

Non!

The French people have emphatically rejected the proposed European Constitution. In doing so, they have killed the great project of European political union.

Hurray for them!

The French voted *non* for all the wrong reasons. Nevertheless, this is a moment to be charitable towards them, as **New Sisyphus** has been in a very interesting commentary:

The French, so the story goes, reject what they see as an Anglo-Saxon liberal power-grab in the guise of a greater Europe, while, ironically, the Dutch and the British see in it a rise of a socialist super-state with very little accountability.

Perhaps. There is no doubt that there is some truth to that line of analysis.

[...]

And, yet, at the same time we detect something deeper, something more fundamental. A great nation has been asked to vote itself out of existence, to subsume its identity in a larger mix.

We know not what the ultimate destiny of the French shall be, but it shall not be this, of that we are certain. France is eternal, great and glorious; it shall not whimper and walk off the world stage mixed with Belgians.

Indeed. And along the same lines we note, more pragmatically, that the very fact that different European nations are rejecting the Constitution for diametrically opposite reasons is a strong indication that the Political Union project is not only dead, but will also prove impossible to resurrect in any other form.

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"Mixed with Belgians"

Very nice turn of phrase.

BTW, in addition to what you say in that post, I think it's notable

that although the French people's Non is being ascribed to their ideological disdain for free markets, the reason why that long-standing disdain has come to a head right now, is to do with the cumulative failure of Franco-German social and economic policy, which has led to chronic high unemployment in those countries (among other ills).

And was it not ever thus that when socialists enact policies that result in economic failure, for many decades before they see the light, they regard this as manifest proof of the inefficiency and inhumanity of free markets; leading to a redoubling of their faith in socialism?

So what has really scupper the Euro federalist project -- even though this is not yet as widely recognised as it was in the case of the Soviet Union -- has been the real world refutation of it's ideology.

by KW on Mon, 05/30/2005 - 15:26 | [reply](#)

Fine Print

The EU Constitution consists of over 400 pages of fine print. Could it be that "the people" smell a rat? While the power of the majority crowd may be sometimes suspect, on matters of plain old common sense "the people" have spoken for their many reasons in their many tongues.

by a reader on Thu, 06/02/2005 - 14:14 | [reply](#)