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## Guest Commentary

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# The Scottish Referendum

by Alan Clayton

STRACHUR ARGYLL, SCOTLAND, Sept. 22—The referendum on Scottish independence began over two years ago. The Scottish National Party (SNP) gained overall control of the Scottish parliament in 2011 and used its majority to legislate for a referendum. The Scottish parliament itself was only established in 1998 after quite remorseless pressure from the Scottish people. Until then, Scotland had been ruled directly from London since the enforced Union of 1707, a Union achieved by massive economic and military threat, as England was at war with France and needed to secure its northern border.

This Union was conceived in war, and its history has been one of war ever since. The first, of course, was the war against the American colonists, and it is a sad fact of history that some Scots had been conscripted into the army of the British imperialist state and fought on the wrong side on that occasion.

On the theme of being on the wrong side, it is perhaps worth noting at this point that the current President of the United States took sides with the imperialist state against Scotland. In my view, in doing this, Barack Obama dishonored the Founding Fathers of the American nation. An American friend of mine is of the opinion that in doing this he committed an impeachable offense. It would be nice to think she was right.

In the 1970s, oil was discovered in Scottish waters in

the North Sea, and it was this that triggered off modern nationalism. It should be pointed out that Scottish nationalism is a civic nationalism which seeks only the freedom of Scotland. And such freedom is utterly essential. Around 4,000 young people leave our country every year to seek work outwith Scotland, mainly in England.

Norway discovered oil at around the same time, and is now one of the richest countries in the world. Scotland's oil wealth, for the first decade or so, was used to bankroll Margaret Thatcher's austerity policies. Today it is used to finance Britain's astronomical national debt. Meanwhile, there are over 40 food banks around the country where hungry people can get free food. "Buddy, can you spare a dime" may be a sad American historical song, but today in Great Britain, it is a painful reality.

### Disinformation, Dissimulation, Deceit

The referendum, as everyone will now know, was lost. There are already numerous stories of electoral fraud and the police have been asked to look into these. What was true was the sheer volume of disinformation, dissimulation, and deceit that emanated from Westminster to terrorize the Scottish people. Ronald Reagan once used the expression "Empire of Evil" to describe the Soviet Union. I have no problem whatsoever in applying it to the British Empire.

Queen Elizabeth quietly and subtly also took sides against the Scottish people.

The House of Windsor has never been all that popular in Scotland. Queen Elizabeth was crowned in the English succession as the Elizabeth the Second. There has never ever been a Scottish monarch called Elizabeth, and this calculated insult to Scotland has never been appreciated. Be assured, the days of the House of Windsor in Scotland are very limited indeed.

There were many joyful displays of Scottish freedom in Scotland's cities as the picture here illustrates. However, these were set upon by British fascists waving the Union Jack and giving Nazi salutes. These so epitomized Great Britain and all it stands for. Today, the Scottish freedom movement is licking its wounds and regrouping. Americans should be absolutely assured that the struggle against the imperialist monster will continue. What we do very much hope for, is that it will no longer be impeded by an American President who acts on the instructions of London and betrays the very principles his own nation was founded upon.

