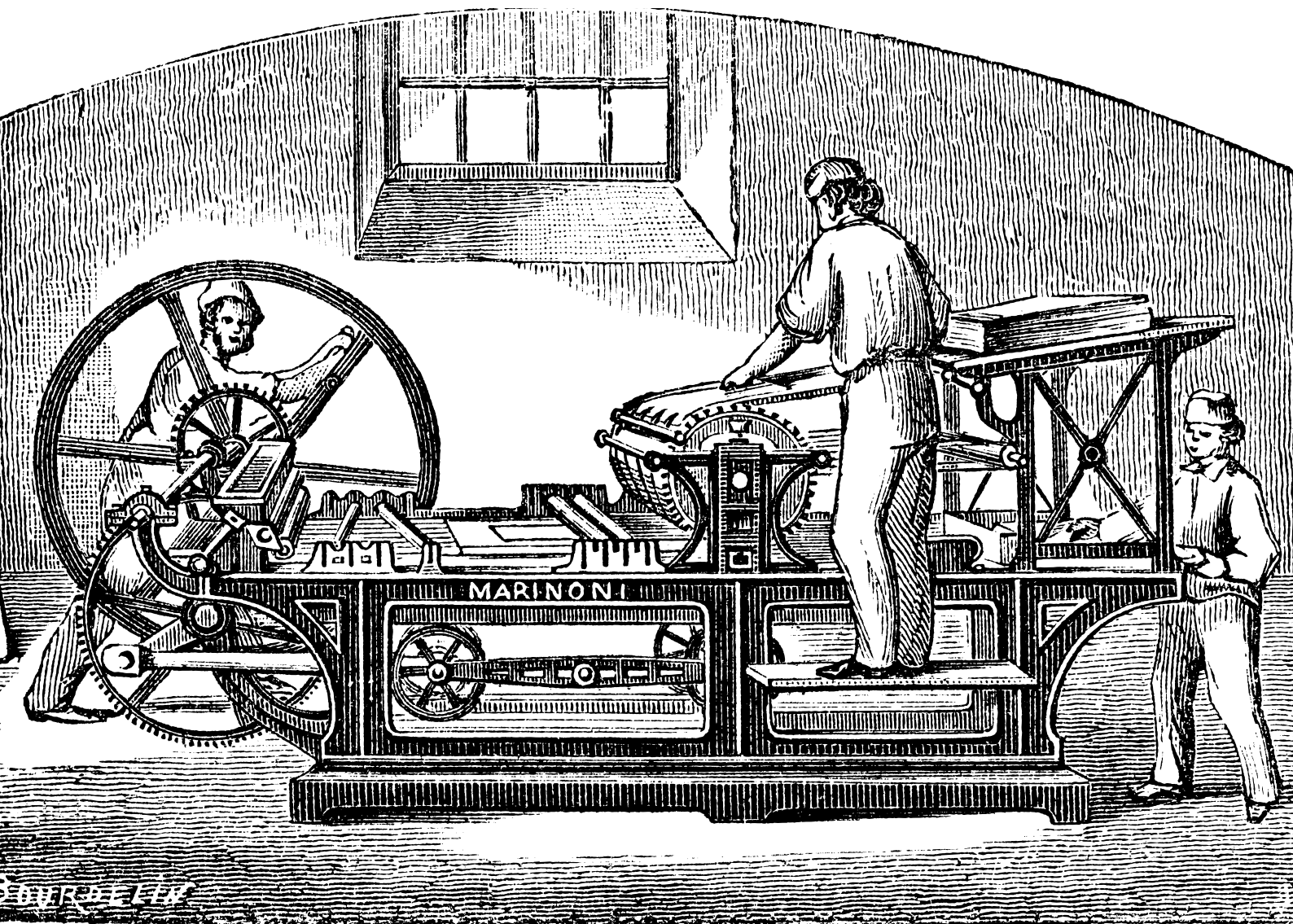
I am holding my breath for Trump doing this, given that I nicked this specific idea off one of his advisors.

Though in any case, anything that creates broader awareness for language having to be used in an accurate, truthful way to resolve our political challenges is to be welcomed.

Trump and Brexit have led to significant advances in this regard.

Who would say that this isn't a good thing?

## 8. MODERN- DAY CITIZEN PAMPHLETEERS HAVE BECOME PART OF THE MEDIA LANDSCAPE





uch ink has been spilt on "fake news", and I don't intend to add much more to it.

Just that much be said, one of my pet hates is what I describe as mainstream media lying by deliberate omission. I tend to find there are huge holes in what the mainstream corporate media reports, which in turn affects how well informed we all are and how we can prepare for the opportunities and challenges that current political developments are sending our way.

My favourite example of lying by omission is The Times' 2019 removal of a 1988 article written by Michael Gove. Gove became a candidate for Britain's Conservative Party leadership, and Remainers widely saw him as a less lousy choice. The old article could have embarrassed him because he spoke out in favour of bringing back executions by hanging. No doubt, the newspaper wanted to protect Gove from getting questioned about his earlier views. The Times tried to rewrite history by erasing parts of it – a different form of modern-day book burning. That's not on, but it's also indicative of how large parts of the mainstream media operate.

