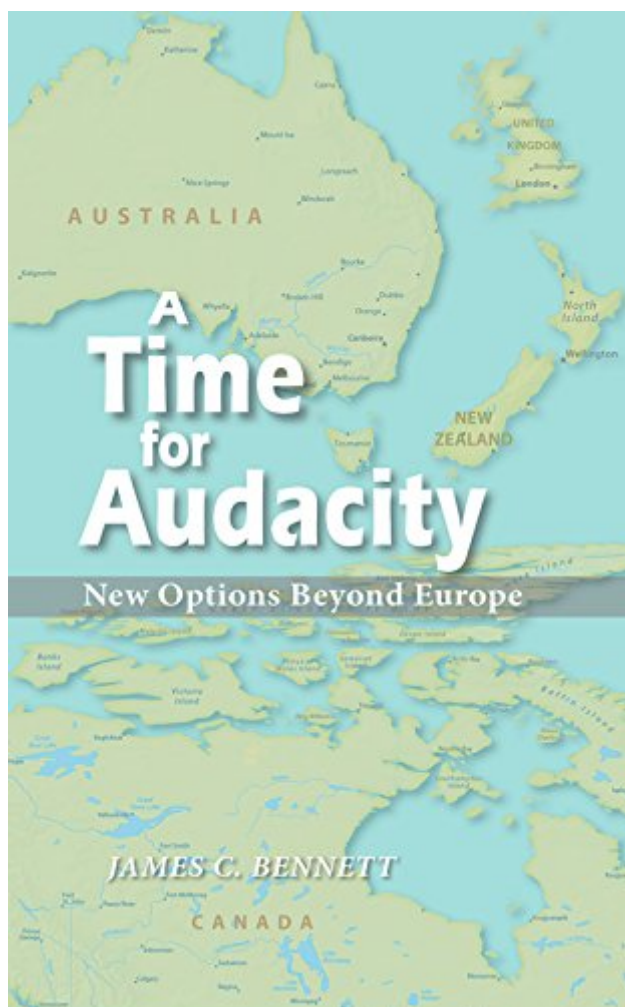


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A Time For Audacity: New Options Beyond Europe



Synopsis

For Britons, Canadians, Australians, and New Zealanders, and their friends and allies, the time has come to consider an audacious option. It is time for many reasons. One is that each of you today faces a series of critical decisions about what and who you are and will be. Britain less than two years ago passed one such decision point, which is whether the historical British Union of the four nations would continue together. Although the option of full independence for Scotland was rejected, the question of how the four nations will work together, and in what sort of framework, has now been opened, and it is time for the options that this book will discuss to be part of that discussion. Now, Britain is on the verge of making another decision threshold about another Union. Again, this is an issue where the answer appears obvious to an outsider, but seems to be a matter of great controversy within the UK. There may be valid reasons why Britain might not want to exit the European Union, but the lack of adequate alternatives for closer trade relations and partnership should not be one of them. Ironically, many of the arguments of advocates of British membership in the EU work better as an argument for the option presented in this work, a Union of the Commonwealth Realms. Many of the British people who had sincerely supported EU membership did so from the desire to see the UK magnify its impact in the world by joining together with other like-minded people. As the EU continues to shrink as a fraction of the world's population and Gross World Product, it would be wise for such people to consider the idea of magnifying their impact in the world by joining together with people who already have more of a common outlook than the very disparate set known as Europeans. Some British commentators have, in the course of the debate over its European ties, pointed to Canada, Australia, and New Zealand as alternative directions for trade and cooperation. Others deride this suggestion, asking whether Britain still has anything to offer them, and point to the widespread feelings of betrayal when Britain joined the then-EEC, raising high tariff walls against the Dominions that had so recently sacrificed so much in her aid. Yet Canada, Australia, and New Zealand each face challenges of their own, as this book will describe in detail in the following pages. At the same time, the USA, the primary security partner for Canada and Australia in particular, has begun to show more and more uncertainty as to the degree of international involvement and investment of security resources it devotes to its allies. All four nations have armed forces which rank high in quality, but increasingly have been under fiscal pressure, scaling back capabilities and facing problems managing the procurement of new systems capable of interoperating with US forces. Britain's attempts at enhancing its capabilities by defence cooperation with Europe have if anything made matters worse. In short, all four nations would gain from deepening the cooperation among themselves to deal with their growing problems.

This book proposes a quite radical form of cooperation – even, as its title warns, an audacious one.

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Customer Reviews

Britain's exit from the European Union would open the way to a union (a novel kind of federation) with Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. The author, Bennett, introduced the word "Anglosphere," and the idea of network commonwealths, into policy discussion with his book, "The Anglosphere Challenge," published in 2004. The conceptual and visionary framework provided by that book frames the conception of the Union presented here in the form of answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), and a series of stories drawn from the lives of citizens of the new Commonwealth Union, year 2036., illustrating many of the practical advantages arising from the Union.

Yesterday I read "A Time for Audacity" by James Bennett. It is a short book, and I finished it in one sitting. It also changed how I thought about the proposed "Commonwealth Union" of the UK, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. I expected the book to be based on nostalgia. It's not. Rather,

it essentially makes three related points¹. A union of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand would give all of those countries a continent-sized amount of land, population, natural resources, cities, and so on... it would provide scale that none of those countries have alone². Those four countries share common government additions that they do not share with any other potential union. The parliamentary system is different from either the European technocracy or the American constitutional system. After reading this book, the membership of the UK in Europe seems as odd as the UK joining the United States... except without even the advantage of a common language. The book is divided into three parts, outlining the union, giving an FAQ of how the union would work, and a number of stories of how the union would impact people's lives. My only criticism is that Bennett does not address the common argument for the European Union: that it assures peace between the great powers of Europe. This is a common pro-EU argument, and (as the Commonwealth Union would require the UK to leave the EU) it was not addressed. A great book! Highly recommended!

Bennett is virtually the creator of the modern Anglosphere concept, and this book superbly sums up its attractions for the United Kingdom. As important as it is timely.

Mr. Bennett makes a credible and compelling case for Union among the many English speaking nations who share the Crown as Sovereign. Given the Brexit vote of yesterday, perhaps intrepid souls will read this version of a "audacious" plan and act. Strongly recommended!

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