

I see no ships....Ships have been built on the River Clyde for hundreds of years. First in wood, then riveted iron and finally in welded steel. At its peak Clyde shipyards employed over 30,000 men. There are fewer men in those shipyards today.

Typical large shipyards like John Brown's, could process over 100,000 tons of steel per year creating, a ferocious demand for steel from our Lanarkshire steel mills. But we all know that in 1979, Margaret Thatcher's Tories snatched Scottish home rule away, oil wealth from North Sea fields was downplayed, Thatcher ripped up the nationalised shipbuilding industry and let unprofitable yards go to the wall.

All that is left of a once skilled labour force is now to be found in just two yards; BAE in Glasgow, and the small civilian shipyard Fergusons of Port Glasgow. The British state has for decades, attempted to keep this rump of Glasgow shipbuilding going, by placing regular military contracts. Aircraft carriers built in large salami slices at Govan were shipped around the north of Scotland to Rosyth Naval Dockyard, to weld together.

This might sound like a great cash cow for Scotland, but of course BAE systems is an English company. BAE, who operate Rosyth also build submarines for the Royal Navy, although no subs are built here. BAE/Babcock's main customer for ships and submarines is if course the British Government, which makes them both almost a UK government quango, creating work for thousands of employees, and huge profit from UK taxpayers, and for wealthy shareholders.

This makes Scottish shipyards vulnerable. Losing multi billion pound orders for a dozen destroyers for example, could cripple a shipyard and cause tens of thousands of job losses.

Before the referendum, the Tories instructed Jim Murphy, Better Together and Labour, to imply that a Yes vote would end lucrative UK contracts. Murphy appeared on the BBC sombrely predicting the UK would shop abroad for ships, if Scotland said Yes. The threat was implicit, vote Yes and lose your jobs. He also promised a golden age of Scottish ship building. He contradicted the ridiculous threat to buy ships elsewhere, saying that the UK would never give sensitive warship contracts to "foreign" yards. (they already do)

A year on, the fifteen type 26 frigates, which the UK has apparently given BAE a **grant** of several million for new assembly sheds, **has been cut**, to just eight! Half of what was promised as reward for saying "no". Not only that, we are not to expect further contracts from the Tory government after the frigates are finished! The bright, secure future which we were assured as a reward for loyalty to the UK, has already darkened.

The weasel who was making those threats and promises is long gone, voted out by Glasgow voters - people he and the three unionist parties lied to, to keep Scotland under the heel of Westminster.

I see no ships in Scotland 's future, unless we learn from those empty promises .

## SEPARATION SHUTS SHIPYARDS

**Within the UK**

Within the UK Govan and Scotstoun will get the order for 13 Type-26 frigates from the Royal Navy. For further information, read the Scottish Affairs Committee report on shipyards and Separation online at: <http://bit.ly/shipyardsreport>

**In a separate Scotland**

In a separate Scotland however, there will only be the scraps from the UK table and even these will be completed by other EU yards. A separate Scottish Navy will be unable to keep the yards busy and there will be negligible export work.

Ian Davidson MP and Glasgow South West Labour fighting to support shipyard jobs – not threatening them.

**Scottish Labour**

### LORDS CALL FOR A HALT TO SCOTLAND BILL IN DAMNING VERDICT ON TRANSFER OF POWERS



PEERS have called on the Prime Minister to call a halt to his flagship Scotland Bill.

The influential House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee intervention, gave a grave verdict to the process of giving Holyrood more tax and welfare powers.

In the report, "A fracturing Union?", the committee says the way it is being done is with "undue haste", there isn't adequate information and transparency and there hasn't been enough assessment of the economic and

political consequences both for Scotland and the rest of the United Kingdom.

Every paper the length and breadth of the UK is plastered with the shock headline about the revelation that the House of Lords have put the kibosh on the now in limbo Scotland Bill.

**heraldscotland**

Lords call on David Cameron to halt Scotland bill as damning report claims 'nobody knows what's going on'

**theguardian**

Peers threaten to block Scotland bill until details made clear

**Daily Record**

Scotland Bill heads for crisis as SNP and UK Treasury talks hit brick wall over fiscal framework

**MailOnline**

Peers call for halt to 'rushed through' devolution of powers to Scotland over fears plans could put the Union at risk

Why was the Scotland Bill held up? Well, in layman's terms not a single soul has the faintest idea how the "fiscal framework" can actually be constructed. The issue is, that in its current state Scotland will be worse off if the bill were passed as it currently stands. The need to be work done to the fiscal framework, to avoid Scotland being left worse off by the changes to devolved powers.

It is an problem that many in the pro independence movement knew was coming, all we had to do was read the very first release from the Smith Commission over a year ago to figure out that the obvious.

