

Nations in War and Peace, in Power and Love:
Brexit in Systemic Context

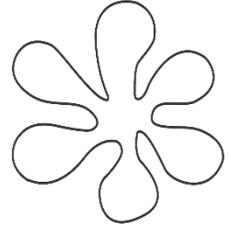
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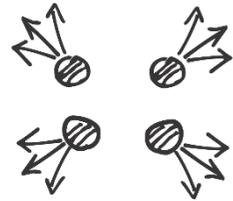
1. Power and Love

Whole human systems – nations, in this case –
express their **Power**
by **differentiating**
– elaborating their differences from other nations:



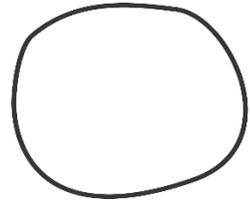
*Our nation is different:
we have a unique history, character, and purpose.*

And nations also express their **Power**
by **individuating**
– maintaining their separateness:



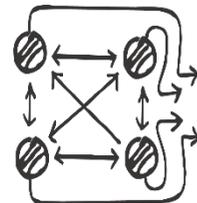
*Our nation is an independent whole:
we set our own direction;
we function independently of other nations,
uncontrolled by them.*

Nations express their **Love**
by **homogenizing**
– elaborating their commonality with other nations:



*We are like the other nations,
having much in common with them.
People are people.*

And nations also express their **Love**
by **integrating**:

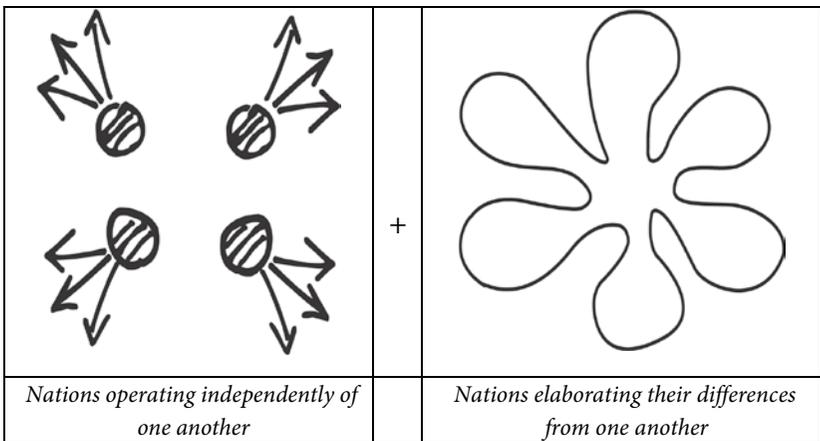


*We are part of a whole;
we are committed to the purposes of the whole;
we interact with one another in common venture.*

2. War

The history of war –
little wars
and catastrophic wars –
is a history of **Power** without **Love** –
nations **differentiating** and **individuating**,
becoming foreign to and separate from one another,
while **homogenizing** and **integrating** – commonality and connectedness -
are submerged.

A Collection of 'Power' Nations



World War II
was one such catastrophic war.
Sixty million dead,
Or was it 80 million?
Catastrophic either way.

3. Peace: A Love System is born

Catastrophe,
as it often does,
called for change.

Never again.

Make Love, not War.

And so was born
a European **Love System** of nations.

A **Love System** of nations

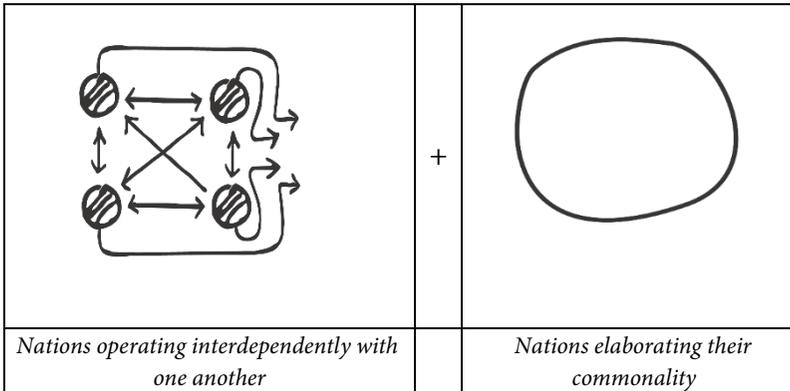
homogenizing,

each nation elaborating its commonality with other nations -
commonality of vision, purpose, language, and currency.

and **integrating,**

becoming parts of an integrated whole,
submitting themselves to mutual influence and control,
working together in common venture.

