Twitter Thread by Simon Usherwood



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Your regular reminder that Brexit is going badly because the UK has still to decide what the purpose of leaving the EU is

1/

#EUref came about as piece of party mgt by Cameron, rather than as culmination of considered and structured debate about UK's place in the world

2/

Yes, we talked a lot (A LOT) about 'Europe' and the EU, but primarily as a function of lots of other things

A touchstone of dissent, if you will (h/t @PaulAdamTaggart)

3/

Referendum campaigns on both sides were simply about getting people to vote their way, not efforts to set out settled plans of What Comes Next

"Vote for us and everything will be dandy" is not a plan

4/

That might have been alright if post-vote there had been a national discussion on how to proceed in an inclusive manner, but instead the political logic pointed to trying to capture the meaning of it all to serve particular agendas

All very majoritarian, as per

5/

However, absent robust parliamentary majorities, May couldn't own the narrative, but nor could any one else

Cue fudging and obfuscation. And battles over dominance that were (again) more about being top dog than any sense of

where the UK might be going

6/

And so it went until 2019, when someone finally had a solid majority in the Commons to do what they wanted

However, that someone was Johnson, someone not given to strategic vision, but instead to rolling with the good times
7/

Unfortunately for him, we are already in a situation where good times cannot be built from the objective geopolitical or economic facts.

And maybe not even from the subjective tropes of 'taking back control'

It's a choice from various problematic options

8/

Hence the indecision

Which only makes things more difficult down the line

9/

And behind all this, we still don't know what Brexit is for, in the sense of having anything like a national consensus, or even just a meaningful government policy.

Crisis management isn't it

10/

So however the next week and month plays out, I'm confident that we'll still be in the same position we have been since 2016: disappointed and frustrated

11/

That's not good for the UK, for the obvious reason that were going to have a lot more of All This [expansive hand gesture]

But also for a less obvious reason

12/

All this is very tiring and annoying, not to mention unstable

So it's still there for the picking

And you might not like who is doing that picking

13/

So if you want to avoid a future that you really won't like, then you need need to try to shape the debate, to find common ground, to build something that includes

14/

Because if you don't, then someone else will, and other people might not be as good about those things as you are

/end