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**THE INEVITABLE BREXIT**

**A SHORT HISTORY OF A LONG AND WINDY BREXIT ROAD FROM A UK PERSPECTIVE**

This lecture aims to give the audience a better understanding of the major Brexit discussions and its implications in the United Kingdom (UK) during the years 1973-2022. The lecture consists of two parts.

In the first part “*Getting Brexit done*” the complex Brexit history will be examined. Paradoxically this history starts right after the decision was taken by the UK to join the then EEC (European Economic Community) back in 1973. Already two years after joining the EEC a national referendum took place about leaving or remaining in the EEC. After many years of heated Brexit discussions in the UK and in the European Union (EU) Brexit finally took place on December 31, 2021, agreed upon by both parties, the UK and the EU. Is this formal separation from the EU now the end of all major problems in the UK? This seems to be a rhetorical question. The recent appointment of a new Prime Minister (PM), Liz Truss, showed that a whole set of severe problems needs to be addressed. The appointment of Mrs Truss dramatically coincides with the death of HM Queen Elizabeth.

In the second part of the lecture “*Instead of getting back control, getting back chaos?*” a number of implications of the long Brexit process will be dealt with. It will be argued that with the separation from the EU and with the appointment of Mrs Truss as PM, the UK is back at Square One, the post-war period before 1973. The new PM belongs to the right wing of the Conservative Party, being in thrall of the legacy of the time when ‘Britannia ruled the waves’ (New York Times, 9 sept 2022) . That means UK (or better: English) declinist nationalism that was so apparent in post-war Britain, is back now and will play a significant role in UK policies in the coming years.

Obviously, the regained UK independence and identity might offer hitherto undiscovered opportunities at home as well as abroad, on condition of a clear and strategic leadership, backed by the majority of people and institutions.

**Professor Rien T. Segers PhD:**

Studied in three parts of the world in Europe (Utrecht University, the Netherlands), in the USA (Yale) and in Japan (University of Tokyo). He became professor of Business Culture and European Integration at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. He was founder and director of the Center for Japanese Studies at the same university. He is currently Japan Foundation Fellow and Visiting Professor at the Global History Division of Osaka University. He is also frequently a Guest Professor in East Asia. In January 2019 he was awarded a decoration by the Emperor of Japan: the *Order of the Rising Sun*, for his endeavors to stimulate (university) cooperation between Japan and the Netherlands.