One can argue about what constitutes "fake news". It is not even clear whether it even exists at all in some of the specific definitions that are being popularised. However, not reporting or even actively erasing facts because they don't fit a particular narrative is another matter alto-

gether. It's much more of an objectively measurable issue.

I always like to look at subjects from a different angle, and I believe the media has a responsibility to report all news that is likely to be relevant. However, large parts of the corporate media and state-sponsored media, such as the BBC, have not lived up to this anymore in recent years. During the campaigns for Brexit and Trump, as well as during the now three-year-long aftermaths, this has become painfully obvious to an ever-larger number of media consumers. There is simply too much that doesn't get reported on. It does not take much to figure out why that is the case. It's an intentional effort and an actively pursued policy, just as it took dedicated effort to delete an article from The Times' online archive.

Luckily, though, all of it matters less with each day that passes.

In come the modern-day citizen pamphleteers, as I like to call them.

Since the Brexit referendum and the Trump election, there has been rapid growth for "independent journalists" (or "citizen journalists" as some like to call them, even though some dislike having this term applied to them).

The somewhat vague term is probably best described as media that:

- Thrives outside of the corporate sector.
- Is most likely Internet-based.
- Aims to provide a different perspective on matters and to fill in holes in other media organisations' reporting.

In centuries long gone by, these would have been the "pamphleteers". Activists who got their message out not through newspapers, but pamphlets they got written and distributed with little overhead and often without getting paid for it. Some of these pamphleteers had patronage from citizens who felt that their work was vital. The left-of-centre Conway Hall in London recently even dedicated an exhibition to them: "Victorian Blogging: The pamphleteers who dared to dream of a better world." Much as these Victorian pamphleteers are celebrated today, they were castigated by the establishment at the time. Does that sound familiar?

Similar to career politicians, [mainstream media journalists have not exactly gained in public trust in recent years](#). Trust is difficult to measure, and different polls yield different results. [One survey done for the UK by YouGov](#) showed that only 18% (!) trusted national newspapers to tell the truth, down further from an already quite bad 37% in 2007. You can argue about precise figures, but the trend is evident.

Even the more optimistic polls rarely get above 50% of the population trusting the mainstream media.

There is now a growing number of people who are less gullible about press accounts that can be traced back to or are influenced by journalists' cosy relationship with the politicians who they decided to favour and serve. As a result, there is also a growing market for modern-day citizen pamphleteers who look at stories others have "forgotten" to report about.

They operate on YouTube (until they get censored or "shadow-banned" because they engaged in un-PC Wrong Think), various social media channels, or on their blogs and websites. Some are doing this reporting work entirely for free, and others are working on creating a business model that sustains them. Yet others have even become rich on the back of doing this work.

There is an incredible degree of diversity among them. E.g., there is Tim Pool, a Bernie Sanders-supporting left-of-centre journalist who has become a Trump advocate in many regards. His daily ["Timcast"](#) now attracts hundreds of thousands (!) of viewers to individual videos.

Recent examples of reporting that I found useful and which go to prove the point, included the following:

- The BBC's own Complaints Unit found that its representation of European

Parliamentary election results in May 2019 represented a ["lapse of editorial standards"](#). This matter mostly involved leaving out inconvenient facts which in turn led to ensuring a narrative that the Remains-side of the argument had an interest in spreading. The BBC's representation of these results was then used by media outlets around the world to explain to their respective audiences what had happened in Britain, and making it appear like the election result was an expression of the British people predominantly wanting to remain in the EU. When continued pressure led to the BBC eventually admitting that it had deliberately fudged numbers, hardly any mainstream media outlets reported about it. The most widely read report about it appeared on a political blog written by a handful of citizen journalists in the UK.

- [By 2019, the majority of the entire voting public in the UK \(including self-declared Remainers\) had come to suspect that their government was working in cahoots with the EU to prevent Brexit from happening.](#) A few months later, it emerged that the UK's then-Chancellor, Philip Hammond, had sought legal advice from the EU when defending one of his anti-Brexit decisions. It takes a particular kind of arrogance and brazenness to ask the lawyers of the party that you are negotiating with to give you advice. Virtually no one reported about it, but

the usual array of bloggers written by independent journalists. In the meantime, the PC Speech Police and their allies in mainstream media busied themselves with preventing the word "treason" from entering the public debate. Go figure!

- The private company owned by the Chairman of the British government's Climate Change Committee received GBP 500,000 from companies that were going to benefit from a controversial climate change policy he enacted. Much as this scandal was uncovered by one mainstream newspaper ([full credit to the Daily Mail](#)), no other major media picked it up, most likely for fear of upsetting the powerful climate change industry and its closely affiliated support industries. However, it was picked up by a large number of independent journalists and bloggers who then gave this case of moral corruption the national distribution that it deserved.

Independent journalists don't fear getting thrown out of the establishment because they aren't part of it anyway. They can report without fear of repercussions, which has added a critical new angle to the media landscape. I had always been consuming a wide variety of mainstream media, and now I have an additional kind of media that I can add to complement it. I find the rise of the modern-day citizen pamphleteers of significant benefit to myself. Most of them are even for free, though

I support some of them through regular donations (such as the excellent analysis done by [Spiked Online](#)).

There are several related trends. E.g., with so much media reporting lacking in depth and substance, there is now increasing popularity for long-form podcasts where ideas can be intelligently debated and challenged. These trends existed anyway, but they have been provided with extra fuel by Brexit and Trump.

