Funding the Future

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My most recent video focussing on this election campaign, is out this morning. In it, I ask why it is that the English-based parties are ignoring the issue of independence for three of the four countries that make up the UK during this election campaign as if that is a matter of inconsequence when, in truth, the whole nature of this supposed country is open to question? Could they be cooperating in a conspiracy of silence?

https://youtu.be/qMmuuCfT6uY?si=8ZKhOkp0G12L63Lu

The audio version is:

https://www.podbean.com/player-v2/?i=dsk58-1636971-pb&from=pb6admin&share=1&download=1&rtl=0&fonts=Arial&skin=60a0c8&font-color=&logo_link=episode_page&btn-skin=3267a3

The transcript is:

In this election, the big issue that's being ignored in England is independence for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

It's as if people in England think that somehow or other these are just regions of their country. Which is England.

They're not.

They're separate countries.

This is a United kingdom.

Now that ‘kingdom’ does actually refer to the uniting of the Scottish and English

thrones. But let's be quite clear about it. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. are not the same as England. Each of them has, in their own varying ways, massive cultural traditions.

Scotland and Northern Ireland have very distinctly different legal systems to the rest of the UK.

They produce their own banknotes.

They have separate and independent education systems, as does Wales.

So this idea that there is somehow a regional or devolution policy that will be acceptable to these countries to pacify the people of England who would like to keep control of them - it's quite absurd, because that is not true.

Now, I fully accept that Northern Ireland has not as yet expressed the will to leave the United Kingdom.

In Wales, only around 30 per cent of people seem to support independence, but in Scotland, despite the problems that the SNP has had - and they undoubtedly have had their fair share over the last year or so - support for independence has remained strong at around 50 per cent of the population. Evidence is that when there was last a vote for independence, that support increased significantly during the campaign.

So, there is a very strong part of opinion in all these places that London is not the place from which they wish to be ruled.

And yet if you ask people in England, what do they think about this it's always, "Well, they're part of the country. Give them devolution, make them regional authorities, a bit like make Yorkshire independent."

Let me just use that example because Yorkshire does have a population which is, well, actually bigger than that of Wales, if I remember correctly, and most certainly a lot bigger than that of Northern Ireland, and not that different from the population of Scotland.

Yorkshire is, however, not a country. It's a county. It's fundamentally different. And I know that the people of Yorkshire think it's God's chosen county, but it isn't. Nowhere on earth is God's chosen, and nor has Yorkshire got any strong legal, educational, economic, or other association based on history that gives it an identity that recognizes that it is a country, unlike Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.

So, there is no comparison between regional policy and the policy that is required for these places.

We need a grown-up debate in England on this issue, because people in England need

to understand that their right to, in my opinion, colonise Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, has to come to an end.

The history of empire is over. These places might have been willing participants in empire in their day, but they are no longer. So why is it that we keep this concept, when in practice there are four countries that make up the United Kingdom, and three of them are not convinced of their future within it?

England, take note. It's time to face a future on your own. And what's wrong with that?