**PRESS RELEASE**

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**REFERENDUMS… OR ‘FALSE FLAGS**’

**UKRAINE** Leonid Pasechnik wants a binary referendum in Luhansk, all part of Putin’s war effort… to break-up Ukraine. As were the referendums 8 years ago in Crimea, Donetsk, etc., and the word Scotland (*Shotlandiya* Шотландия) was used by Russian separatists in 2014, to ‘justify’ the unjustifiable.

**BOSNIA** Although “all the wars in the former Yugoslavia started with a referendum,” (*Oslobodjenje*, Sarajevo’s newspaper, 7.2.1999),Milorad Dodik wants yet another referendum in Republika Srpska… to break-up Bosnia. He’s also rattling his sabres, asking for the establishment of a separate RS army.

**GEORGIA** Anatoly Bibilov wants a similar plebiscite in South Ossetia, a ‘yes-or-no’ on joining Russia… to break-up Georgia. It could restart the 2008 war.

**IRELAND** Sinn Féin is (still) asking for a border poll.

**SCOTLAND** The SNP, which in 1992 argued for a multi-option ballot, (now) wants a binary poll. (*A Multi-option Referendum – Let the People Decide*, SNP Research Department, May 1992.)

**CATALONIA** Ramón Llull, a Catalan, the father of social choice, spoke of preferential voting, in 1299. He’s now gyrating in his grave, poor feller; some of the worst (non-fatal) violence in the 2017 binary referendum was outside the Ramón Llull University…

**TAIWAN** ………….

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And so it goes on, division, threats of violence, and seldom any talk of multi-option decision-making. And yet the UK held a three-option plebiscite in Newfoundland in 1948. Guam had six options in 1982, when they settled their constitutional status. Why can’t we enjoy more nuanced debates? Pluralism, multi-option voting, is possible; preferential voting can even be consensual...

Peter Emerson, Director, the de Borda Institute Russian speaker, (and some Serbo-Croat). OSCE election observer in 10 contests in Ukraine, 2004-14; 1 in Russia, 2004; 4 in Bosnia, 19896-2000. Served in the EUMM for South Ossetia in Georgia, 2008-9.

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