

## **Mass Non-violent Action, Civil disobedience and Holyrood stonewalling Westminster: All Needed to drive the Scottish Independence movement to its goal**

Without *mass*, frequent, highly publicised non-violent actions the SNP led Scottish spring of freedom will fall back into winter's grip.

September 2014 saw Scottish independence loyalists hopes dashed for an end to 307 years as a minority people within the UK.

Westminster, seeing an opportunity to silence those demanding freedom did as it always does. It legislated. Not for freedom but instead a *vow*, supposedly designed to offer further autonomy for Scotland's parliament and to 'better the lot of the Scottish people'.

During this legislative interval the Scottish people supporting independence were portrayed by nearly every *British* media outlet as stupid, incapable of being a free people, and as being Nazis for daring to ask for freedom.

Understanding more paper laws and fine words from Westminster meant little to nothing, Scots passions for freedom roared from a flame to an inferno, and in May 2015 56 SNP Westminster MPs were elected in Scotland effectively wiping out the Unionist (pro-Westminster) parties in Scotland.

We Scots stand now looking at what this sea change in cultural, historical and political identity means and how to leverage it to attain our independence.

Just under 50 years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. must have been mulling over similar thoughts.

The Voting Rights act had just been passed. The Black Americans minority, who had endured racism, physical and mental assault, who had contributed to the economy and died for their country, were, on paper at least, finally able to assert their right to vote and partake in the democratic process.

Did Dr. King conclude the battle was over? Did this right to vote mean mass peaceful demonstrations and acts of civil disobedience should be curtailed?

He did not.

He said “[Negroes] have benefited from a limited change that was *emotionally satisfying but materially deficient*. As they move forward for fundamental alteration of their lives, *a more bitter opposition grows* even within groups that were hospitable to earlier superficial amelioration. Conflicts are unavoidable because a stage has been reached in which the reality of equality will require extensive adjustments in the way of life of some of the white majority”

The “White majority” in Scotland's case is the overwhelming number of pro-UK unionists who control Westminster.

The Scots are sending a clear message to Westminster and the world by electing 56 SNP MPs (out of a possible 59 seats) that we are different. Our values are different. We are a nation, we have always been a nation. Whilst this is “emotionally satisfying” to pro-Independence supporters that warm glow has vanished.

In June of 2015 the vow was shattered, a lie pushed in our faces. Our Parliament was not made permanent, reluctant scraps of taxation reform were voted down and we were again called Nazis for daring to ask for freedom.

Once again the parallels with Dr. King's thinking are stark:

“The danger of this period is not that Negroes will lose their gains. History will not repeat itself in a *simple cycle*. It can, however, fail to move forward and can become stalled on a higher plateau without prospect of reaching the summit.”

Our “summit” is the re-establishment of the free Scottish nation, untethered to Westminster's whims and veto. Progress to that goal is in danger of stalling. The “simple cycle” is Westminster flogging the same old 'better together horse' and selling it as 'Devolution', then 'Devo-max', then 'Devolution with Full Fiscal Autonomy'.

It will never end and we Scots will become stalled in the quagmire of pretty words and meaningless paper from Westminster.

The stronger voice for Scotland was voted in by the majority of the Scots, the 56 SNP MPs are doing what they can, but it is clear Westminster is effectively silencing them. The 56 SNP MPs are being drowned in the howl of the tornado of policies as alien to Scots now as they have *always been*.

How then is our “summit” to be reached? How is the stalling to be avoided?

Dr. King's analysis of seeing the summit but not being able to attain it resulted in one conclusion. “Mass non-violent action continues to be the effective tactic of the movement.”

Those people in Scotland who cherish freedom, who *know* they are different (not better) and who have the strength and momentum now should take direct non-violent actions to force issues they see as just.

Mass demonstrations, sit-ins, blockades, lobbying. All the time ensuring mass Internet coverage. Buildings and events established to maintain the colonial grip of Westminster over Scotland represent excellent places to tell the world the truth and send a continuous message to Westminster. We can see the summit and there is no stopping us now. Move aside or be swept away.

The Scottish SNP dominated parliament can reinforce this message. It can legislate laws the Scottish people support, ignoring the *reserved powers* restrictions the 1998 Scotland Act places to prevent us being free.

These Bills will not get “Royal” assent at this point in time.

But it *will send a message*.

We, the Scots are done waiting, done asking, done begging for freedom. This very act of legislative civil disobedience ups the ante.

As Dr. King clearly understood, legislation is a piece of paper signed by those who oppose your views to appease you. Should the Scots accept “Home Rule” or further “Devolution” instead of freedom they will lose the momentum and remain colonial.

Keeping the moral high ground in Westminster debates remains an irrelevance when your people are starving, racially attacked and marginalized.

Mass non violent action and civil disobedience by the people of Scotland *and* by it's elected leaders through legislation represent the only sure way to keep the summit clearly in view, with the flag of St. Andrew on it.