

FRANCE TODAY, EU TOMORROW

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1. *The Yellow Vests insurrection over a fuel tax in France have opened Pandora's box for Emmanuel Macron. The French president's fortunes have collapsed with jaw-dropping speed. How did we reach this point? Was Macron caught sleeping at the wheel?*

Yes, he was. Macron made the classic mistake of an arrogant man overwhelmed by a pseudo-sense of his own invincibility. From the heights of his suspiring election victory—when he was hailed as the White Knight galloping onto the scene to save Europe—he has suddenly found himself and his administration in a frothing sea of deadly trouble. He simply did not catch the gravitational turbulence of the people's bullet flying in his direction.

Very few foresaw this turn of events because *very few* understood (or wished to accept) that Macron's credentials were relevant only to the top two percent of the French people. Macron, the elitist child of the globalist movement, is poorly equipped to "connect" with a society *rejecting* the "values" of the so-called progressive Left and its fellow travelers: "globalism," "diversity," "gender politics," "multiculturalism," the "green initiative," "tolerance" and all the rest of the mumbo-jumbo of limousine liberals.

Pollsters and pundits are watching Macron's precipitous fall with their mouths hanging open: his approval ratings have collapsed to 25 pc (and some claim to 18 pc), he has "terminally" lost the confidence of the middle class, pensioners, and young people; and his "centrism" has morphed into the poisoned chalice that threatens him with a defeat in the upcoming Euroelections—an unthinkable prospect only a few weeks ago.

Macron is now learning the painful way politics is a game of chance and he who pursues success in this contest must accept there is no predetermined end to the game—

he must be prepared to adapt to circumstances that are *always fluid*.

In the words of [Marion Van Renterghem](#): “His phrases stigmatising “people who are nothing” and claiming “I only have to cross the street and I can find you a job” didn’t help, and the diesel revolt was the final straw. Because of his political inexperience, his intellectual arrogance, his hubris, and by taking himself for a solitary Jupiterian hero, Macron has locked himself into the image of the president of the rich. Now, France – which prefers equality to freedom – is slapping him in the face.”

2. *Macron’s collapse creates yet another crisis for the “Europeanists” and their European Union. What is to be done on this front?*

The European “union” in its present form is already in an existential crisis. People across Europe have come to resent an “empire” organization, manned by appointed bureaucrats, interfering with the running of national states and consuming billions to pad their own job and retirement security. Macron was naturally seen as the perfect match with this labyrinthine creature that is increasingly at odds with the average person in the European streets: aloof, arrogant, and convinced of his own almost messianic capabilities, he was lauded by the core EU cabal as the man to (possibly) fill the shoes of outgoing Angela Merkel.

Macron’s fall is a good opportunity for the Brussels mandarin, and its controllers in Berlin, to seriously rethink the “greatest democratic project” in the history of the world. With The Yellow Vests triggering copycat upheaval in Belgium and the Netherlands; and with the countries of Eastern Europe loudly rejecting EU interference in their domestic politics, Brussels better take a step back and (a) drop efforts for the “deepening” if the “union (b) adopt a robust aggressive approach to illegal immigration with the emphasis on denial of entry and immediate deportation, and (c) begin a **massive reorientation of the “union”** by scaling back to an enhanced form of a common customs area *without the presence of enforcer institutions, like the European courts, breathing down the necks of independent national states*.

This radical change of tack, currently appearing between impossible and undesirable (to the European elites), may be the only way of keeping the “union” in a semblance of common purpose and averting a chaotic disintegration of the type not unknown to European history.

Indeed, Macron’s troubles have given opportunity to the Marxist-Leninists, at least, [to discern a brewing French revolution](#) similar to that which brought down the kings in the late 18th century. If such a cataclysmic event does take place, the European “union” could find itself on its death bed immediately.

3. *If Macron finally departs, who will fill the French leadership void? What happens to the European “experiment” without him?*

If Macron is expelled, there are only two options remaining: a left coalition of socialists and communists or a far-right “solution” with Mari Le Pen’s National Party at the helm. Both these possibilities do not augur well for the EU. None of these political forces are allergic to Brussels, each pushing for its own version of a strong central national state without “globalist” overseers. In the words of [Sarah Jones](#): “But now or in the near future, the French left will have to answer the yellow vests with a coherent and constructive message that addresses the roots of their outrage. The alternative might be another far-right government in Europe.”

Macron’s 13-minute televised address to the nation came too late and offered a moderate package of an increase in basic wage, additional spending to support the less fortunate, and a general apology.

In the meantime, polls [found](#) 2 out of 3 French approved and supported the Yellow Vest protests *irrespective of party preferences*. This finding comes as further confirmation Macron is losing ground across the board with only his natural constituency—the educated liberal urban elite—left on his side, i.e. a rather paltry estimated 15 pc of the population; as one pundit [put it](#), “... never in modern French history has a president or leader fallen so fast, from voters’ admiration to indifference, on to antipathy, hostility and finally rejection if not hatred.”

To add to his woes, Macron’s announcement of more “social” spending will almost certainly trigger criticism from austerity-mad Berlin adding to Macron’s disintegrating credibility. And as for his now shredded reputation as the EU’s “man for all seasons,” by [announcing more spending](#), “...Macron has lost the capacity to lecture the rest of Europe on what to do and how to manage the monetary union. His opening the government’s checkbook will likely increase tensions with other EU member states, who have long complained that certain countries get preferential treatment.”

Macron is, at best, a lame duck president.

A disabled Macron, and with a stifling Merkel fading into retirement, the pair that was supposedly “the right stuff” for fixing some, at least, of the EU many crippling woes is gone. Merkel’s successor, a lady with the tongue-twisting name of “Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer,” (“AKK” for short) barely won the in-party vote for a new leader. She faces an uphill battle in trying to establish her authority over the Christian Democrats already divided over many policy issues. It is thus doubtful she will be in a position to exercise powers over the EU similar to those of “Mutti” *Führerin* Merkel in short order.

Between the Yellow Vests, increasing “populist” challenges to the empire, and souring public mood across the continent, the “Europeanists” are almost certainly in for many further painful surprises.

