



## **Malign Influences: the EU and NATO**

Among the native population of the US and Canada, rates of suicide are so high, especially among the young, the community experiences what Ron Hutchcraft called 'serial grieving'. In Australia 95% of Aboriginals are directly affected by suicide; aborigines, among whom suicide was at one time so rare there is no word for it in their language, are six times more likely than White Australians to commit suicide; 80% of youth suicides are aboriginal

According to Jack Hicks the 'suicide transition' in these countries mirrors – roughly one generation later – the processes of 'active colonialism at the community level'. In Alaska in the sixties, Greenland in the seventies, and Canada in the eighties, like the mining and steel communities here, the traditional fishing based industries on which the economy was built were undermined

Native peoples whose cultures developed over centuries have become strangers in their own land, not accounted for by their fellow citizens as part of a collective space; what has been taken from them is the core component of human relations, home and a sense of belonging

Inuit are not the victims of environmental change, acts of nature or people moving; we have always had those, but of an ideology grown from the tree of industrial capitalism; exceptionalism

Assuming their responsibility to expand and to intervene in the lives of the unexceptional, exceptionalism is the everyday thinking framework of European based elites; subverting the principle of peaceful co existence, it is the single greatest obstacle in the world today to justice in the distribution of resources and life chances

The reality for those whose self determination is subverted ... loss of influence over the terms on which they live ... has been idealised historically in Eurocentric states as internationalism; a necessary progression for humanity, the bringing of technology, Christianity, western values, freedoms to people whose existence and culture is, in the very terminology of nation building, denied

Today, dressed to suit our modern sensibilities, what Ramsay MacDonald called this 'worthy' ambition, is portrayed as openness, an interest in the lives of others, its ideal, the gift to humanity of a diverse and tolerant society; in this brave new world it doesn't matter what we are, for the wealthy it matters only what they want to be; the modern world is moulded for elite people to live their dreams

It was never intended that the fine ideals of the UN Charter would be applied to their creators; the goals of western elitism are fully realized today in a world governed as a unipolar order but guaranteed by the military power of NATO

The Warsaw Pact was formed in May 1955, after NATO, signaling its true objectives, admitted into membership West Germany instead of the USSR; given its true directive, the end of the Warsaw Pact in 1991 produced no shift in NATO's thinking or policy

The 'maintaining peace in Europe' role with which NATO announced its creation in 1949 was repeated almost verbatim two years later in the Treaty of Paris which became the European Union

Since 1991, without the USSR, NATO powers have intensified their nation building; in Bosnia and Kosovo NATO funded armed insurrections breaking up the only genuinely non aligned sovereign state in Europe, Yugoslavia

Iraq, a nation bombed, disarmed, starved and vilified for a decade was finished off by a full scale invasion by NATO states and their 'allies'; the invasion of Afghanistan was followed by the destabilization of Libya and Syria through the familiar combination of mass bombing and the funding and arming of insurgencies

In the Ukraine another democratically elected leader was overthrown in a western orchestrated coup sparking a civil war in the east of the country

Currently NATO powers are waging proxy wars in Yemen and the Sudan and through political, economic or military pressure laying the groundwork for the subjugation of Cuba, North Korea, Venezuela and Iran

The victims are alike in one respect only; through maintaining some level of national control of their economies, they act outside the parameters of the post war order constructed by 'great' powers

In its objective to create a single market for goods, services and labour, a customs union and common policies on agriculture, transport and social welfare, the Treaty of Rome mirrors economically the military goals of NATO

Described in its constitution as an 'essential partner ... sharing common values' twenty two nations combine their membership of the EU with membership of NATO; the six non NATO members are included in all NATO-EU consultations and understandings including the 2002 European Security and Defence Policy which gives EU nations 'assured access' to NATO for military operations

On 8 July 2016 NATO and the EU agreed 'operational cooperation' on all core elements of foreign policy; migration, cyber security and defence; Comrades, the independence of Europe is as fake as the independence of the UK's nuclear deterrent.

Inseparable as twin pillars of an unaccountable world order, neither NATO or the EU can be redirected; as envisaged in the Maastricht treaty, the NATO powers of western Europe are the 'defence' component of the EU

In 2018, 95% of deaths in wars across the world, more than 100,000, have occurred in just four conflict zones, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Yemen ... NATO's priority theatres

The leader of the NATO/EU/Western Alliance, the US, occupies just under 800 military bases in more than seventy countries across the world, used entirely to carry out attacks upon the territory of other sovereign states; in comparison the UK, France and Russia boast in total thirty bases

No nation or empire in history, regardless of its ideology, has ever exhibited a fraction of this level of ambition or inflicted upon weaker nations a comparable brand of global destruction; certainly not China or Russia, far from it, both are becoming encircled by the US military

Brexit wrote William Keegan in last week's Observer, is like being in the Premier League and wanting to be relegated; for elite people open borders is not about fellowship but status, the right of leadership in international affairs

The illusion that European institutions, emersed in the poisonous idea of entitlement, can be a force for good is destroying the ability of left leaning people to reach beyond this monolithic system to find a different dream

When the principle governing our lives is the service of the market all ideas are overwhelmed by the financial interests that market creates; economic and military policy is fused in the service of those interests, with no capacity to serve the needs of the people.

Limited in what we as socialists can achieve, rarely do opportunities arise for the power of that market to be disrupted; Comrades, the withdrawal of the UK from the European Union is such an opportunity

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Speech to 'Leave Now' Conference

Priory Rooms, Birmingham

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