

# ADRIAN WAITE

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The Editor,  
The New European.

Sent by email to: [letters@theneweuropean.co.uk](mailto:letters@theneweuropean.co.uk)

Dear Sir,

## Letters to the Editor

I used to think that I understood politics. It was all about economics. How should the government encourage economic growth? How much of the national income should be spent on public services? How should wealth and income be distributed between different social groups?

Then I became confused. How could people support a politics that was clearly not in their or their country's economic interests?

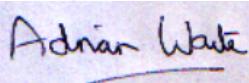
Now I think I understand the reason. These people look at the world through a different prism. It is not about economics, it is about nationalism and power (sometimes called sovereignty). Whereas in the politics of economics it is possible to propose win-win solutions, the politics of power is a zero-sum game. Everyone who is not in your tribe is a foe and something that damages your tribe is still a step forward if it damages another tribe more. Hence it is possible to 'win' a trade war in the same way that it is possible to 'win' a military war. You accept that your tribe will take losses as long as you think you can inflict greater losses on your foes.

When it is said that no one voted in the European referendum to be poorer, I don't think this is true. I think those who look through the prism of nationalism and power would be happy for Britain to be poorer.

But the consequences would be worse than that. History teaches us that populists start with trade wars and end with military wars,

The challenge is not to convince the Brexiters that Brexit will make Britain poorer. They know this already and don't care. The challenge is to expose this dangerous ideology!

Yours,



Adrian Waite  
Sent by e-mail.