A Love System of Nations



Love reigns;

There is peace
among the nations,
but winds of war within.

4. Power versus Love within

Within each nation,
There is a tension between
Pro-**Love** people and pro-**Power** people.

For the pro-**Love** people,
this **Love System** is liberating;
members move freely from city to city,
nation to nation.
For them,
the **Love System** is opportunity;
their skills are relevant;
there is business to be done:

*Our wealth is growing,
luxury goods are at hand,
exotic vacations await.
This is the good life.*

For the pro-**Power** people,
This **Love System** is a disaster:

*Our jobs are gone,
our towns are decimated,
our skills are irrelevant,
our dreams are dead.
And the country that we love
is gone.*

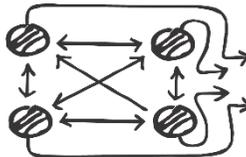
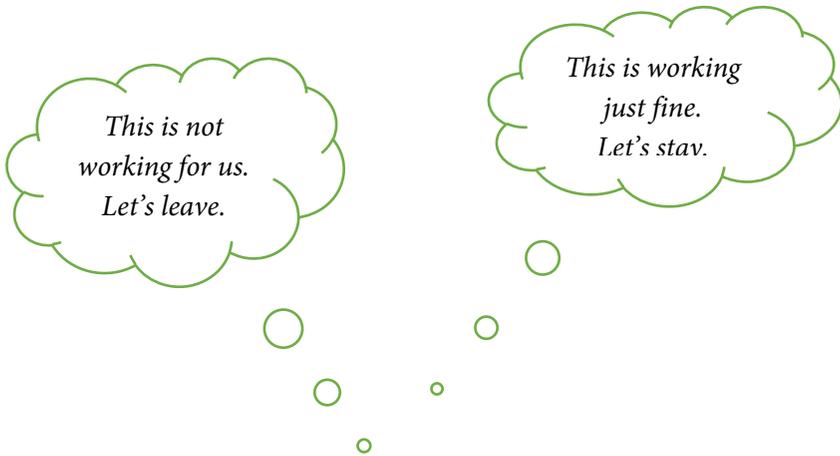
The pro-**Love** people
want to remain in the **Love System**.
The pro-**Power** people want to leave it.

5. One nation says goodbye to Love

Exit.



While,
in other nations,
there is continuing tension between leaving and staying.



6. What's next?

The future is uncertain.

One possible outcome (it has happened before):

All nations leave.

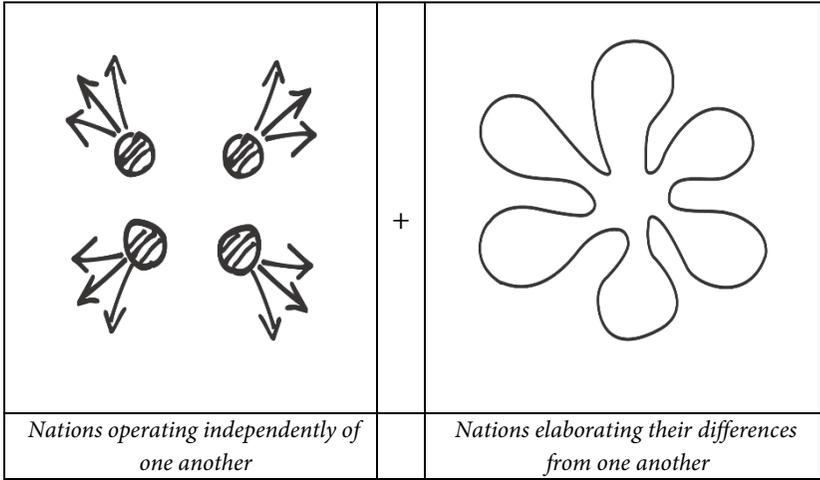


The **Love System** is no more.

And we are left with
a collection of nations,
each elaborating its difference from the others,
and each acting independently of the others.

Once more,
our world is a collection of nations of
Power without **Love**.

A Collection of Power Nations



A collection of **Power** nations
elaborating our differences
and our independence.
And you know where that configuration
has taken us,
from time immemorial.

*Barry Oshry
April 2017*