As the legendary independent journalist and YouTuber, [Black Pidgeon Speaks](#), put it:

"The seeds of widespread doubt and of the questioning of the controlled corporate mainstream media narrative and government itself has now been sowed into the minds of millions of plebs."

All of these developments have long been in the making. Not enough mainstream journalists have been speaking truth to power. Instead, they were keen to have the Prime Minister (or whoever) take them out for lunch, invite them to conferences, and hang out with them at cocktail parties. All too often, these journalists veered off into selling their personal views as reporting. That would be fine, provided a journalist marked it as opinion rather than to describe it as objective news. Add to it the fact that many of them had become so comfortable within this entire system that even their personal views weren't that interesting

to read anymore. Laziness makes Jack a very dull boy.

As has become apparent throughout the last years and often thanks to the work of such independent journalists, mainstream media often outright collaborated with career politicians to manipulate the narrative, if only by leaving out inconvenient facts. The mainstream media are also a regular collaborationist when the PC Speech Police wants to destroy someone's life.

Funnily enough, one needs to look no further than one of the owners of these mainstream media organs to spot the evidence. Jeff Bezos himself, the owner of the Washington Post, [wrote in an article on Medium](#) that he didn't buy the newspaper for commercial reasons. If he didn't buy it as an investment, what else might he want to utilise a company for that publishes a widely read newspaper?

Brexit and Trump have already crystallised in many peoples' minds how powerful the voters are and how urgently necessary it is to change the political system. The world of career politicians is getting disrupted by forces that they will not be able to stop. Journalists working for mainstream media are probably going to be next. (The kind of judges that have started to take a liking to judicial over-reach and enacting legislation from their court bench will likely follow soon after that, though that's a separate subject.) There is bound to be lots of screaming by and

mutual support among those whose ways of operating are about to be put under increased scrutiny so that long-overdue accountability can be established.

How exactly this is going to look like, I have no idea. But I may look at this in more detail in a future article about the rise of independent media, and the opportunities that it brings for entrepreneurs and journalists.

In the meantime, Trump and Brexit need to be given credit for having been essential catalysts for bringing overdue, useful change to the media landscape.



## 9. ANGLO-SAXON COUNTRIES ARE MOVING CLOSER TO EACH OTHER AGAIN







My favourite one-sentence summary about life in the British Isles is: "The English Channel is wider than the Atlantic."

When I tell British or American friends about this, they usually raise an eyebrow and say: "I had never heard this before, but it's SO true!"

When I tell Continental European friends about it, they usually look at me in a mixture of confusion, disbelief, and utter consternation. They cannot fathom that culturally speaking, Britain is very different from the nations – and people – that lie across the 34 km (21 mi.) stretch of water.

Back in the days when I still tried to make a more detailed case for this point to convince friends in Continental Europe of it, I usually did so on the back of one of my other favourite sayings: "In the UK, everything that is not explicitly forbidden is allowed. In Germany, everything that is not explicitly allowed is forbidden." Much as this is somewhat of an exaggeration, it does go to the heart of the difference between the Common Law that is applied in the UK and the Napoleonic Legal Code that is prevalent on the European Continent. Common Law is a form of rule from below, whereas the Napoleonic Code represents the rule from above. That just about sums it all up. Just check Germany's present or past to see how their culture is geared towards being (overly) obedient to state authority.

In the meantime, I have concluded that I shan't use my time on trying to convince anyone on the Continent of the crucial differences that I enjoy about countries that belong to the Anglosphere. Each to their own! (Which, by the way, is also a distinctively Anglo attitude. Also, it is contrary to "The German spirit shall heal the world", as expressed in Emanuel Geibel's famous 1861 poem, "Germany's Vocation".)

What HAS been delightful to see since both the Brexit referendum and the Trump election, is how the countries of the Anglosphere have started to move more closely together again. Here are just some of the impression I have been garnering about this:

- The British Commonwealth, consisting of 53 nations representing one-third of the world's population, is gradually starting to get more public visibility and a more active role again. This is something that only started after the Brexit vote. To not have used this network of economies with over 2bn people for the sake of focussing on a slow-growing, protectionist block that is engaging in risky political experiments such as an unproven common currency, is now increasingly recognised as the mistake that it was always bound to be.

- The jury is still out, but in many ways, it does look like Britain will align more closely with the US again. It could well end up doing so under structures that are likely to shape the next fifty years. The US remains not just the biggest economy in the world overall, but among the Western economies it is also the most dynamic one based on countless metrics. The UK has long been the largest inward investor in the US. Again, to have decreased the focus on this long-standing economic tie for the sake of pleasing the slow-growth countries of Continental Europe was always bound to be a mistake.
- Britain has finally been looking at immigration laws that would make it easier and more likely that highly qualified people from English-speaking countries move to the country. It would be a welcome change to the recent policy driven by Britain's EU membership. In the past, it had to allow in anyone who happened to hold an EU passport. There was no questioning whether they'd be likely to integrate into British culture (which, as a mere example, most German immigrants would be unlikely to) and contribute to the economy (which Romanian beggar gangs are virtually guaranteed not to). An unnecessarily large number of criminals seeped through the non-existent border, as evidenced by the nationalities of inmates in UK prisons ([see the UK prison stats from this parliamentary report, page 62](#)).

