Common Sense

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Upside Down and Inside Out

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A YouGov poll of British voters asking who should lead Parliament, conducted a week after Britain's European Union Parliamentary elections and in advance of Prime Minister Theresa May's June 7 departure as Tory leader, provides some shocks.

In the poll, Labour and Conservatives trail behind the Liberal Democrats* and something called The Brexit Party. This is, says YouGov's director of political research for Great Britain, the first time that two "third parties" have polled ahead of *both* Labour and the Tories.

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"The Liberal Democrats held the support of 24 percent of voters, while the Labour and Conservative parties were tied at 19 percent each," *The Hill* summarizes. "The far-right Brexit Party came in second place, with 22 percent of voters' support."

In the U.K.'s European elections of the week before, the Brexit Party came out *in the lead*.

This is the (British) world turned upside down.

What it means for Americans is unclear, but what it means for one American news outlet apparently is crystal: the single-issue Brexit Party is "far right."

Really?

While the traditionally left Labour and traditionally right Tory voters are split on Brexit, *The Hill* sees this as somehow a left/right issue. Not obvious.

Nevertheless, *The Hill* insists on having its American readers see the situation in a way designed to favor one position. Because "far right" is bad, and "far left" is never used** even to label Labour's egregious, Castro/Chavez-loving, Cuba-Venezelua-apologetic leader Jeremy Corbyn.

With cues like that, insiders keep outsiders out.

And perhaps that's the way to think about Brexit: as literally a matter of Insider/Outsider, with the outsiders still wanting out.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.

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* The year was 1922 when last a Prime Minister was not a Tory or Labour.

** I did not see it in my Google search of The Hill, anyway!