

“Common Sense: Are Independence Moderates stumbling blocks to Scottish Independence?”

Dr. Martin Luther King. Birmingham, Alabama: April 1963

"I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in the stride toward freedom is not the White Citizens Councillor or the Ku Klux Klanner, *but the white moderate who is more devoted to order than to justice; who prefers a negative peace, which is the absence of tension, to a positive peace, which is the presence of justice.*"

Nicola Sturgeon, SNP leader and First Minister of Scotland's devolved parliament: May 2015

"I said that repeatedly, I said it consistently and I said it expressly to the people of Scotland that if they voted SNP, and half of the Scottish population did, *I would not take that as an endorsement of independence. I stick to that position[...]* As First Minister, as leader of the SNP, *I've got a responsibility to try to unite Scotland and I'm determined to do that.*"

Rather than acknowledging publicly that Scotland continues to be badly governed as a nation state within the Union under the 1998 Scotland Act reserved powers list, 'Independence Moderates' seem content to languish, bound to the Westminster system. They seem incapable of discerning the simple truth that *any* form of devolution is a colonial charade established with the express intent of delaying a simple declaration of Scottish sovereignty.

For this reason the SNP leadership and other Independence Moderates are their own worst enemy.

SNP supporters are losing faith the SNP has the backbone to prepare Scots for *freedom*. They are seen more frequently as just another Westminster party content to take whatever scraps get thrown their way from the political high-table in London.

The SNP leadership seems content to avoid tension and instead maintain Westminster's de facto colonial order than to establish justice for the Scottish people.

They seem set on a policy of appeasement and of maintaining the status quo with Westminster in some forlorn and delusional hope more Unionists will have a change of heart and one day support independence.

Selling promises of a *united Scotland* through future referenda ignores the truth that *we are a colony* and the Scottish parliament is its colonial administration.

Continued cooperation with Westminster from a position of perpetual weakness (56 MPs) does nothing more than rationalize the validity of the reserved powers list and Scotland's colonial status.

“Playing nice” with Westminster *will* lead most assuredly to future referenda, but the Unionists will always vote “no”, the 'Independence Moderate' will always insist votes are the only path to freedom and Westminster will rig the results. One trillion dollars of West coast oil assures this.

The Scots need to declare sovereignty, not *vote* for it. There will never be 100% support for independence and the SNP as a whole needs to embrace this basic tenet. Act don't talk. The United States famously and correctly asserted its sovereignty by invoking the political philosophy of John Locke.

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Locke's thesis simply states that *governments are legitimate only insofar as they fulfil the purpose for which they were established by the governed.*

If a government fails to perform the functions for which it was created – even voted on, it ceases to be legitimate and the people have a right to secede and set up a separate government.

Locke said: “When governments fail to protect people's rights, or even worse, when governments misuse their authority to trample people's rights, then the people have a right, even a duty, to abolish their government and setup a new one.”

The Scots *are* a unique people and *have* been governed badly since they entered the UK as a sovereign nation in 1707. The advent of the devolved (colonial) parliament in 1998 has done little to improve the situation.

Therefore, from both a Nationalist and Lockean perspective it is *only common sense* for the Scots to be a sovereign nation once more.

Independence Moderates are too timid in their response to Westminster's abuse of power.

The list of grievances is long and is, in public at least, ignored by the moderates as they pay lip service rather than howling outrage to the increasing barbarity of abuses.

Continued asset stripping- the ongoing theft of Scotland's natural resources. Sell off of our banks. Green energy under attack even though it is not a 'reserved power'. Taxation with diminished and increasingly irrelevant representation as the Barnett formula bleeds Scotland dry and Westminster shuts our representatives out or renders them impotent because of 'reserved powers'. The theft of ocean/sea boundaries. Situating of Trident Nuclear weapons in Scotland's waters against the wishes of its people.

Condemning disabled Scots to effective house arrest by cutting benefits. Starving the poor. The list goes on.

And what happens? Nothing.

Temerity and acquiescence to Westminster's purview that Independence referenda represent the only legitimate path to freedom, is, quite frankly a lie, and will lead to decades more colonial rule.

The Independence Moderates are either too scared to start *confronting* Westminster or so naive they have not realized they have been set-up. Perhaps some are too comfortable in Westminster's cloistered green to realize 570 plus Unionists do not give a tinkers damn about the Scots.

There never will be a conversion of Unionists into Scottish Independence supporters. There can be no 'unity'.

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What we will see is the rate of destruction of Scottish infrastructure and quality of life for all accelerate, while the moderates wring their hands and pray for deliverance via a vote.

Independence Moderates could learn a lot from the struggles of other peoples given they witnessed the same attacks on Independence supporters at the referendum and the General Election. They saw the same evidence of ballot rigging. They endured the same onslaught of anti-Scottish racism.

Dr Martin Luther King endured and rose above the hate and hopelessness. Those moderates who love Scotland should do the same and take heart. He said:

"We will match your capacity to inflict suffering with our capacity to endure suffering. We will meet your physical force with soul force. ***We will not hate you, but we cannot in all good conscience obey your unjust laws.*** . . . We will soon wear you down by our capacity to suffer. And in winning our freedom we will so appeal to your heart and conscience that we will win you in the process."

So, people who support Independence for Scotland gird up your loins and take a more public and vocal stance. Do not let moderates within any political party or on the street tell you you have to wait for freedom, that you have vote for freedom, that you have to beg for freedom.

Instead realize the power lies with and within you to *demand* freedom and declare sovereignty. History, inevitability and even the U.N. charter Article 1 are on your side.

Independence moderates are stumbling around, looking for a direction to freedom because their minds, like their shoe laces, have been tied in knots by Westminster.

They do not perceive that Devolution with reserved powers, with or without Full Fiscal Autonomy (FFA) is tantamount to colonial administration. Instead, they ask for another chance to vote for freedom.

They insist greater Scottish unity through a clear, morally sound voice 56 strong in Westminster will help that goal. They are wrong.

A sea of unafraid Scottish citizens and civil and legislative disobedience will crack the colonial shackles. Anything else is subservience and will be rewarded by Westminster with the smiling contempt it deserves.

Nicola Sturgeon said "I cannot force a referendum on the people against their will"

David Cameron said he would not sanction a second referendum on Scottish independence, insisting that the issue had been "settled for a lifetime".

It's up to the Scottish people. Get out in the streets and rally. Demonstrate. Look towards the Catalan spirit. Demand freedom. Or, stay a colony.

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Poetic reprise.

Culloden?

Or the midden of postal votes,

A people undone.