

## Twitter Thread by [Brigid Laffan](#)



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Am prompted to do this ■ following [@BEERG](#) sharing of Gove 19 April'16 speech, [@kevinhorourke](#) observation on interests & ideas & [@CER\\_Grant](#) observation that historians will ponder the weakness of economic interests in Brexit negs at [@InstituteGC](#) yesterday [@BrigidLaffan](#)

## THE FACTS OF LIFE SAY LEAVE: WHY BRITAIN AND EUROPE WILL BE BETTER OFF AFTER WE VOTE LEAVE

Michael Gove MP

19 April 2016

One of the most striking things about the debate on Britain's future relationship with Europe is that the case for staying is couched overwhelmingly in negative and pessimistic terms, while the case for leaving is positive and optimistic.

Those of us who want to Leave believe Britain's best days lie ahead, that our country has tremendous untapped potential which independence would unleash and our institutions, values and people would make an even more positive difference to the world if we're unshackled from the past.

In contrast, the In campaign want us to believe that Britain is beaten and broken, that it can't survive without the help of Jean-Claude Juncker and his Commission looking after

1. Seems to me that [@BorisJohnson](#) has delivered on the [@michaelgove](#) 2016 speech in one important sense-not the sunny uplands of Brexit but the working out of what Brexit was to this clique who drove the Leave campaign [@BrigidLaffan](#)

2. That was a total rejection of the #EU model of internationalisation, its governance regimes, institutions, regulatory frameworks, its ideals & the political, economic & legal order it represents. [@BrigidLaffan](#)
  
3. This was evident in tone of Brexit negs, for example [@DavidGHFrost](#) dismissal of EU as 'your organisation' [@MichelBarnier](#) & refusal to recognise nature of EU re. Diplomatic states. Treating it as IO despite the fact that there were U.K. MEPs in [@Europarl\\_EN](#) [@BrigidLaffan](#)
  
4. Evident also in refusal of a chapter on foreign & security policy & the preference for bilateral relations particularly the key capitals post Brexit. [@BrigidLaffan](#)
  
5. #UK negotiating strategy was driven by anything but the EU aka [@pmdfoster](#) wonderful long read on the negs. Core principle was to prove you can do a deal with EU without its laws. Not smart-of@course you can but it will be a thin thin deal [@BrigidLaffan](#)
  
6. The desire to by pass & diminish EU as a polity will not serve [@BorisJohnson](#) or U.K. in the short or medium term. EU is both the member states & the collective. You can't have one without the other. [@BrigidLaffan](#)
  
7. There will be no strategic relationship unless London comes to terms with the EU & begins to understand what it means to its near neighbours. Not just Brussels or bureaucracy but the way this part of the world handles the challenges of 21st century [@BrigidLaffan](#)
  
8. Brexiteers might prefer it were other but #EU is going nowhere & London needs a strategy for dealing with it as it is-a hybrid political system with market power. It will prove easier for Irish business to go around U.K. than it will for U.K. to avoid coming to terms with EU