

RAINER MASERA

The roots of BREXIT: a critical review of conventional wisdom on the relationship between the United Kingdom and Europe

According to prevailing conventional wisdom, Great Britain always displayed a negative attitude towards Europe and never believed in a process of integration. The purpose of this note is to recall that, on the contrary, a free democratic Europe exists now because of the tough, courageous stand taken by the United Kingdom against Hitler's Germany and the Soviet Union, and that Churchill was the first to make the case for the "United States of Europe". The paper argues that, in any event, Brexit should lead now to a more integrated Economic and Monetary Union with different, growth-oriented economic policies. It is recalled that Kohl and Mitterrand (and Andreotti) had strongly stated that it would have been a fallacy to move to currency unification without political union.