After I first moved to Britain to get away from various undesirable aspects of the Continent, I found Britain gradually changing into a variant of Continental European countries. This trend was driven, of course, by EU harmonisation, which in turn was heavily influenced by Germany's view of how things should be done. I watched all this with dismay after moving across the Channel in 1997/98.

Before 2016, I already saw myself moving across the Atlantic to get away from a Britain that looked like it was going to get turned into the North-Western Province of the Wider Germanic Area.

Since 2016, there have been many encouraging signs that this aberration is going to be reversed. I prefer a British Isle that remains different in many ways from what you find on the European Continent, just as it always was during the past 1,000 years. Keep in mind that the EU has only existed for a few decades, which does not yet give it any credence of longevity when compared to the cultures and values of the Anglosphere. Brexit and the equivalent political developments in the US have put some energy again into the old network of friendship and shared values that the Anglosphere always had.

It's a somewhat fuzzy development and one that will take many years before it properly shows results. But at least there are now encouraging signs for that. It has filled me with hope and optimism for the future of Britain. Brexit, and to a lesser

degree, Trump, provided the impetus for these wonderful developments.

## 10. POLITICIANS WILL GO TO JAIL - YEAH!





Politics has not only had a nasty habit of nothing ever changing, but also of no one being held accountable.

Half the Western world going to war in the Middle East because of fictitious "Weapons of Mass Destructions" that politicians and their bureaucracies dreamed up?

The entire banking system being brought to the brink of collapse because of regulators failing their duties?

Politicians openly carrying out what appears to be acts of treason, such as John Kerry's speaking to Iran after he left his position of Secretary of State and with the sole aim of undermining the new administration?

All of these should have had actionable consequences for the perpetrators.

Why does no one in politics ever get held accountable? Indictment, discovery, due process, judgement!

Let me put it as clearly as it gets. **Nothing will change if no one goes to jail.**

Before Trump's election, I emailed a personal friend who at the time was on the other side of the political debate. I told him that I hoped "an election of Trump would lead to hundreds of politicians going to jail."

His reply was: "Be careful what you wish for."

Ironically enough, it is now HIS side of the political spectrum that is frequently calling for jailing politicians:

- [Pelosi tells Dems she wants to see Trump in prison.](#)
- Robert "Beto" O'Rourke: [I will prosecute Trump if I win in 2020.](#)
- [Dems taunt Trump with threats of prison time.](#)

In the weeks leading up to finishing this report, Britain's Speaker of the Commons, John Bercow, added to it by comparing Boris Johnson to a bank robber. The suggestion was, of course, that Johnson deserves jail time if he carried out the instructions of the British people to leave the European Union.

I love these suggestions. Not because I'd desperately wanted to see Trump or Johnson go to prison. But because it brings an essential subject out of a niche (where it lingered when I mentioned it three years ago) and into the mainstream discussion. The same group of people who put me down as an extremist three years ago because of my view about the need to put politicians on trial has now become the idea's loudest advocate on a daily basis.

Even the UN – not my favourite institution, see chapter 6 – has joined the chorus. In June 2019, [its top public health official declared that politicians could go to jail if they didn't adhere to the supranational body's pollution goals](#). Outside of questions just how the UN intends to arrest Chinese politicians, it shows how the calls to put some politicians in jail are spreading.

Finer details aside, it's great seeing your political opponents making the argument for you.

I still see most career politicians acting as if nothing has changed since 2016. I doubt many of them realise just how much large parts of the population would love to see large numbers of career politicians trialled and put into orange jumpsuits.

From my observing of the subject, I am now convinced that the only question about all this is: When does it start, and who will be first?

It's impossible to tell, and any naming of potential examples will only get one the label of conspiracy theorist by those who are desperate to keep this subject focussed on their opponents rather than to make a broader case for upholding the rule of law. However, one recent issue has become something that has started to unite people from all political orientations. I am, of course, talking of the Epstein affair, and of everything that surrounds it.

Was there ever a case where a more significant number of people from a more diverse set of political views agreed that parts of the Western world currently have a two-tier justice system? The moral revulsion has led to a united citizenry if ever such a thing existed.

