

Opposing Article 50 now is about upholding the will of ...

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I admit that even I can get bored by Article 50. Or rather by those who say it cannot be opposed because the 'people have spoken'.

For the record, I know we had a referendum. I know that as a result people voted to leave the EU. And I think that is, as a result, what politicians must plan to do.

But let's be clear about what people did not vote for.

No one voted for Theresa May's exit plan. She did not have one last June. No one was sure she ever would.

No one voted for Theresa May's exit plan now. Despite a White Paper she still has not got one. No one is sure she ever will.

No one voted to leave without knowing the consequences, which must be why the vote was advisory. We still do not know what those consequences are. As such it is reckless to leave, as yet.

No one voted to leave the single market. That was not on the ballot paper.

No one voted to leave the EEA. Again, that was not on the ballot paper.

No one voted then to leave, come what may (or May). Rather they said to our politicians was 'we want to leave, but leave the detail to you'. That has to be true: the detail was not on the ballot paper.

So I accept that we will leave the EU.

But it would be complete and reckless folly to leave without knowing the likely outcome. And as we don't, and as the government will not say, the only possible response to a proposal to trigger Article 50 now is to say no.

That does not mean the response to proposing Article 50 will always be no. It can't be,

whether I like it or not.

But it's entirely wrong to presume that because Article 50 must at some point be triggered opposing the way that it is proposed now defies the will of the people. Actually, opposing now is about ensuring that the will of the people is enacted properly and without harm arising as a result. Nothing could be defined as a more appropriate fulfilment of the democratic duty of an MP than that.

And it's a travesty that so many MPs cannot see that.

I mourn the political wisdom we no longer have.

I mourn for the lack of courageous politicians.

I mourn for democracy itself.

I accept 'the will of the people'. But I refuse to believe they wanted their will executed badly. But that is what they will get because we have, on the whole, a feeble political class.

No wonder we are in trouble as a nation.