

This is a transcript of a discussion being held on our page on Bebo by two young gentlemen. D is 13 and S is 17 and both have given permission to use it.

S

Theres a scottish prime minister controlling Britain

Theres a scottish government

It has its own currency

and yes independence would result in scotland having its own voice but who would listen? oil will soon be an empty resource so what power will it then have?

D

S you are ignorant of the "GREEN" potential Scotland has. Scotland could lead the world nations to a new age. Scotland could make billions if they established themselves in an eco - efficient industry. And the oil, at least wont run out for another forty years. Decade after decade they have postponed the length of time oil will run out. Scotland earns 52 billion a year on oil alone, but only see 31 billion of that. Cuthy, answer me this question, If Scotland was independent it will make more money off of oil plus the 10 thousand pound per man, woman and child that goes to west minster in taxes, will Scotland be finacillay better off? And why should we stick to a british government that dragged us in this debt?

The sooner scotland breaks free the better. Also the British government want to, yet again, squander money on supplying homes with broadband yet there is a serious financial problem and the government is in serious debt. And where are they going to raise the money from? Wait, they will, yet again, borrow money. if the British government go down financially they will surely drag Scotland, Wales and N. Ireland with them. Why stick to a failing "Labour" government that is putting us further in debt. The sooner Scotlands public realises this the better. In scotland the Labour party want to stop bringing political differences into the budget, as this is the first time a budget has ever been turned down. This is a personal attack to see Iain Gray as first Minister. Also the GREEN party voted against the budget because they want 100 million pounds to fund free insulation. Are they totally oblivious to the financial climate?

Why oh why do people try and attack Scotland finacially when they fine well know if we broke away we would be, financially, better off than most of the worlds nations. American accountants have surveyed this and cheked accurately that Scotland, can, potentially be one of the wealthiest countrys in the world. Of course the figures will go down because of the financial climate but if Scotland broke away from the union we will be earning billions more than we do today.

S I couldn't care less if there was a Scotsman controlling Britain because he has done nothing for Scotland. And Europe will answer to our call because the SNP want to join the E.U once independent. This is very clever as it will, financially, stabelize Scotland, then Scotland will become fully independent, like what Norway done. There is advantages and disadvantages but at least we will have 70% of its politital powers, however the E.U will have power over our finances, but this will stabilize Scotlands economy.

S

correct i was unaware of the great scottish potential to become an established eco - efficient industry. However because of my ignorance i am keen to know how would this generate billions? is this a realistic target to set a country? The financial climate is a good point and yes labour have simply not reacted quickly enough to it however this was a issue that very few predicted. There are worse backers to have right now than the bank of england surely? And how would a new scotland handle immigrants? accepting them and having to continue to spend money on housing them etc or rejecting them and become branded racists?

surely you should never put to much faith in any political party that has the word national in its title? history tends to show they never follow through on promises and go horribly wrong....

D

S i dont fully entrust my politics with the SNP. The immigrant situation is a tricky one, However put it this way. Labour, wait for it, built a grand total of..... 6 council homes. The SNP nearing 10,000 i beleive. If Scotland was independent, then we, would, be financially better off. Yes. This means we can expand the Scottish budget. With this money the snp, CAN, invest in more council homes. The definition of ignorance, the one I refer to you being, is not knowing. Yes. You watch the news? Then you will see that the SNP are planning to build a water testing facillity on the Isle of Lewis. This reasearch is looking at renewable energy, water. It also explained that Scotland has the technology to lead the world in eco - technology. Why shouldn't Scotland make a profit out of this? We can take science and engeneering to an ew level. Currently Scotland is researching technologies for the enviornment. I dont know if your aware of a project called go4SET

(go for science. engineering technology) which was a competition I took part in, encouriging young people to look at the prospect of green energy. Eco efficient energy is the future. If Scotland has the natural resources, why not take advantage?

If Scotland can make the technology required why not start a healthy, profitable industry. Green is the future. Like it or not. Please dont take the word "Ignorant " the wrong way. I hope I answered your question.

