**PRESS RELEASE**

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**BORIS TO RESHUFFLE CABINET?**

**SHOULD NOT PARLIAMENT RESHUFFLE THE GOVERNMENT?**

About 1,000 years ago, in the Liao Empire of the Khitans, "every three years the [eight] chieftains... gathered together to re-elect [the] khaghan," and that worked quite well.\*  Sadly, on taking over China, the leader rather liked the idea of being a primogeniture Emperor, so that was the end of that.

A shorter term of office was used in Ragusa (today's Dubrovnik) where the Rector served for only three months,¶ and that too was pretty good; not perfect, of course, so they changed it to one month.

\* \* \* \* \*

There is no reason to suggest that, in a democracy, a premier should have the power to re-shuffle, at will or whim, all but him/herself – to act like an “elected dictator,” to quote Lord Hailsham.†  At the very least, the Tory MPs could elect the Cabinet; at best, the entire Parliament could elect the Government, an all-Party, power-sharing Executive, not unlike Switzerland's all-party Federal Council.

The MPs could use a two-dimensional ballot – the colour-blind, PR matrix vote – to choose, in order of preference, not only those whom they want to be in Cabinet, but also the portfolio in which they wish each nominee to serve.  The outcome is bound to be an inclusive, all-party, power-sharing Executive, the sort of administration which could be appropriate for conflict zones… and could have been used in Afghanistan.

\*    *Cambridge History of China, Vol 6*, Denis Twitchett and John K Fairbank, 1994, p 52.

¶   *Black Lamb and Grey Falcon*, Rebecca West, Macmillan, 1967, 250-1.

† *The Dilemma of Democracy*, Lord Hailsham, Collins, London, 1978.

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