

10 REASONS TO LEAVE THE EUROPEAN UNION

1 Because we can only survive and prosper outside the EU. EU trade represents just 20 per cent of global trade – we can trade with the other 80 per cent, and still trade with the EU outside it, as do Norway and Switzerland. They talk about “little Englanders”, but in truth the “little Europeans” are perverting and narrowing Britain’s trade and industry.

2 Because the EU is for capitalism, not the working class. It was set up to enforce “free” markets – the free movement of capital, labour and goods – to provide greater and greater profits while suppressing wages.

3 Because the EU wants to break up Britain. The EU exists to destroy national sovereignty. Nations are seen as obstacles to the unfettered rule of global capitalist markets. The EU wants to dismember nations, dividing us to leave the field to finance capital.

4 Because the EU is a danger to peace. It meddles dangerously in other countries’ affairs and incites reaction and war on behalf of US capitalism. Only Britain prevented an EU attack on Syria. The call for a European state echoes Germany’s World War 2 aims.

5 Because the EU is a failure – and an expensive failure. It has created only chaos and destruction, while its grand plan founders on the resistance of awkward national electorates. In 2013 Britain’s net contribution to the EU was £8.624 billion. We can use this money for ourselves.

6 Because the idea of a “European people” is a lie. Each nation has its own people and its own working class with its own interests to assert. Without strong nation states the peoples of Europe cannot control their own destinies.

7 Because the EU is a capitalist prison. The EU shackles its inmates with Directives and Regulations intended to govern every aspect of our lives – imposing their laws, undermining our liberties, enforcing privatisation of public services. The EU’s “Free” Trade Agreements with non-EU countries extend its tentacles across the world in the attempt to prevent workers from defending their pay and conditions.

8 Because the euro is causing economic chaos in its member countries. The euro was intended to be the chain to bind us as prisoners of finance capital in perpetuity. The euro is falling apart, and the bureaucrats are out of control. The EU ensures banks pocket their huge profits while workers bail out the losses incurred by their disastrous speculation.

9 Because inside the EU we cannot control our own borders. The EU promotes the movement of vast numbers of people in search of dwindling work. Immigration and emigration deplete some countries of skills while undermining pay in others. Capitalism intends us to be rootless and powerless as we move from country to country.

10 Because Britain must focus on its own problems. We can make what we need, grow what we want to, control our territorial waters, trade with the world, be a sovereign nation. They say global capitalism can’t be resisted. Not true – look at developments in Latin America. Like Cuba we must assert workers’ nationalism as the true basis for internationalism. We only have to decide to do it.



10 REASONS TO OPPOSE THE BREAKUP OF BRITAIN

1 Because capitalism wants to break up the British working class. The industrial revolution created one working class in Wales, Scotland and England, whether we worked in a mill in Yorkshire, a mine in Wales or a shipyard in Scotland. We have been united for 300 years. The ruling class has abandoned Britain. The only people who care about Britain are the working class.

2 Because our unity is essential for the war against capitalism. One class, one voice. The demand of construction workers for British jobs for British workers should be echoed throughout Scotland, Wales and England.

3 Because separatists have no idea about how the currency of a breakaway Scotland would work. The EU insists that new member states must join the euro – look at Greece to see what that can mean for smaller economies. A sterling currency union would bring huge difficulties and would probably be refused. Disentangling the financial and economic institutions of a 300-year old Union would bring meltdown.

4 Because a separate Scotland would face bankruptcy. Salmond claims grandly that Scotland would keep the oil money but offload its debts. His financial nous is typified by his advice as a former RBS economist, when he wrote to Fred Goodwin urging him on to the disastrous deal that caused the bank to fail. Scotland cannot survive alone economically. Increasingly economists and companies such as BP are speaking out to voice huge worries.

5 Because separatists would surrender Scotland's identity. The EU breaks up nation states, splitting the working class for ease of exploitation. Scotland would not be independent – it would be run by Brussels and Washington.

6 Because there can be no real plan for a separate Scotland. The so-called White Paper “Scotland's Future” is in fact a vague SNP wishlist and series of wild assertions with no basis in practical reality, and no possibility of ideas about how such a future could look.

7 Because the referendum gives a say about a potentially catastrophic breakaway of part of Britain only to those living in Scotland. The impact on England and Wales would be huge – there has been no debate about this. So we should all have a vote, and while we're at it let's also vote on whether to abolish Holyrood.

8 Because we know from past experience that the break-up of nations is dangerous and can lead to unpredictable consequences. Break-up can lead to the increasing assertion of narrow interests over common interests, and the loss of a sense of a collective future.

9 Because though the SNP argues “We Scots didn't vote for the Coalition”, the truth is that this government was not elected at all. It was imposed on all of us. Only all of us, united, can fight for a decent future. To imagine that somehow Scotland alone can opt out of rule by finance capital is a fantasy.

10 Because we are one nation with common interests. Workers have forged the nation of Britain, its culture. All of it is our common legacy. Our common interests remain the same and are far more important than any regional differences.