S

i respect that answer as you obviously know your stuff. however i feel that this is very much a long term goal. and as to your reference further below(or the group page's answer i cant remember which) yes the swiss are a wealthy country. yet they still lack any political power on the worlds stage do they not? troops in afghan will come home or not? do we just leave the people there to deal with that mess? there are many other factors that scotland will have to deal with....in the short term can they really deal with them all? in this i am ignorant

D

S in my previous comments I refered to you being ignorant in the case of the eco friendly technology. However does power mean everything to you? Like I said in a previous comment I refered to Scotland joining the E.U. I also said that Europe will answer our call. If you seriously want to stand up and say in front of

the world and say I'm from Scotland, and you want people to acknowledge that, then you in return must offer the nations of the world something. Every country in the world has potential. No matter how big or small

Rich or poor. In Scotland's case our offering to the world nations can be our oil.

Or possibly advance our researches in eco efficient technology. Our voice can be heard through industry. If something has power, people respect it.

If we have power in industry i.e. eco friendly technology, the world will respect us for that power.

The war in Iraq is an illegal war that shouldn't have happened. This all started when the deluded Tony Blair believed there were weapons of mass murder in Iraq. Wrong. Closely following the invasion of Iraq was the operation to crack down on terror in Afghanistan. Our reasoning behind this was to restore order in a broken nation. I see no point in the troops being in the less active provinces when they are needed in the notorious Helmand province. If the soldiers let the local authority in the liberated areas of Afghanistan, then maybe we can actually focus on our goal of getting rid of the Taliban. The sooner we can restore order in Afghanistan the sooner troops can come home. I would like to see an immediate pull out of troops in Iraq, however I will be happy to see the troops focus their attention on Helmand. I also think that the other nations in Afghanistan should stop farting about and actually do some work in the Helmand province.

The sooner the U.N troops pull their weight and get stuck in in Helmand, the easier it will be to break down the Taliban. I also feel Pakistan should do something on their border with Afghanistan to stop the Taliban crossing over to get supplies and to recruit and train. Switzerland is wealthy yes, however like I said, to gain respect and political power, offer something to the world nations. I don't think Switzerland have done this. Also it's important to form strong political relationships with a country with a higher political status than ourselves.

Hope this answers your question.

S

you make some very valid points and I agree with you on the war front. I do not mean to be awkward, these are genuine questions that I have. would it really be a feasible plan to make the whole country eco? within the next 50 years? that does seem to be a base of a lot of potential money. and would English remain the language also?

D

S I don't find your questions awkward I find them to be representing the stressing views of the public. When it comes down to the eco front I believe that the Scottish government should introduce a new plan for all household energy to be 60% dependent on renewable sources by 2025. Most of this energy will come from solar panels. however depending where you live in Scotland you're obviously going to need different elements of renewables to be able to use its full potential i.e. weather. There is a solution to this problem.

Every house should be fitted with a source that conducts more than one type of energy. Here is a list of the many energies that can be used.

Grey water

Black water
Solar panels
Bio-mass boilers
wind turbines
geo-thermal heating
self efficient air vents
dynamos (on doors)
wave turbines
eco friendly building material i.e 2nd hand timber
solar chimney
insulation (preferably sheeps wool)
energy saving light bulbs
energy saving plugs
water harvesting

These are just some of the ways that energy and money can be saved. Yes they are expensive, but this will be an investment in our future. If a house was fitted with all this it could be 100% reliable on renewable energy. The matter of English remaining the predominant language, are you referring to immigrants or once Scotland becomes independent. when it comes down to immigrants I don't suggest that English will become a minority language, because Scotland has the space to take in more immigrants. However the cities are filling up and the rest of the space we have is uninhabitable i.e Highlands. Immigrants will not become the majority in Scotland. If however it comes down to Scotland's independence then yes English will still remain our first language in Scotland.

Why not, look at America they speak English and they are independent and the most richest country in the world. However I do believe it is important to reintroduce some of Scotland's ancient languages into society.

i.e Scottish Gaelic. I think Scottish Gaelic should be taught in schools and I think it's important, if you know the language, to speak it as much as possible.

This reason is that only 58,000 people in Scotland speak the language and it is part of Scotland's history and heritage. I myself am learning the language.

