

The Lundenvic Picayune

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Diary of a Kraut Man Sum 108 (Re-krautification 2024)

Dear Britain,

you are the oldest living democracy - technically. You say Magna Charta and Bill Of Rights, I say Parliament Act of 1911. America says USA! USA! USA! A brilliant argument, expectorated across the globe.

The US democracy is a Funny Car Humvee running on crude. No petrol station necessary. Park the gunboat anywhere, a drill thunders into the ground, and sucks the juice from the earth in less than ten seconds.

Bridges? F-ck bridges! The driver cranks up the sound system and any river parts in two. Mountains? F-ck mountains! A little extra woofer bass and Mt. Everest is Mt. Neverest. Driving on a sunny day? F-ck the sun! The Funny Car Humvee has an AC that makes the Sahara feel like Siberia – and vice versa. USA! USA! USA!

Most democracies use a slightly saner approach. Being a democracy does not mean one does not get to f-ck with immediate and further-away neighbours. Quite the opposite, as the democratic process involves the very f-ck-laden processes proposals, debates and decisions.

However, it has become a staple for democracies to negotiate their vehicles through many a tricky situation with a little more care for its surroundings. Thus, the cars have some wear, a little rust, and could use a new set of tires.

Quick tangent:

Did you notice how each GOP candidate, during the last primaries, called the US the worst names imaginable?

Not only does it appear to be very unpatriotic, it is also neither true nor compatible with the concept of American Exceptionalism – not that this phrase has any meaning inside the US, much less outside.

Do you also notice the tone change with either the end of a campaign, the first day in office, or on the charity Veep ticket to the American Global Fckfest? Finally, US elections are turning out to be significantly more expensive every four years, thanks to *Citizens United vs. the FEC*: Democracy's razor wire dildo. Not you, Britain. Your elections resemble a carriage with two children in a costume posing as a horse. I am, of course, referring to your first-past-thepost system. Right after we look at the bi of your bi-cameral system:

The House of Lords.

An even crankier Waldorf and Stetler, each with a couple hundred twins of various ages and genders. Peerage is a telegraph in the democratic digital age, even though it is every lazy kid's dream to go from 0 to 100 without doing anything, ever.

"Can you sit in a chair, kid?" "Yes, I can."

"Congratulations on levelling up!" "I can haz power and influence?"

"Yes."

"More than 99% of the country?"

"Absolutely."

"Why?"

"Because we say so."

"But that..."

"Here, have a castle."

"Thank you, but..."

"Have another castle. Toodles."

Finally, in 1999, under Britain's Bill Clinton, the House of Lords Act cut deadwood from its benches, ending the UK's Ubuntu: hereditary peerage.

However: Many countries, even if de-facto democracies, have some form of hereditary peerage through money, real estate, offices, contacts, schools, clubs, and so on. JFK, Dubya: merely presidential tips of political icebergs.

Far more unfair and undemocratic is a first-past-the-post electoral system, as used for the House Of Commons.

In the 2015 General Election, with its massive turnout of 66.3%, seat distribution was an absurd game of musical chairs, where some parties apparently had cattle prods. Almost 46.5m people were called to vote, yet only 30.7m did. Perhaps only in a Matrixlike Zion folks can be bothered to use their right to elect representatives.

No one expects 100 or even 95%. People are sick, ill, old, have emergencies, etc. Mail in voting, anyone?

Any one percentage point below 90 is a Gaulish shrug – where it is hard to pinpoint the reason. It could be mere laziness, or indeed the result of a thoroughly complex understanding of the world. ("Camus can do, but Sartre is smartre.")

However, any one percentage point below 85 is one middle finger to your entire country: people, institutions and history – of which you are a part, whether you like it or not.

All political parties should be a wellbalanced menu of the highest quality, prepared by Michelin chefs, served by expert waiters in the most beautiful restaurant ever. Sigh. We are not quite there yet.

Most political parties are fast food chains, selling you subscriptions while still inundating you with commercials and pledge drives and more commercials. Their employees are receiving more through the back door than the actors in *Weapons of Ass Destruction*, and while that last one is illegal in many places, the first one is not, because the entire system is mainly geared towards profit and or market share. For the chains, not for you.

None of them is obliged to provide you with what was <u>advertised</u>. (None of this is an excuse for <u>falling down</u>. D-Fens behaves like a child not getting its way and cannot handle his emotions like a mature adult.)

One more thing: Most of what political parties put on your plate will give you heartburn and or diarrhoea.

However: You cannot eat nothing. You have to order, because you have to eat. Choose the menu which makes your insides rumble least, stay away from needlessly hot and spicy crap, or weird ingredients like kelp, avoid neoanything, berries, or mushrooms you have never heard of, and stay away from all forms of communism. Carry antacids at all times. You cannot eat nothing. In the future, there might be better choices. For now, it is what it is. Rush put it this way:

"If you choose not to decide, you still have made a choice."

When my parents got to vote, turnout was 87%, around the same as it had been for the past 12 years, and as it would be for the next 22. In 1990, I popped my voting cherry. Turnout dipped to 78%, perhaps because some twelve million people were new to this 'your vote actually counts, look, your mark is not already printed on the paper, the guys with the guns are gone and you actually can vote what you want' shtick. Germany's last two Bundestagswahl turnouts were even less to write home about. Bugger!

Back to Britain's 2015 General Election, all figures per the BBC website. (It gets a bit numbery now. Please bear with me.)

650 seats; 46.5m voters; 30.7m did.

11.334m voted CON, which should have got them 240 seats. Instead, the Tories got 331. My maths must be off. 9.344m voted LAB, which should have got them 198 seats. They got 232. Is my calculator on the fritz?

3.881m voted UKIP, which should have got them 82 seats. Beg your pardon? They got one seat? One as in 1?

2.416m voted for the LibDems, which should have got them 51 seats. They got 8. <u>Gobble</u>, gobble.

1.454m voted SNP, which should get them 31 seats. They got 56. Huh?

1.158m voted Green, which should have got them 25 seats. They got 1.

Votation without representation?

184k voted for the DUP, should have got them 4 seats. They got 8.

182k voted for Plaid, which should have got them 4 seats. They got 3.

176k voted SF, which should have got them 4 seats. They got 4! Yay!

115k voted Ulster Unionist, should have got them 2 seats. They got 2!

100k voted SDLP, which should have got them 2 seats. They got 3.

(In 2010, LAB 258 seats on 8,607m votes, LibDems 57 on 6.836m votes.)

First past the bullsh-t:

If 2.4m vote LibDem, get 8 seats, and 0.2m vote DUP and get 8 seats, that is utter fucking bollocks.

If the 7.5m people voting for UKIP, LibDems, and Green get 10 bloody seats out of 650, that is FUBAR!

First-past-the-post is unfair. It disenfranchises far too many voters to be considered applicable in a democracy. There are better systems available and you should adopt one of those. Otherwise, especially the big cahunas look as if they approved of an unfair system, as long as it benefits them.

One more for the road? 3.9m voted UKIP, 1 seat, and .1m voted SDLP for

3 seats. If your toches can be 39 times

bigger, but you only get a third of the chairs, that is not good.