Did Westminster know this, was it a trap for Scotland and the SNP? All of us at Freedom of Information and many others believe it to be the case. What better way to show Scotland that it cannot live without the support of rUK and kill the credibility of the SNP stone dead at the same time? Foist the shoddy bill through Westminster without accepting one single SNP amendment, force the Scottish Government between a rock and a hard place. Accept the bill they risk impoverishing Scotland if using any of the powers, reject the bill they are wrong for not accepting it wouldn't the Unionists know about it too.

The Vow was a myth, the Smith Commission a farce and the Scotland Bill is a joke. Better Together, Naw, definitely not.

Scotland has been dragged into a war that 72% of the electorate and 96.6% of our elected MPs voted against.



**"72% of Scots are opposed to airstrikes. 57 out of 59 Scottish MPs are to vote against airstrikes. In any normal country, under normal circumstances, we would not be involved - yet Scottish forces will be deployed to bomb Syria."**

**Angus Robertson MP**  
SNP Westminster Group Leader



After David Cameron rushed through the debate on whether the UK should or should not bomb Syria, Westminster voted 397 to 223 in favour of Cameron's motion.

After a 10 hour debate in the Houses of Parliament yesterday (Wed 2 Dec, 2015) UK MPs celebrated by clapping and cheering the fact that the UK are now going to launch a bombing campaign in Syria. Personally, the behaviour was disgusting and not one that we should accept from the people we elect to represent us. Killing innocent children, women and men (it will happen) is no cause for celebration.

In a poll carried out by Vote Scotland 72% of the 2300 Scots polled are against bombing in Syria.

The SNP warned that Scotland was being "dragged into a war with no exit strategy" SNP Angus Robertson MP said: "Today, Scotland has been dragged into a war with no exit strategy. Tonight the UK parliament gave the green light to continue a complex and deadly conflict without a comprehensive plan for peace and reconstruction". "Despite 72 per cent of Scots being opposed, and the vast majority of Scottish MPs voting against, we will likely see planes deployed from Lossiemouth to drop bombs on the region. In normal circumstances, in a normal country, the armed forces would not be deployed."



Robertson questioned whether the UK Government had answered queries on plans for reconstruction of Syria and David Cameron's claim of 70,000 moderate Syrian ground fighters. He said: "We are all committed to destroying Daesh (ISIS/ISIL) – it is about how best we do that. David Cameron has neither answered the questions about where the 70,000 ground forces are coming from, or given an insight into any plan on how to stabilise and rebuild the region".

"The UK Government is going to have a huge problem with legitimacy and mandate for this operation in Syria from the people of Scotland".

**"Quite simply the case for bombing Syria has not been made."**

The first air strikes in Syria by UK forces took place just hours after Westminster approved the action.

Two of the four Tornados arrived back in Cyprus a little over three hours after they left the base. An MoD spokesman said "the sorties had returned from the first offensive operation over Syria and have conducted strikes".

### How events unfolded

**22:30:** MPs vote for airstrikes

**23:30:** Two Tornados take off from Akrotiri, each with three Paveway bombs

**00:30:** Two more Tornados take off with same payload

**02:45:** First two Tornados return without bombs

**06:30:** Second pair of Tornados return



Over three million people have already fled Syria as a result of the fighting, probably the biggest forced migration since World War Two. Syrians who haven't managed to leave,



or cant for one reason or another, are in extreme danger of being caught in the path of UK bombs. We have seen the reports of innocents being killed by US, French and Russian bombing runs in Syria and Iraq. Even though David Cameron has suggested that the UK's Brimstone missiles are so precise they will avoid innocent people. The fact that Daesh are living in such close proximity to

civilians makes it inevitable that UK bombs will kill innocent men, women and children.

Our Government tell us that bombing Syria is essential to people of the UK's safety, bombing a country 3248 miles away from Scotland will keep us safe. If anything, like other incursions by the UK into the Middle East it will only make matters worse and rather that keep UK safe it will increase the likelihood of revenge attacks, putting us at all risk.

For what? Why are the UK so desperate to join the 10 other countries already bombing Syria, what value does it have to the UK and what purpose does it serve adding more bombs to the world's most bombed country?

**Gas, oil and pipelines** is the answer. Dmitry Minin, writing for the Strategic Cultural Foundation in May 2013: "A battle is raging over whether pipelines will go toward Europe from east to west, Iran to Iraq to Mediterranean coast of Syria, or a more northbound route from Qatar and Saudi Arabia via Syria and Turkey. Having realised that the stalled Nabucco pipeline and indeed the entire Southern Corridor are backed up only by Azerbaijan's reserves and can never equal Russia's supplies to Europe or thwart construction of the South Stream, the West is in a hurry to replace them with resources from the Persian Gulf. Syria ends up being the key link in the chain, and currently it leans in favour of Russia and Iran; Thus it was decided in the Western Capitals that Syria's regime needs to change.

In layman's terms, yet again the UK are dropping bombs on a country it has no right being involved in, not to stop terrorists but for resources. **#NotInScotlandsName.**