

LIBERATION SCOTLAND

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF COLONIAL MARKERS

Taken by Fraud, Held Down by Force and Kept Down by Fear

“The most potent weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed.”

— Steve Biko

For several centuries from the Middle Ages to the modern era, England’s elites sought to conquer neighbouring Scotland and English foreign policy toward Scotland was always aimed at ultimate conquest, ownership and control, through numerous wars and subterfuge.

The 1707 Anglo-Scottish ‘Union’, implemented before democracy was introduced, was wholly rejected by the mass of the Scottish people at the time, and only signed by Scotland’s elite representatives under duress and bribery after further threat of military force by England.

But this Union was no more than annexation, Scots being merely another colonized people handed a worthless treaty that was immediately and ever since, violated. As a consequence, Scotland and its people have been, and remain today, subject to an extensive range of colonial procedures severely damaging to the development of its people and the nation itself.

This includes mass population displacement, ethnic oppression and discrimination against the indigenous native people and culture which was in large part revenge for the 18th century wars of independence to end the union and English rule. Colonialism always involves hateful racism and also leads to internalized racism impacting the minds of the colonized group. And we know that through this process, ethnic oppression becomes normalized in the colonial setting due to pathological impacts and a colonial mindset that determines the passivity and acceptance of the colonized group.

Demographic and economic under-development of Scotland has been a continuous theme relative to the ‘core’ nation England within the UK internal colonialism model. Colonialism resulted in a constant ‘planned’ loss of population in Scotland over three centuries, whilst Westminster policies emphasized both economic expansion and population growth just across the border in England. At the time of Union, England’s population was five times that of Scotland; today it is ten times.

Cultural substitution of Scotland into a ‘North Britain’ region was attempted but has stalled. However, colonial cultural assimilation created a cultural hegemony favouring the dominant Anglophone culture and values emphasising private

ownership, private profit and the individual, in contrast to Scots' traditional cultural norms of protecting society and the common good.

The administering Power uses 'divide and rule' policies to split the Scottish people, with Gael-Scots and Catholics set against Pict/Lowland-Scots and Protestants, and vice versa. This is continued today with the administering Power passing the Gaelic Language Act in 2005, but with no equivalent Scots Language Act nor resources for the benefit of the bulk of the people who still speak Scots, their mother tongue.

State and institutional restrictions prevent many Scots from accessing their own elite universities now operating as international businesses which prioritise Anglophone and higher fee students from outside Scotland. Scots fill only a minority of places at postgraduate level and especially in doctoral study. This in turn means there are very few Scottish academics and professors working in Scotland's universities, only around 1 in 10, and reducing. Today the Scots are a people deprived of opportunity in their own land, resulting in significant under-development of the native population and culture.

Racism is therefore evident in this as in any colonial framework and this includes constant attempts by the colonizer to debase the colonized group. Although often obscured, racism becomes institutionalized in any colonial society. As was common with Ireland and the Irish until recently, the Scot is the victim of endless English jokes and ridicule even at the highest levels of government, media and society, including within Scotland itself.

Historical instances of oppression and genocidal acts are downplayed or denied in any authoritative colonial narrative usually written by colonialists. The promotion of Scots language and culture is ridiculed rather than prioritized. A colonised society therefore remains burdened and oppressed through social and linguistic prejudice and segregation favouring the dominant imposed Anglo (i.e. colonial) culture and its own values and symbols, and where Scottish history, culture and heritage are diminished, forgotten, and replaced through Anglo domination.

All the while, external economic plunder of Scotland continues, which is the main purpose of colonialism. This is now accelerating once more with the colonizing power moving to grasp the impending vast Scottish renewable energy bonanza; just as it did in the 1970s when Scotland's oil and gas began to flow, pushing hundreds of billions of Scotland's pounds into London's Treasury over the last half century and more, with not a penny in royalties paid to the real owner, the Scottish people (in stark contrast to Norway's Sovereign Wealth Fund, established for the benefit of its citizens, and today earning over £200 billion in interest annually).

After Scotland was annexed and colonised, the Scottish army was absorbed into England's colonial army, just like the Indian, Kenyan, Nigerian and Irish soldiers and others too, and used to suppress other peoples, as well as their own. These soldiers were considered 'no great loss if they fell' as they were deployed in the deadly work expanding England's Empire. The deployment of colonial armies including Scottish

soldiers to fight England's numerous foreign wars (over 180 conflicts) also had the dual purpose of removing the prospect of civil unrest within impoverished colonies from where recruits were sourced. Unlike Scotland, Ireland has avoided some 80 of England's colonial conflicts since its independence a century ago. The Scots have likewise had enough of England's imperial warring.

Whenever colonialism is imperilled, 'it reveals its fangs' (Fanon), confirming that 'colonialism is force'. Reflections from the administering Power's own Senior Civil Servants (UK Cabinet Constitution Director) confirm that the UK Government's relationship with Scotland is colonial; that is, it is based on force, not consent; that the UK seeks only to deny Scots their inalienable right to Self-Determination, and; that the UK 'voluntary union' is and always has been a pretence, i.e. a cruel hoax.