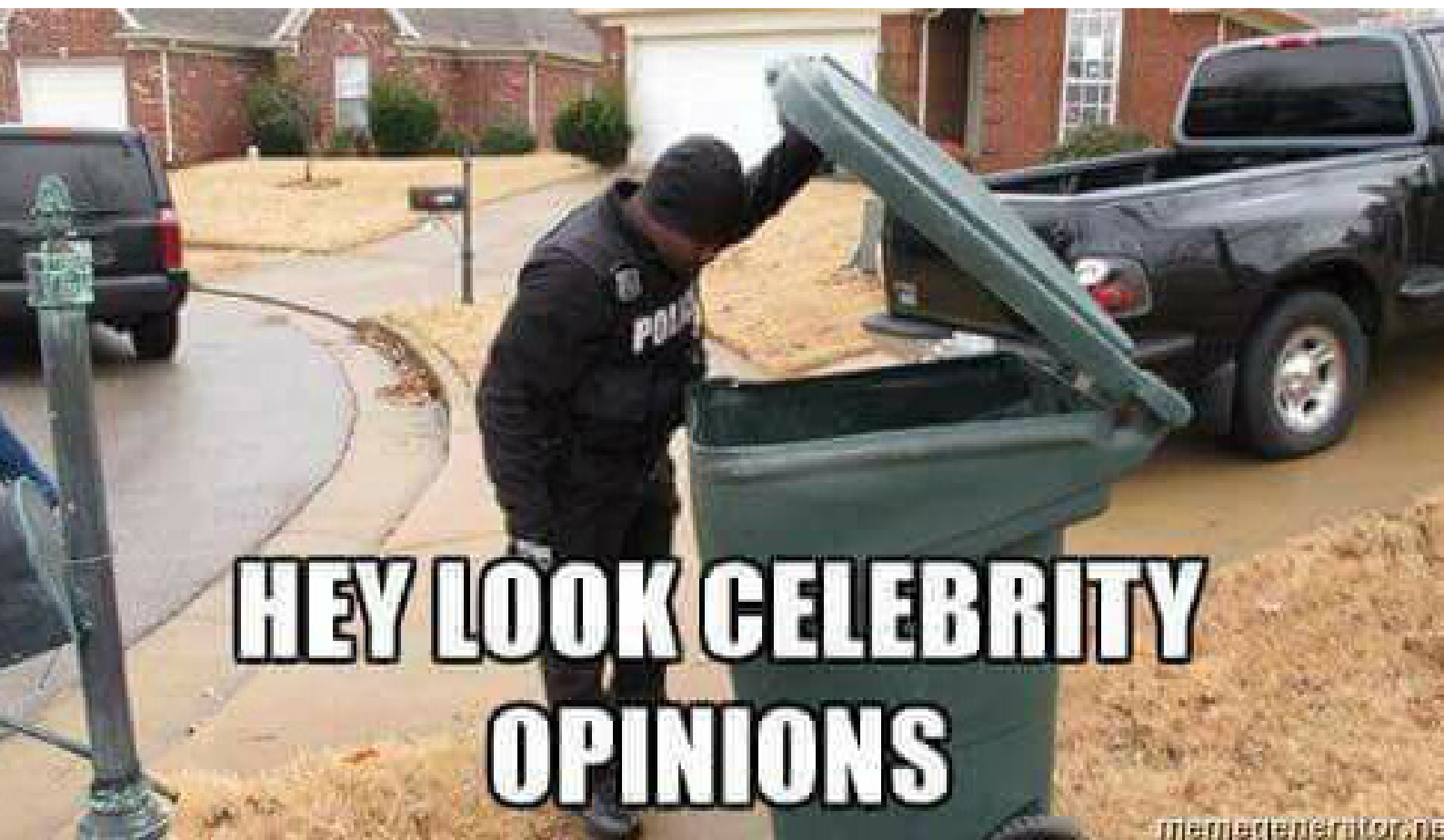
Epstein is dead, and no one knows whether this will bury evidence (no pun intended) or lead to even more evidence emerging because victims and witnesses will now speak up. If it's the latter, then it could have a cataclysmic effect on the entire question of jail time for politicians and probably in ways that we cannot even begin to imagine yet. If nothing much comes out of the whole case, the pent-up frustration about it will likely discharge through another case.

Some case, somewhere, involving someone is soon going to bring the issue of jailing the career politicians who created the accumulated problems of the past few decades to the fore. It could even be Trump, or just as well that scandal-free Saint, Barack Obama. Or it could begin with prosecuting fake US universities over their tax-exempt status, and then work its way up from there. I don't think anyone can know.

When it happens, it'll be super high profile and open the doors for developments that no one until recently would have thought possible.

You just watch and see. And I count on Trump, in particular, to continue to strengthen the judiciary's ability to carry out these overdue prosecutions.

# CONCLUSIONS #1: EXAMPLES OF CONSEQUENCES AND ACTIONS I HAVE ALREADY IMPLEMENTED FOR MYSELF







o you remember all the Hollywood celebs who tweeted: "If Trump wins the election, I'll move to Canada."

Guess how many of them moved?

[Virtually none.](#)

There is a reason why memes such as the one shown above have come into existence.

The overall influence of Hollywood and movie celebrities is waning, and instead, there is now a thriving sector of independent journalists.

Presumably, a growing number of people appreciates following authors who walk the walk, instead of just talking the talk.

### **Here is what I have done already**

Quite unlike virtue-signalling Hollywood celebrities, I try to follow through on my own talk and recommendations, at least to the degree possible.

Based on the observations I made and the conclusions that I have drawn from them, I have implemented several changes in my life already.

#### **1: Moving to where it's (currently!) best for me**

Instead of waiting for the UK to free itself from the European Union over-regulation, I acted swiftly when the never-ending ob-

struction of Brexit became obvious. Anyone living in the independently governed, non-EU British Channel Islands benefits from its pro-entrepreneurship, low-regulation framework. What the UK could become, the Channel Islands already are.

Basing myself in the Channel Islands has allowed me to live on the doorstep of the EU's continental European member states, but without falling under its stifling, anti-entrepreneurship legislation (which is driven by the 30,000 (!) corporate lobbyists operating in Brussels; a subject for another day). In the Channel Islands, entrepreneurs and medium-sized enterprises are not yet under threat by the kind of large corporations that use political influence and pay-for-play schemes to build non-market-based moats around their businesses.

