

After generations of Westminster rule it has been ingrained in our mindsets that we are 'too small' or 'too poor' to even dream of being an independent nation.

Nevertheless some of the most prosperous and most equal countries in the world are small nations, and even smaller than us!

It is precisely because of Westminster that we are 'poor'. Of course, independence wouldn't automatically make Wales wealthier. However, the Welsh government would have the set of economic tools and the power that it doesn't currently have. For example, the UK Treasury has repeatedly refused Welsh Government calls to devolve Air Passenger Duty, unashamedly saying that doing so would give Cardiff Airport an advantage over Bristol Airport. Consequently, Bristol Airport thrives whilst Cardiff struggles.

Time and time again we're given false promises from Westminster. Hopes of a Swansea tidal lagoon, the Severn barrage and the electrification of our railways. All cancelled. As Adam Price said Westminster 'would even cancel Christmas in Wales if they could'.

We export 100 billion litres of water to England every year, which could be worth billions of pounds to the Welsh economy. We generate two and a half times more electricity than we use. Wales is the fifth largest exporter of electricity in the world. Placed above energy rich Norway and its \$1 trillion sovereign wealth fund built on surpluses from its energy policy. Wales produces and grows more food than we consume.

However, our success in producing vast amount of electricity has no monetary value for our people. We are therefore effectively just a giant electricity power plant for another country. To quote MP Jonathan Edwards the fundamental question is 'how can a country ranked fifth in the world in terms of electricity exportation see a third of its people live in fuel poverty? If that isn't a legacy of colonialism and exploitation, I am not sure what is'.

Welsh MPs make up six percent of the House of Commons. In general elections, no matter how Wales votes, we get the Government that England wants. The people of Wales currently send 40 MPs to Westminster, with the Boundary Commission proposing that this number is reduced to 29! Obviously, the people of Wales are of no importance in Westminster.

Do we really want to be left within this embarrassing Westminster chaos that we're currently witnessing? Wales now has to make a decision: Fight for a free independent Wales or become even more submerged into an imbalanced Westminster Government with less say than we currently do.

West Wales is the poorest region in Northern Europe with London being the richest, this absurd inequality needs to end, we deserve better. Surely, it is only natural that decisions about Wales should be made in Wales. Independence is normal. Independence isn't about creating division; it's about celebrating our unique place in the world and becoming a proper part of the international family of nations.

Is history repeating itself?

Resource rich Wales should not be this poor.