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Will the EU unravel, or will the EU bureaucrats win again? / A growth economy v. a replacement economy / COP21 in Paris: ground hog day /

Will the EU unravel, or will the EU bureaucrats win again?

Today we need to think about what is happening within the other countries of the EU besides England.

1. In the UK the public is being conditioned by a steady stream of commentaries to an uncertain future...from Seeking Alpha...

“[Britain's relationship with the EU](#) is working but the Bank of England will do whatever is needed to adapt should Britons vote to leave the bloc in a referendum, BoE Governor Mark Carney said on Wednesday. Britain is due to vote to stay in the EU before the end of 2017. The announcement came as U.K. unemployment fell to the lowest level in more than seven years, dropping to 5.3% in the third quarter. Also on tap: ECB chief Mario Draghi will deliver a speech today at the Bank of England's Open Forum.”

2. Portugal had a swing to the left with socialists and communists opposed to the harsh terms of austerity required by Brussels. However they were kept out of government because it was feared they may undo the EU arrangements – despite having more seats in parliament. This week the legislation put forward by the government is being voted down and it remains to be seen how this will play out... from Seeking Alpha...

“[Portugal's center-right government](#) has been toppled just two weeks into its second term following the rejection of its legislative program by a leftist alliance at odds with eurozone austerity. The move could lead to a new government led by the Socialist Party, setting the country on an uncertain economic course. Eurozone leaders had previously pointed to Portugal and Ireland as examples of how austerity paid off as their economies improved, but some now fear the country could go down the same road as Greece.”

But will Portugal be allowed to avoid the austerity that accompanies the bail-outs...here is some background...

http://seekingalpha.com/article/3672716-portugal-red-dawn-coming?source=email_macro_view_mar_out_3_6&fip=0

3. The Polish right wing is gaining strength – mainly due to the aversion to Muslim immigrants...

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/poland/11989250/EU-flag-burned-as-tens-of-thousands-join-Warsaw-nationalist-demo.html>

4. If Germany is having a change of heart over allowing immigrants in, then this will greatly upset countries like Austria, Greece and Slovenia that see themselves only as a pathway to Germany....yet with thousands entering each day and placing a huge strain on their resources.
5. Sweden is the other Laissez-faire country besides Germany that is starting to restrict access...

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34794422>

Fences go up along borders...

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34790151>

Are we about to see a great unravelling of Europe – or will the European nationalists fight back. The second part of this contains a look deep into the future at 2050...

<http://www.tomdispatch.com/blog/176067/>

Very interesting, but how realistic?

A growth economy v. a replacement economy

The OECD seems unable to grow in any other than a monetary way with surging debt and reducing interest rates, to compensate. With thanks to ICMCI, this article by Doug Macnamara of Banff at www.banffexeclead.com puts the idea of a replacement economy into a context that most of us can understand. The article can be found on the Banff website or at...

<http://icmci.org/download/?id=17677431>

I like the concept better than the more socialist “degrowth” philosophy that was spawned in *la belle France*.

COP21 in Paris: ground hog day

China has been understating its coal consumption and continues to build a large number of coal fired power stations...from Sinocism...

[“Seven Things You Should Know About China's Coal Consumption | Barbara Finamore's Blog | Switchboard, from NRDC](#) The new coal consumption figures will not derail the Paris climate talks, since they have already been taken into account in many climate analyses after they came out in preliminary form earlier this year. Nor should they cast doubt on China's commitment to battle climate change, including its support for an enhanced transparent global system of reporting and review of climate actions. Here are seven things you should know about China's coal consumption

Related: [A Glut of Coal-Fired Plants Raises Doubts About China's Energy Priorities - The New York Times](#) When finished, the plant, run by a company owned by the Beijing government, is expected to have a generating capacity of 700 megawatts of power, more than the total of similar plants in Ohio. But whether it will actually be used to its fullest is questionable, despite the investment of \$580 million. That is because the plant is scheduled to come online in three years amid a glut of coal-fired power plants — an astounding 155 planned projects received a permit this year alone, with total capacity equal to nearly 40 percent of that of operational coal power plants in the United States.”

So how committed are China going to be to cutting CO2 emissions? Well they will grow them first but not start to cut before 2030. That is being generous and assumes they plan to cut at all.