Come to think of it, not just one but several entrepreneurs I am friends with are already working on following me to the Channel Islands. Living there has led to potential new opportunities coming my way.

Will I remain in the Channel Islands forever? Probably not.

Might I move to the UK, or could it be of interest to me to legally immigrate to the US? Maybe.

The point is that I have found a place that resembles quite closely what the UK could be if or when it manages to finally "brexit" (as a verb) and carry on with other changes as discussed in this document.

There could be others out there for whom something similar works, too.

## **2: Securing my content marketing business against the EU censorship drive**

There is ever more restrictive Internet regulation, e.g., the EU's Article 13 legislation.

To prevent it from affecting my Internet-publishing operation more than it has to, I enacted a combination of preventative measures:

- I moved my web infrastructure to neutral Switzerland.
- I made myself largely independent from centralised social media platforms because most of them have to march to the beat of political correctness culture.
- I created content themes that address a global rather than a national audience. If I had to stop making some or all of my content available to EU-based users (e.g., because criticising the welfare state or the central banking system is classed as "hate speech"; something that may well happen), then I could easily do so by addressing the remaining 93% of the world's population.

I could pursue a strategy similar to [the 1,000+ US newspapers that made the conscious decision not to be available to users in EU territory anymore](#).

Again, none of this needs to be a permanent solution.

However, I have started to put myself into the mindset of utilising different jurisdictions to improve what I get out of life and how I run my business interests.

When it comes to operating a website and selling content, there is no market like the US market. I'll be working on (and writing about) making better use of the possibilities that only the US market can offer. In the meantime, I have taken a step that ensures practical flexibility and helps me develop the right mindset.

## **3: Shifting healthcare to a place and system that seems secure**

My health is important to me, and two factors have been bugging me.

Firstly, I have long wanted to get in front of the "entitlement crisis" that is bound to diminish swathes of the Western world's public healthcare systems throughout the 2020s. Large parts of the EU, as well as the US, will be affected by this entitlement crisis. This expression refers to too many people asking for entitlements that the system does not have the funds for anymore, which then drags the entire system down. (A closely related aspect of this

are [people who are expecting services that they haven't paid for](#) – a scandal and one that post-Brexit will be much easier to tackle.)

Secondly, I am keenly aware that the US continues to develop the most innovative, advanced healthcare technologies. If I ever got any severe illness, I'd be racing to receive treatment in the US. Whatever solution I was to create for my long-term healthcare, it had to include the option to be treated in the US. Like in so many other aspects of life, the US is the superior solution.

Instead of whining about the difficulties and complexity of healthcare, I have done extensive research around the entire world to locate where I can find the very best solution. I wanted to make sure that for the rest of my life, I can get access to world-class healthcare. My access to healthcare of the highest quality has to be a given under all imaginable circumstances, and including treatment in the US.

This will be subject of an eBook that I plan to publish during the first half of 2020. Watch this space.

### **Bottom line: Pick the place that is best for you (now)**

There are 195 countries and territories on this planet.

Purely mathematically, what are the chances that you were born in the one

country that suits your needs in just the right way?

Examining other options that are legally available to you is always a worthwhile exercise.

I could fill reams of pages with examples why this is probably more relevant to you than you'd possibly imagine.

E.g., what is happening in politics right now will affect your investments in many ways. Here are a couple of aspects that I keep on my radar screen, and which I will continue to write about. These include the following examples:

### **1: Growth (or lack thereof) will affect your savings**

Some areas of the world will experience faster growth and higher capital gains than others.

One illustrative example is US American bank shares versus European bank shares. The former tackled their issues stemming from the Great Financial Crisis; the latter tried to kick the can down the road (European-style).

A decade later, US bank stocks were up 80%, and European bank shares were down 50%. The US banking industry was growing again, whereas the European banking industry had much more challenging prospects to deal with.

The evidence was there for everyone to see. Virulently anti-American, pro-EU investors (and there are quite a few of them) will have paid a heavy price for putting their ideology over sound investment management.

Where else are you facing risks and opportunities because of different political cultures? It's a question you should ask yourself as part of your portfolio management.

## **2: Eurozone wealth redistribution will affect your net income**

The EU is well on the way of growing its already existing system of redistributing wealth from the productive and hard-working, to the irresponsible and lazy. Through the ever-closer union, these mechanisms will be expanded further.

Who will pay for it? The taxpayer (through taxes) and saver (through currency debasement).

How do you like the idea of working twice as hard so that a large class of people who did not fall upon misfortune but simply live a life of entitlement outside of market mechanisms can have a comfortable life?

It wouldn't be for me. No, thanks.

## **3: The bursting of the "Green Energy Bubble"**

If political correctness culture gets thrown out the window, how will that affect the

climate change movement? As a movement that heavily depends on coercion and keeping inconvenient facts out of the public eye, killing off the political correctness culture poses considerable risks to the industries that are dependent on non-market-based mechanisms to have funds come their way.

There are already different signs that the "Green Energy Bubble", much of which was driven by government subsidies and other unsustainable market distortions, is about to burst. Legacy energy producers, on the other hand, are incredibly cheap in terms of their valuations on the stock market.

Will the 2020s be the time to make a fortune from buying into nuclear energy providers or even selective coal producers? What are the best ways to benefit from a return to sanity in the energy sector?