It's a very easy language to learn as within 2 hours I was able to greet, introduce myself, say where I'm from, use useful conversation around the house. And ask these questions back.

Hope this answered your question

Another person added a pro-union comment which D questioned its reason to which S replied:

S

Well Britain has fought and won two world wars in the last hundred years. There's one reason to be proud. But why should pride in being British be discouraged? though you are right. sport should not be dragged into political arguments. nor should people's views be pigeonholed by what team they support

D

My point about the pride is that I'm not discouraging him. I'm directly asking him what is to be proud about being British. I'm not discriminating or discouraging people who support the union. By the way I hope I answered your question a few comments down!

"Well Britain fought and won two world wars in the last hundred years. "

Can I ask; Why should we be proud of world war one, as it was the most pointless, costly and deadly war. Young men were sent to fight whilst army leaders were sat in manor houses away from the frontline with a stick moving men on a map, and that (apart from Winston Churchill) politicians were couped up in Westminster squabbling amongst themselves. I suggest that you read:

Dulce et decorum est. Latin for (It is sweet and noble). This poem will show you the reality of World war one. And the last line of the poem states:

the old lie: dulce et decorum est
pro patria mori.

It is sweet and noble to die for ones country. That is the old lie. It isnt. Those poor men that were sent off to war came back feeble and feminized, those of them that survived. those men fought in horrible conditions, they got infections, The saw death at every turn. Even if they were caught with paper or writing about the reality of war, they were court martialed. Leading them to be shot by the firing squad. Now tell me; is that something to be proud of?

The second World War was probably a more valid reason to fight, but it caused death and destruction.

And Britain never actually won the war as the americans came in and saved our arse so I think the Americans won the war with a coallition army with Britain. Why is two destructive and deadly wars, in recent history, is something to be proud? I thought higher of you, but now you sound like someone who approves of pointless and costley wars which takes innocent lives.

S

i am aware of wilfed owens work. and you of course are correct it was a horrible war. however we showed great spirit in fighting for those who were occupied. owen himself was a man who disagreed with war but like many others he chose to fight for his country. the courage shown by many men during the war is something that many of todays people should take heed of. and of course i dont approve of the loss of life. however the second world war stopped nazi germany from wiping out the jewish race along with anyone else who didnt fit their "perfect race". and yes but if we hadnt fought without the americans for years before that there wouldnt have been a war for them to join.

dont get me wrong. my point was not that th loss of millions of lives is a source of pride to me. but th bravery british soldiers showed is. the fact they were willing to give their life so that i could lead mine decades later is. The Belgiums have monuments in honour of those men

i am impressed that this page is not full of anti english slogans as so many are. sport and religion should be kept aside from the debate.

though i do ask, is the snp really going to come good? i know nationalism plays a huge part in this. however i live in scotland and i feel that this massive decision that is being discussed should be made on what is best for the economy and those living here rather than a hatred of another race. i realise your views but many many others would make this choice for all the wrong reasons

D

Im glad you are aware of such a moving piece of poetry but the fact is, yes men signed up, but you cant claim that as bravery. Lots of young men were forced to go to war. There were many reasons why men went. Life wasnt as such a good quality as we have it today. If you havent already; read Private Peaceful. If you read Dulce et decorum est in fine detail and analyze it, then the amazing use of similies will show that when the men arrived to the trenches, they weren't fighting for bravery, they were fighting for life. Those men were broken and fearfull not brave.

for world war two; like I said I obviously stated it was a more valid war, and I personally, if had the chance, would have fought in that war if called up. However you said the war was to stop nazi Germany wiping out the Jewish race. Your history is slightly inaccurate as the war started because of the invasion of Poland which Britain had no choice but to declare war as they promised to protect Poland against enemy attack. Along the lines you have seemed to have forgot that any country outside nazi Germany occupation was totally oblivious to the fact that the nazis were murdering and discriminating jews and other races. I suggest you work on that sensitive area of recent history before you comment on it.

I myself have a good knowledge and understanding of this sensitive era. Maybe to give you an insight into this I should show you my 24 page report on the build up to and the Holocaust. Lots of men who fought in these wars didn't sign up for it. They were forced to go. And when they were fighting, it wasnt bravery keeping them going, it was the fear of loos of human life. A natural human reaction.

