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Sir

Lord Lawson's analysis (Features, April) of the case for Brexit was not only compelling, it was also, in terms of the unfolding debate, prescient. In reminding us that the EU is a political project and not an economic one he emphasised a fundamental point that HM Government's subsequent mail shot to the masses neglected even to mention.

Lord Lawson rightly concluded that the EU has a serious democratic deficit and that membership of it, however well intentioned, is an affront to self-government. But in a magazine with a mission to defend and celebrate Western civilization, much more ought to be said about this political project and the ideas that would seem to inspire it.

One might start by noting that historically the greatest threats to Western civilization were the products of that very civilization: communism and fascism. So one might ask what kind of ideas inspired these movements. And one might answer that they each subscribed to variants of historicism, collectivism and anti-rationalism. Historicist because each believed that human history has a final destiny. Collectivist because each emphasised the significance of an abstract collective over the concrete individual: the state; or a nation; or a class. Anti-rationalist because each held that a collective historical destiny is beyond the reach of reason to criticise, question, or negotiate. The failure to fulfil our collective destiny to-day always therefore becomes an imperative to try a little harder and wait for tomorrow.

Clearly, the EU is neither communist nor fascist. Yet Sir Karl Popper argued, in his famous book *The Open Society and Its Enemies* that the gruesome trio of historicism, collectivism and anti-rationalism have reappeared again and again, in different guises, throughout European history.

Lord Lawson notes that 'The Solemn Declaration on European Union', which was made by the European Council in Stuttgart in 1983, confirms a commitment to progress towards an ever closer union among the peoples and member states.

But it should also be noted that this commitment was itself made on 'the basis of an awareness of a common destiny'. And 'the people', of course, is an indefinite collective; even those crushed and destitute individuals living in Greece can claim proudly to belong to it.

As for anti-rationalism, if progress to ever closer union has a benefit it is used as a justification for more of the same; if it fails it is used as a justification for more of the same: all in the best tradition of an anti-rationalist reinforced dogma.

These ideas have never appealed to the majority of British men and women. This is why they must be concealed from us at every turn and at whatever the cost.