I have done some initial research about this question, and have already found some exciting prospects. Watch this space for more reporting.

How about taking a phased approach to all this?

These are just some of the business and investment-related questions, challenges, and opportunities that have arisen because of what is going on in politics.

Incidentally, I also write a blog that is purely focussed on investing, [undervalued-shares.com](http://undervalued-shares.com). On my investment blog, you

can regularly find additional, up-to-date observations about the challenges and opportunities thrown up by the ESG investing hype, the Green Energy Bubble, and other subjects that more mainstream publications are often afraid to look at critically.

Drawing the right conclusions for your investments is much easier than moving your base or your business. Opening up new horizons for your investments could be a first step towards acting on some of the information contained in this report.

In the second part of the conclusions section, I am setting out why you should seriously consider switching your base if you aren't in a suitable country yet. Though this could also be a two-prong approach, where you draw conclusions for your investments first, and leave moving your base or your business for a later date.

**CONCLUSIONS #2:  
WHAT DOES IT ALL  
MEAN FOR YOU,  
AND HOW CAN YOU  
BENEFIT FROM ALL  
THIS?**

**THE  
WORLD  
IS YOUR  
OYSTER**





Historically, there has been a strong correlation between democracy, the rule of law, and free speech on the one hand, and economic prosperity on the other side.

Exceptions always apply, e.g. Singapore is an economic success story despite being autocratic, and Turkey is a democracy but dirt poor. Life is infinitely complex, and there is not a single generalisation that you couldn't shoot a few holes into.

On the whole, though, it's not difficult to figure out where you can have the best overall quality of life. If you are living in a country that allows you a significant degree of personal freedom, is operated under the rule of law, and enables you to participate in the political process through voting, then you are probably onto a winner.

Brexit and Trump are foreboding a renaissance of some of the core values that have made the Anglosphere the overall most successful part of the world of the last 500 years:

- Democracy
- Rule of Law (often forgotten among all the democracy-related talk)
- Freedom of Speech
- Market-based economy

These values had been under sustained attack for at least the past 50 years. In many countries, they will remain under

attack. E.g., I doubt that countries like Germany, where such values don't stand on a particularly strong foundation historically, have what it takes to vigorously tackle the problems they have in this regard. Politics is downstream from culture, and these values are simply not that deeply embedded in most of the countries in Continental Europe. Never mind much of the rest of the world – though exceptions apply.

I have seen all of this becoming a much more prominent part of public debate again, which is the first step towards changes.

The question for you should now be:

- Do these changes matter for you?
- If so, how can you act on them?

This eBook hopes to give you some initial information and guidance, of a variety that you (still) won't easily find elsewhere.

Think outside the box to create the solution that works best for you

For the conclusions and recommendations, I have to circle back to the beginning of this list. What has political correctness culture been doing to our societies and our lives, and how has it influenced your thinking and your life planning?

My view is that PC culture has been serving as a giant distraction. It has been played on the population to distract all of us from essential questions. All the nonsense thrown up by political correctness culture and how it pits groups against each other is an endless distraction factory.

What this website aims to achieve, among other things, is to point you towards important questions and show you unusual solutions to widespread problems. For example:

- How to build a business without stifling, expensive regulation hindering your work? This is easier said than done given how over-regulation has taken hold in most parts of the Western hemisphere. Where is the prospect of this not being such a pesky, expensive issue going forward? In which countries is this likely going to get better, and in which countries will it likely get worse? Where to base yourself to double, triple or quadruple the amount of money you can save every month simply because you'll pay lower taxes? How to further save money by not anymore contributing to government Ponzi schemes that were erected primarily to benefit special interest groups and which are now trading insolvently?
- Where to base yourself in a world that is now once again seeing increased political risk? Two years ago, I took shooting lessons in Poland and

"joked" on Facebook that I want to be prepared if Europe sees another war. My friends laughed. Two years later, the German news magazine, [Der Spiegel](#), asked if there are risks of new armed conflicts in Europe. It has now become a common feature of left-wing activities to dox politicians and anyone whose opinion they dislike, turn up at their house, [and even threaten their children](#). Terrorist-style organisations such as the radical wing of the so-called Extinction Rebellion are openly supported by parts of the political establishment. Australia allowed a theatre play "Kill Climate Deniers" to take place, with praise from the mainstream media. It does not take much to figure out that being able to defend yourself with legally acquired weapons is not a bad idea.

- The 2020s will bring unprecedented strains for some aspects of public life in the Western hemisphere. Pension systems and healthcare systems are foremost among them. Do you want to be reliant on systems run by a government that has proven themselves to be entirely incapable of meaningful change or responsible stewardship? Or would you rather live in countries where far-reaching reforms based on stronger civic participation are likely to happen and where there is a deeply embedded culture of tackling problems head-on?



All of these areas are affected by politics. They are likely to become even more affected by politics in the future.

Hence, my advice that you form a view on what is going on around you politically. Based on that, plan your future for the coming decade or two. Do it without panic or haste, but do not be complacent either. It will matter to your future, quite possibly in ways you would have never thought possible so far.

### **Complex developments that lead to utmost clarity**

I view Brexit and Trump as clarifying moments. A large number of people currently has the feeling that they are now, for the first time in decades, being allowed to look behind the façade. They are recognising how so-called "progressives" have mostly created regression – but all the while calling it something else, in best 1984 New Speak fashion.

