Dear Ed,

Referendums may indeed be "part of the modern world," (Referendums 4 October).  Majority voting, however, is ancient and inaccurate!  Furthermore, the rules are too few.

Hungary requires a minimum 50% turnout; Denmark uses 40%, as did Scotland in 1979.  But brexit, no.

Some ballots allow for re-runs, as in Quebec, *never-end-‘ems*.  Scotland may soon want one.  The Belfast Agreement caters for many.  But brexit, it seems, no.

The first multi-option referendum was in 1894.  When New Zealand debated electoral reform in 1992, their referendum had five options.  But brexit, no; it was binary.

Referendums vary.  The 1972 border poll was horrible, but ratifying the Peace Accord in 1998 was fine.  Other votes were terrible.  As Sarajevo’s newspaper *Oslobodjenje* noted, ”All the wars in the former Yugoslavia started with a [binary] referendum.”  The same now applies to Ukraine, and the poll in South Sudan has also precipitated chaos.

The UN should change its 1947 resolution on Kashmir.  If the recommended binary referendum were to be held, the violence would probably be horrific.

Yours