I dont know in what way or why you read Dulce et decorum est but as I said earlier, the amazing use of similies blatantly screams at you that these men were feminized: cowards, This isnt a sexist remark its from the point of view of a man from this time period. From the very first line of the poem it tells you these men were broken:

Bent double, like old beggars under sacks,
Knock - kneed, coughing like hags, we cursed through sludge,

Now tell me, do these men seem brave after only two lines of a poem?

Those lines tell you that these men are broken souls. They are described to be beggars and hags. A hag is the highest insult. a woman that is practically the scruffiest horrible type of woman on earth. Wilfred gives us atotal different imagery of how we see the army today.

Now does this small, effortless piece of analysis not tell you a huge story. This isnt bravery, or in fact keeping their dignity intact, it is saying that these men have giving up hope and are waiting for a revival, death.

S

your point about the first world war is true. it did break men. but some of the feats of bravery that were shown during the war shouldnt be ignored or forgotten either. The spirit by those back home, especially women, in doing their part is also impressive.

what i actually said there was "however the seond world war stopped nazi germany from wiping out the jewish race ". i didnt say we knew about the holocaust plans being made in germany. or have an extensive knowledge of things such as the specialised units of nazi soldiers who would shoot jews and pile their bodies in massive holes. this happening until it proved to expensive. i am not totally unaware of this subject. but british actions did prevent the total destruction of that race. a source of pride no?

britian has also produced some of the worlds most famous authors ie shakespeare, dickens, austen. Isaac Newton was also british. we were the fore front of the industrial revolution which has had the obvious effects world wide.

these again are valid reasons to be proud to be british

D

Stop there. First of all, these people would call them selves English before British. You are creating false dreams for yourself son. Your reasons are invlaid. Are you Scottish? Name all the things that makes you proud to be a Scot. Then compare that to what you said about being a proud Brit. Massive difference in the comparison of pride you will find!

S

what a very dismissive way to speak to someone simply because they do not share the same strength of pride in a country as you do. son. do tell me how the industrial revolution is an invalid point? there are many sources of being proud of being a scottish citizen, but this does not mean that a pride in being british has to be cancelled out.

D

i'm not trying to cancell out pride. Im just out there to get the message across that OUR country comes first! I am proud that industry moved forward in that time period. However....think of all that polllution?

S

i suppose i hadnt thought of that. though the improvements in quality of life and the jobs it created as well as the long term positive effects it has had on the world was more what i was going for there haha.

going back to previously made points, i was curious to know about the bio industry that is planned for scotland. what would be the actual source of the profits you predicted and what jobs would be supplied for the unemployed here? i have never heard of this potential option before

D

Those so-called jobs that have been created by industry have quickly been lost because of the half-wits in Westminster. The whole world has now suffered in the world of industry. You call that successful? I'm not sure what planet you've been living on these past few months. Funny things have happened to people's jobs! They vanished! Back to the bio fuel industry. First of all it isn't planned its being taken a step at a time. Second I would like to ask you a question which I will answer in my reply to your next query: Let's look at industry, look at cars for example; Why do people want cars?

S

well i suppose the primary function is simply to travel from A to B. but then im guessing thats what im meant to say huh? but with unemployment levels rising and industries shutting down where will jobs come from?

D

This is where independence comes into play. With Scotland independent its industry would be able to flourish. The 'British' government squander our precious money. Maybe, just maybe, they might concentrate in a UNION bail out plan resulting in the backing of small businesses and the investment into adult further education. The unemployed need to get back into work so we can start to stabilize the economy. The only reason that these businesses and industry and mass unemployment is because of a failing Labour government in Westminster!

S

but would any other party have a better chance? are the snp experienced enough to deal with this? really? i mean its very easy to say it now. but when it actually comes to it?

D

When you say experience..... If you ask if the SNP are experienced enough then I will give you an answer. No party has enough experience until they get the job. The SNP has done more for Scotland than Labour. They have nearly three years experience under their wing and in such a financial climate as just now. Now is that not a stupid question?