Many people have recently started to wonder if Brexit and Trump are the leaps into the abyss that they were often described to be. They are now wondering whether this darkness had not long been brought on by the existing class of career politicians and the entire so-called "elite" (a misnomer, given that voters are the masters and politicians are the servants).

The British people have made a massive vote for a country that does not hide be-

hind protectionism and technocracies anymore, but which wants a return to freer markets, more democracy, and the kind of values that had made Britain such an economic and political success story in the first place.

Ditto for the Americans. Trump's critics emphasise Trump's Twitter eruptions (and they are sometimes right to criticise). Still, they minimise the fact that Trump does NOT have the habits of the play-it-safe politician but rather more of the can-do man of commerce, continually looking for ways to solve problems and curb inefficiencies. This is going to have – and already has – massive influence on the prospects of the US as a place where to live, work, study, or do commerce.

None of this will happen overnight. The zeitgeist is shifting, though, and these changes will continue to manifest over the coming years.

The President of the US is a powerful person internationally, but within the US, he is a bit like a mayor. After five or six decades under the control of a Big Government uni-party system of sorts, Trump nor anyone else can't rectify all accumulated issues overnight. However, he enacted legislation that for each new regulation, two existing pieces of regulation needed to be killed. During the first six months of his presidency, his administration ended up killing off 16 old rules for each new one – quite a multiple!

In the meantime, friends from the European Continent and also from the pre-Brexit UK are writing to me to ask about moving to the non-EU Channel Islands to get away from over-growing regulations. Go figure.

As I am writing this, the UK's political establishment is busy trying to overturn the Brexit referendum result by watering down Brexit or by reversing it altogether. It's hard to imagine a democratic country's politicians turning on its people in quite such a way and that ending well for them. Parliament is mighty, but the people are mightier. The British people physically outnumber the permanent class of Westminster career politicians by a very, very high multiple indeed. When democracy deniers set themselves against the people, they must and will lose. In the end, I believe all of this is going to lead to profound changes in one way or another. Throughout this eBook, I have given you many an idea of how this could look like.

Ditto for the US. The situation in both countries is very different yet very similar.

And from these two crucial countries, these changes will emanate to other countries. First and foremost, to other English-speaking countries of what is best described as the Anglosphere. Possibly to others, too. The world is a big place, and you won't find me making a sweeping statement that will encompass all 195 countries around the world.

What I do tell you though, is that you have plenty of options. The world is your oyster!

### **My own decision – living in Sark, Channel Islands**

You can spin all of this further and dig into the question what kind of political system you'd like to live under?

For myself, I have made the decision that I want to live in a place that features the following:

- I can easily meet all my Members of Parliament by merely walking down the street.
- There is quite a direct connection between what I will vote for in this particular place, and what I will see happening.
- Free speech isn't stifled the way it is elsewhere, and political correctness has taken hold neither in society nor in legislation or administrative regulations.

That place is the independently governed British Channel Island, Sark. It's not a solution that will work for many, but it will work magically for some. (And some of my best friends have already followed me to Sark.)

Last but not least, dealing with and changing some of the aspects where matters have gone off the rails in recent decades,

will likely provide some of the best business opportunities of the past decades. E.g., I see fortunes being made by independent journalists and media personalities who have started to step outside political correctness culture to provide a different viewpoint. This trend has already taken shape right in front of our eyes, through entrepreneurs who are starting from scratch (with entirely new content genres, e.g. centred around the growing movement for revitalised culture and traditionalism, dubbed "tradlife"), but also through some established media figures ([Piers Morgan](#) being foremost among them). Could this be an opportunity for you to create a business or a portable freelance position that allows you to make money while you are based out of a low-tax, low-regulation jurisdiction and enabling you to freely travel the world?

As you will have seen by now, it's a virtually endless subject.

The key is for you to try and stay looped into those developments that affect you the most. You have to be ahead of events, instead of being stuck in the backward parallel universe that the self-proclaimed "woke elite" has created.

What is happening in politics right now is a battle between two opposing systems. It will go this way, or the other way.

It's binary. And it won't end until one side has won and a new system has been firmly established. Which, if my team wins,

will be a return to proven, timeless values rather than experiments with the umpteenth version of socialism disguised as something else, such as Universal Basic Income.

Thanks to Trump and Brexit, I am more optimistic than ever that the Anglosphere is the place to be thanks to all of these developments.

If you, too, want to position yourself in suitable ways to thrive and enjoy life, then you could do worse than to continue following my two blogs.

There is a lot more for you on my website.

**Would you like to learn more about:**

- Building a business that allows you to travel extensively.
- Picking the world's best jurisdictions, e.g., to minimise your taxes.
- Hacks and systems to get the most out of your life.

My website [www.swen-lorenz.com](http://www.swen-lorenz.com) is building a community of individuals who are passionate about these subjects.

Entirely separately, I also publish an investment blog. If you are interested in undervalued, publicly listed companies, then do pay a visit to [www.undervalued-shares.com](http://www.undervalued-shares.com).

Do visit regularly, and [use my email alerts](#) to read new articles right when they come out.

Last but not least, do let me know if there is anything you feel is missing in this eBook, or any other form of feedback and constructive criticism.