Daniel Defoe, one of England's early 18th Century spies propagandising in favour of the Union, stated in an essay addressed to English parliamentarians and merchants that "the advantages of this Union shall be greater to England than to Scotland". During the 1920s, government papers confirmed that the UK Treasury kept almost three-quarters of revenues raised in Scotland, the latter having to make do with just 28% of its own money. The same remains true today where Scots are forced to make do with an annual block grant of £43 billion from Westminster whilst consideration of Scotland's artificially low GDP-per-capita (compared with its near neighbour independent countries, e.g. Denmark, Norway, Ireland) indicates that a colonial price is still being remitted in the opposite direction in the order of £150 billion (or more) each year.

Scotland's international export trade today remains vastly under-developed compared to our near neighbours, due to a lack of investment in and control over the nation's major seaports, which the administering Power has sold to foreign-owned offshore corporations; the latter impose high charges on ships and cargo which discourages trade. Scotland's major exporting heavy industries have been shut down and its commercial businesses allowed to be acquired, rationalised or closed by external interests, leaving its economy externally-dependent, weak and vulnerable.

Meantime Scotland's 'domestic' UK trade is fully exploited by the administering Power, particularly the energy sector (oil and gas, renewables) which it dominates, with zero royalties remitted back to Scotland for extraction of its resources. Similarly, the bulk of Scotland's imports are transported via one single source – England – with goods and services arriving at high/monopoly prices, including Scotland's home-produced energy for consumption by Scottish households and businesses at the highest retail prices in the world.

Approximately two-thirds of Scotland's entire trade is dominated by England in this way which means Scotland derives little benefit and great disadvantage from a one-sided colonial trading arrangement. Like many former English colonies (e.g. Ireland, Australian, Canada), after independence Scotland will need to reorient its trade away from an exploitative 'mother country' towards other nations; this necessitates rapid

decolonization and an end to Scotland's industries, economy and people being forced to serve primarily its dominant oppressors' economic needs under duress.

Scotland's pre-Union history was as a friendly trading nation in Europe, which is in stark contrast to an aggressive anti-European England, the latter almost continually at war with European states, as it was with Scotland, for most of its history. Scotland's Latin and Presbyterian, Legal and Educational culture and traditions which emphasise protection and improvement of society and the common good, also align more closely with that of European states, and far less with the Anglo-Saxon culture of England which prioritises private ownership, private profit, and the utility of the individual.

Scotland's culture, traditions and heritage are therefore distinctly far more European /Latin than Anglo-Saxon, as reflected in a substantial majority vote by Scots in 2016 to remain in the European Union, a democratic decision disrespected and blocked by the administering Power; hence Scots find their position within the UK Union charade to be no more than subject to an aggressive form of Cultural Imperialism and oppression, leaving the people bystanders in their own land.

Still a Non-Self-Governing Territory in its full meaning, the Scots people and nation remain subject to the constant imposition of a range of colonial procedures and propaganda, often obscured by the pretence and hoax of Union. The repeated blocking of Scottish self-determination by the administering Power is a blatant denial of the human rights of the Scottish people and a violation of the 1960 UN 'Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples' and subsequent Resolutions.

Scotland also exhibits many of the poor health characteristics of a colonised people separated from their own resources and dislocated from their culture and with half the population living in or close to poverty levels. This includes lower life expectancy, high addiction levels, a range of illnesses, suicides, mental disorder, homicides and a high prison population (the highest in Western Europe).

Scotland is administered by an elite running its institutions which is for the most part culturally assimilated, Anglophone and holding to English values. This arrangement is fostered through a segregated, colonial (i.e. private) school education system and restricted access (in favour of elites) to elite universities for the more privileged group. Combined with colonial elites appointed from the 'mother country', together they make up the institutional elite and cultural hegemony that controls and directs Scotland's national institutions, and which reflects a different culture and values from the indigenous Scots-speaking people.

The steady and increasing desire for independence in Scotland is also to do with 'a peoples' growing awareness of their oppression, as well as their national culture / consciousness amidst ongoing questioning of an imposed dominant culture and identity; and therein lies the 'colonial hoax' and cultural illusion that is 'Britishness', which a great many former colonies have since discarded. This cultural illusion

applies in the same way to Scots as it does to so many other colonized peoples and nations around the world who were sold the rather novel idea that they could all be 'British' (or rather English), and hence acquire a far 'superior' and more valued cultural and national identity than that of their own, by implication, 'inferior' ethnic group.

Yet still Scotland's administering Power, in an effort to keep its colonial racket going, and following a dubious and one-sided referendum process in 2014, insists that: despite Ireland's partial liberation, no constituent part is allowed to leave the UK; that the UK government insists that it can block any and every lawful path to Scottish independence if it wishes to; that insofar as Scotland has a right to national self-determination, it is for Westminster, not Scotland, to decide when – and if – that right is to be exercised; and that Westminster has made a choice to disallow the exercise of that right to national self-determination for an indefinite period, in spite of repeated explicit majority votes of Scots in favour of it.

And so, it is here that Scotland and the rest of the world are entitled to draw – must draw – from these messages the conclusion that the UK is not and never has been a voluntary union of different nations. That the resistance of Westminster means the Union is neither voluntary nor one of consent. That because self-determination of Scots is being denied, the United Kingdom is holding the Scots by force of UK law. And hence, by implication, the Scots are, in truth, a colonized people who retain their inalienable right to self-determination, to be an independent nation (again), to decolonize, and to be liberated from oppression and exploitation as a matter of urgency.