

Challenges to Democracy in Europe

by
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The Great Reconciliation

In the short time that we have been in India, my wife and I have discovered that the real elite of India is to be found in the IIC. We have also discovered that it is an extraordinarily nice, warm-hearted, human and engaging elite with whom we feel truly at home: more at home, in fact, than in many places in England.

I should begin with a warning. I am afraid I shall be imprecise and vague. No doubt that is partly due to my personal character, but it is also due to the character of the subject I am going to discuss. I shall begin, in a slightly odd way you may think, by describing my passport. The cover is scarlet and the lettering on it is gold. The first words are 'European Union'. Then it goes on to say 'United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland'. In the first facing page inside it says again, 'European Union' and then repeats that title in the two Celtic languages which are spoken in Britain, namely Welsh and Gaelic. On the other side of the facing page comes a wonderfully bombastic and somewhat archaic statement which declares 'Her Britannic Majesty's Secretary of State requests, requests and requires in the name of Her Majesty, all those whom it may concern to allow the bearer to pass freely without let or hindrance, and to afford the bearer such assistance and protection as may be necessary'. So you see that the ghost of

