



The New Gonzo Journal

Raising The Colours:

"Guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism"

George Washington

Groups of so called "patriots" across the nation, are tying Union Jacks and St. George flags to random lampposts across their hometowns, to make a statement. The issue however is that many of these brazen and machismo filled patriot types, don't quite know what the message is when quizzed. Most are citing that it's a way of claiming back their country from the current loss of national pride. Their country is changing too fast for them to keep up with the progress. Don't get me wrong, on this fact I agree. When you go through towns in a country that are more willing and ready to fly LGBTQ+ flags or flags of a foreign nation such as Ukraine, or Palestinian flags to support those being bombed in Gaza, there is a sense that these shouldn't be the priority, over pressing issues on home soil, and also so that we can pay respects to our own flag, that we only have the privilege to raise, with thanks to those that died for it. There is a sadness I can relate to here, like when some will prioritise one charity over another - this however is the handle I feel, because those that prioritise a particular charity over others, is due to a personal affinity with that type of organisation. Perhaps you had cancer and survived, so you'll sponsor cancer research over say a veteran who had their legs blown off and fully

backs Help For Heroes. It's in this example that I recognise the fallacy that these patriots are seeing in their flags being taken down across the nation, these are not *their* flags, that belong to the country they love and were born to. Any individual choosing to fly a foreign flag over their own, is in effect a traitor as they would prefer to support their own country, over the one that is their current home or perhaps even their shelter. It's the only sentiment I can empathise with - however, I do feel it's important that we support other nations and have a position on the world stage, but not at the expense of our own people. The only flags that should be flown in a public space I feel in any country should be the national or regional flags. People have their own properties to fly whatever flag they should like, and that should be enough. We have our communities to get us by, why should we need the support of people who are just banging up a flag out of duty or political correctness? Surely that's such an empty thought that it wouldn't matter how many virtue signalling bits of fabric a council chuck's up, if they're only doing it to *appear* supportive, as opposed to being genuine.

That said, a lot of this appears to link to the current migrant "invasion" and obvious fatigue from many on the right with what they perceive as forced multiculturalism in the masses. Recent years of administrations - ten with the Tories and one with Labour - have left the borders wide open, allowing all kinds to come across on boats, risking their lives in the process. At one time, it appeared most that were coming here on the boats were hapless refugees, desperate for safety and opportunities for a better life - leaving the ferocious horrors of their homeland behind. It's hard to tell if this is still the case, but many will seek asylum with the UK due to whatever reason has resulted in their displacement. The UK currently according to the Refugee Council, houses 1% of the current estimated 27.1 million refugees out there.

The issue now, however, is that these migrants are being housed in hotels at the taxpayers' expense, and despite every effort made by the government to help most of these individuals integrate with society, there is much evidence to the contrary - especially when it comes to violent crimes. One statistic alone that people are latching onto, is that of the

Britannia Hotel in Canary Wharf; wherein which 80% of the migrants living there have now been arrested and charged with some form of violent crime - whether it be assault or sexual harassment, it's enough to get locals to start revolting and demanding their country back. Epping has seen protests for some weeks now, due to its migrant hotel (one of the United Kingdom's 210 participating hotels), where a man lodging inside was charged with sexually assaulting a fourteen-year-old girl. Rightly so, the authorities acted, but not swift or harsh enough to appease concerned families and locals, meaning weeks of protests outside, that now seem to have gained some traction in applying pressure to the government, as judges in council courts are ruling that the locations need to be shut down.

