

Thoughts on an Independent Scotland

By Brian Judge



I was born and raised in Edinburgh, the capital city of Scotland. At school I learned the history of firstly, the union of the crowns when the Scottish King became also the king of England and Wales resulting in the enlarged state being named Great Britain. In 1707, the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, dissolved itself and its representatives then joined their opposite numbers in London creating one governing body for the entire new state.

Now to my early adult life. I was still resident in Edinburgh and by then was able to go abroad, initially for holidays then in later years also for work. I have now retired but throughout my travels to many countries, over decades, I was frequently asked where I came from. To which I would respond in those days, that I was British and came from Britain. This answer often meant nothing to the enquirer which at the time surprised me. Hadn't Britain in fairly recent memory ruled the largest empire the world had ever seen? Had my country not been admired worldwide for its stance against totalitarianism during WW2?

And yet these, not un-educated people appeared to have no knowledge of Britain.

Around this time, I found that many English people I encountered however, in reply to the same question, declared themselves to be from England and gave their nationality as

English. Whereas most foreigners knew nothing of the United Kingdom, Britain and certainly not Scotland, they did know something about England, albeit flawed, as it later transpired. So to give myself an identity, from then on I would inform people that I was Scottish from Scotland. The response now was interesting if at the same time insulting. It was often, 'Ah! England!... or they might ask me, was it Ireland, Holland, or perhaps Poland, I was talking about? And this situation has endured for decades and is still common today. So I wondered how could the World and his wife have got it all so wrong? Were the Geography teachers around the globe all so ignorant?

It was at this point I hit on the answer. I now came to the conclusion that a vast amount of English people have been traversing the globe for centuries, propagating the myth that England is a sovereign (island) state comprising what is in fact 'the British Isles'(Scotland, England and Wales). That being the case it is my contention that 'the English' to a large extent have never accepted the Union even to this day over 300 years later. Or, alternatively, have re-named Great Britain as England as if Scotland and Wales had been colonized by the English. Now, how is that for arrogance in a supposedly 'United Kingdom'?

So, when the current Prime Minister in campaigning before the referendum for or against an independent Scotland kept saying'We want you to stay', it was not clear to whom he was referring as 'We'. The Government, the English? And this prompts the question – Stay where? To continue as an adjunct of England? No thanks.

All major Political parties have been repeatedly stating for many years that Scotland receives more funds from the London Government, pro rata than the rest of the UK. Why should this be? And why are the non-Scots tax –payers accepting such a discriminatory situation to their disadvantage?

Now, surely, if that were the case, Westminster should welcome the separation of Scotland if it is such a drain on the nation's economy, instead of pleading and fighting for it to

remain.

So, this turns out to be yet another lie from Westminster.

Now to the question of whether Scotland would be a viable state were it to become independent?



Factors against.

- 1) North Sea Oil is in decline.
- 2) The major Banks and Insurance companies would pull out.
- 3) The Scots would not be permitted to use the Pound Sterling.
- 4) Scotland may not be admitted to the European Union.
- 5) The country is too small to support itself.

Response:

1) When first discovered, the 'Experts' said that the oil would have run out within thirty years. New technology later developed has withdrawn oil far beyond that timeline and new fields are still being discovered. Presently, the selling price is low but I expect in time, the

market will adjust to changing circumstances, as it always does.

2) The Banks involved are the same ones which had they not been bailed out with taxpayer's money, would have collapsed due to their reckless management. And the RBS today, many years later is still un-profitable and still reliant on the tax-payers to stay in business. So good riddance! I am quite sure that many Banks & Insurers from Europe and around the world would quickly replace these disgraced institutions.

3) Scottish Banks have been printing their own banknotes for hundreds of years and which are used in everyday transactions throughout Scotland and in some parts of England, including London. Incidentally, several countries around the world use the US Dollar rather than their own currency and this seems to be quite acceptable to the US Government.

4) At the time of writing there are many serious problems concerning the European Union, its member states and the Euro, so the future of the whole enterprise is unclear.

5) Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and tiny little Singapore which has no natural resources, all seem to be doing rather well.

And finally to highlight one institution which has always been independent – the Scottish Legal System, I 'rest my case'.

Brian Judge bio: I am Scottish, aged 69 and living now in Malaysia. Having retired from working around the world I have taken up writing, fiction, biography and travel. I have had magazine articles published but not yet a book.