

## BUSINESS EYE

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# This crisis will remain with us

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**I** am writing this before the Brexit deal vote in Parliament on Tuesday.

By the time you read this our Constitutional Crisis will be in full flow.

Mrs May's deal will have been voted down by our MPs in favour of nothing else and the choice will be between accelerating into the brick wall of no deal or braking and swerving to avoid it until we are better prepared for the crash, or, indeed, deciding not to commit economic and political suicide after all.

We are in a crisis and this crisis, no matter the outcome of the vote or what happens on March 29th, is going to remain

with us for decades to come.

It is going to reshape the future of the geo-politics and will, in my opinion, weaken us greatly, a price that will sadly be paid by our children.

Not content with bequeathing future generations a debt mountain and housing and health crises, we are now doubling down on our selfishness by helping to destroy the western democratic dominance of world affairs that has kept us safe in our beds for over 50 years.

We are split between those who see the future as one about the survival of the Western world, who see more interdependence as necessary, and those who think of the world in terms of separated independent competing nation states and who want to maintain our separation from Johnny Foreigner.

This crisis is so much deeper than the various tin-pot political egos from Farage to Juncker. We are witnessing the outing of narcissistic obsession and the deliberate avoidance of compromise on

divisive issues across society as an inevitable outcome of a maturing democracy, just as Karl Marx predicted.

While our Parliament has been mired in gridlock with no clear path forward, across 'The Pond' in Washington, President Trump stormed out of his meeting with the US Congress, who are digging their feet in against his Mexican walk. Together, the two sides have been responsible for shutting down the US government for longer than has ever happened before.

So, the two most significant democracies in the world are both paralysed by populism and lack of willingness to compromise. We are trapped in a populist civil war between pro-globalists and the 'left-behind', who are continually being told they need to stick it to the 'elite'. Brexiteers have compared their cause to the American war for independence. Mr Trump backed Brexit, while Nigel Farage has used a migrant crisis as a reason to back Mr Trump's Mexican wall.

Trump is now threatening to declare a state of national emergency to get his way, and Parliament is now suggesting it might take over from the Government because there is a real possibility that we will experience a very painful hard Brexit. It's as though we have all gone back to stamping our feet and screaming as babies when we don't get an ice-cream. It is not possible for democracy to function if everyone insists on being right.

This all has far-reaching consequences for the Western world as a whole.

Our way of life is in deep trouble, under attack and fragmenting from the inside.

With both the UK and US also turning their backs on multilateral trade agreements, China now has the chance to step in and play an even bigger role in the global economy.

Mr Putin clearly sees an opening to expand Russia's influence in Europe and beyond.

This is going to end badly and we only have ourselves to blame.