

BUSINESS EYE

Constitutional crisis

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This week's nonsense comes to you from my home where I have been ruminating on the news while clearing out my garage.

The garage now looks like I've been burgled by a rampant horse, but at least my thoughts have been tidied up a little.

The furore around Boris Johnson's private life seems to offer us another example illustrating the extent to which our democratic way of life is under existential threat from the inside. We don't need the Russians to bring us down, we

are doing a great job of that ourselves.

We now live in a world where the leader of the free world juxtaposes on Twitter between being 'cocked and loaded' to 'obliterate' Iran and 'Let's make Iran great again!' in a matter of days.

We are told that last Thursday we were 10 minutes away from a hot war. This pantomime is as ridiculous as Jeremy Corbyn taking to the streets and campaigning to make the Tories great again.

Oh no it isn't! Oh yes it damn well is!

It's not my personal view that Boris Johnson and Donald Trump necessarily share identical politics, but they do appear to share a number of similarities which bear scrutiny in so far as what they tell us about how we are destroying all that we used to hold dear, like tolerance, mature debate, kindness and a welcoming attitude.

We have been reminded this week that both men have a temper. They both bear a grudge as

Michael Gove and Sadiq Khan found out.

They both have a particular way with women which, shall we say, isn't always popular given the apparent shared misogynistic foundations. They both have relationship issues and find those previously close become enemies once outside 'the circle'.

They are both known for their hair and their gaffes. They both shoot from the hip. They are both, at best, economical with the truth and seemingly lie as a routine way of getting what they want.

They both clearly want what is good for them more so than what is good for us. They both trade on their egos above any capabilities. They are both more entertainers than politicians.

The latest story from Boris is that we will definitely leave the EU on October 31 with no deal if needs be, but that it is perfectly possible to renegotiate a better deal before then.

Both points are unlikely as

MP Rory Stewart made clear in the TV debates. With what looks like a Tory majority shrinking to just three seats, there is no majority in Parliament for no deal (thank God) and the EU has made it clear that they are not up for any more nonsense from us. In any case, there simply is no time for it.

We are negotiating from a weak position. No amount of pretending that you have a running flush in hearts will work when all your cards are laid clearly on the table.

Every parent knows there is no point bluffing your child unless you mean to follow through with it.

What people say, what they believe and what they do are rarely the same, so it's important to look at the latter and not be seduced by the chat.

If I say that I really miss you but then keep choosing better offers when I could be with you, the truth has to be that I don't really miss you as much as I would miss the alternatives.

Actions speak louder than

words and we need to face the truth and not continue to dream.

We are facing a constitutional crisis and we are trying to resolve it by putting a hair-waving, chest-thumping, egoist in the hot seat. It is, of course, not his fault that he is the favoured candidate; it's ours.

We want simple. We want black and white binary clarity. We are too immature as a mob to accept the truth of the complexity that the Labour Party, Mrs May and Rory Stewart have each tried to explain to us in their own ways.

In effect this means there is a reducing space made available to studying the evidence, reflecting maturely on the facts, and making good judgement calls.

Our democracy is, as a result, in an accelerating tailspin.

We live in a place where people get seriously irate defending the nonsensical position of "Of course I knew I was voting for stockpiles of emergency

drugs, the decimation of the motor industry and to be seriously poorer!"

What is more, they truly believe this nonsense... but I don't remember anyone campaigning for 'leave at any cost'.

The result is that everything we hold dear is under threat, from civility on the streets to the integrity of the UK.

The irony of proroguing Parliament as part of a process supposedly in support of returning power to Parliament could easily have been written as an episode of Blackadder.



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