With that, protests started to pop up across the nation, with actors such as Tommy Robinson calling for mass deportations and for patriots to step up and start taking back their country from the wokie liberals that have left the borders wide open for us to be invaded and converted by these fighting age men - as he likes to call them. Then, the "Operation Raise the Colours" campaign began to surface online and suddenly, people across the nation started to head out in their droves to start attaching flags to every lamppost they could access. It seemed harmless at first and I suppose, when you really think about it, it is. I mean, what harm is a bit of fabric doing to anyone? Councils of course, are tearing the flapping unfurled marks of patriotism down just as fast as they're going up, leading many to scream that their councils hate their own country. Which is absurd really and a rather dishonest leap to make. Lampposts and other street furniture are government / local authority owned and the flags are impacting the safety of road users as they pose as a distraction and don't meet regulations. To say that the removal is a show of councils lack of national pride, is like saying your neighbour hates free speech after they remove the racial slurs you've sprayed on their walls, that they own the deeds to. It's a false and misleading assumption. If you don't own the property, then you don't have the right to put anything into it... end of. Of course, the forced removal has now led many to develop further ingenuity and now they are using red paint to turn mini-roundabouts that as per safety regulations should be white, into a St. George with a roughly and rapidly painted cross in the centre. They've even started

doing the same with the markings of a zebra crossing, posing even more risks to road users, whilst patting themselves on the back. The worst case I've seen; is lads going along the pergola of local legal immigrant owned shops, and spraying the cross directly onto the walls. Despite this all starting out as innocent patriotism, now we're into the realms of full-on vandalism by those that I doubt have ever worn a uniform for this country, let alone fight for it. It's clear that these acts are becoming less a signal of people to their government of a need for a return to order and peaceful change, and instead a sign of bitterness on display through everyday people, planted by bad actors in the far-right - evidenced by a local British citizen Muslim, who confronted the "patriots" vandalising the walls they didn't own, and immediately being told to fuck off and that she was a "rag head".

It's clear now that this is not a nation of people looking to see everlasting safe change, with immigrants still welcome if they come legally, but instead a rhetoric of, 'this is our country, so get out, we don't want you here', which is a crying shame really, as I'm a 2nd generation Greek immigrant, who has served in the armed forces, speaks better English than most of these banging up these hack paint jobs and comes from a lineage that introduced democracy to this nation - a system that allows these people the chance to vote for whomever they want in power. Then again, I suppose Greeks are just white people that darken in a palatable and enjoyable way to most Brits. It also seems rather unfair to those that have indeed come here seeking asylum in the only way they can and have actually caused no harm to anyone. Why are we in this age so quick to tar an entire group with the actions of a few?

It's all such a shame really, as the flag moment felt like it was a way of saying enough to a nation that's started to lose its common sense in Westminster, in favour of political and woke correctness, and I was all for it, but now I've seen the true face of this campaign is just another way to make any foreigner that comes here - whether it be legally or illegally - unwelcome. Not every one of these migrants in these hotels is a danger to the UK and all people deserve the right to due process, as well as to seek asylum when their country goes to shit. I would certainly relish and be grateful for such an opportunity should we find the UK at war and someone like Putin dropping a bomb through my roof... then again, in that situation, I'd probably stay and fight, but I'm built of

different minerals than some of this lot that have come here. Each to their own. I could go on for years on my judgements on men that flee rather than fight, but when you break humans down, there is that mechanic that we are all equal in - fight or flight. I'm glad to see our people starting to take the fight back to the government for the safety of our children, but I don't think smacking a piece of plastic fabric to a lamppost is really doing all that much. The peaceful protests have already started to gain traction and I am sure most putting the things up or painting the roundabouts would like to be treated a innocent until proven guilty - much like we should the majority of these immigrants - legal or not.

At the end of it all, this is another beautiful idea for a campaign, to remind people of what our flag represents and why it's so important to fly it and have pride in it, yet it's been hijacked by those that wish to do harm, create more fear and hate, to drive a narrative and way of thinking that needs to be left in the past. It's also a massive distraction to the real issue; the safety of our children to those that wish to come here and do harm. More energy in these groups needs to go to mobilising a respectable independent party, that could bring around serious reform... have more influence over politicians and councils, whilst properly learning to play the game of politics...

Or get themselves involved in work that keeps this nation safe. Change the system from the inside. Not all cultures are the same, but that doesn't mean that all people from said cultures share the same ill-gotten thoughts as those that are attacking our children. Perhaps the campaign should be bringing back the death penalty to those that commit such acts? Rather than racism to all and turning the St. George into a symbol of hate.

One point I know for certain however, is that wearing a military uniform for your country, will always be more patriotic than painting a mini roundabout...

25th August 2025

Southampton