

Gibraltar: A Tax Haven Not A Nation

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Gibraltar is famous for its 426m high limestone ridge and tax haven status. It is also famous for having Europe's only wild population of monkeys – all 320 of them. It boasts a total area of just 6.8 square kilometres or 2.6 square miles, a total area approximately one third smaller than Bicester Village Shopping Mall in Oxfordshire. Most of the population of this peninsula live in flats, crammed on land at the base of the rock where around 12% of the workforce is employed by Gibraltar's big online gaming industry, who are there to evade taxes – quite legally of course. There is no inheritance tax, no VAT, no capital gains tax and low income and corporation tax. [GDP](#) is approximately \$2 billion dollars, or 300 per cent per head of the average British citizens output back home in good Old Blighty.

Gibraltar even has its very own Mossack Fonseca offices; the very same company involved in the global Panama Papers scandal.

[OffshoreCompanyFormationPro](#) is a company that offers company formations, and by the looks of it, mainly to Russian clients. It boasts that

“Gibraltar as a tax haven provides excellent and proficient non-resident company services. Tax haven Gibraltar has all the characteristics of a good tax haven whilst offshore clients can be guaranteed that they will save on tax and at the same time receive asset protection.”

It talks like a tax haven, it taxes like a tax haven, my guess is – it's a tax haven!

There are 32,000 Gibraltarians organised into [11,400 households](#). Extraordinarily there are more registered companies than households, including 8,464 registered [offshore companies](#).

The Government of Gibraltar's own website is [notably candid](#) about its tax haven activities. It urges you to establish there so you can take advantage of:

Highly-developed business services infrastructure where it is possible to passport an EU licence in financial services such as insurance and re-insurance, EU-wide pensions, banking and funds administration, amongst others.

Distribute competitively priced VAT-free goods and services to the markets of the EU and Africa.

Conduct business in a quality low-tax jurisdiction with a profit oriented capital base at low levels of corporate tax, all in a stable currency with few restrictions in moving capital or repatriating dividends.

It is no wonder Gibraltar voted 96% pro-EU. Its entire economy rests upon the use of its anomalous status to undercut the tax regimes of genuine EU members. Remarkably for a population the size of Ramsgate, there are 17 registered banks in Gibraltar, including Credit Suisse, the money laundering giant raided by combined European police forces yet again yesterday, and RBS/Natwest's tax avoidance entity.



Gibraltar was occupied by England (yes, England) in 1704 when it was sacked by the Hessian Prince George (wry smile Hessian – sacked) and 90% of the Spanish population fled after being subjected to mass rape.

Britnats have been all over twitter this last 24 hours shouting that Gibraltar was given to Britain “in perpetuity” by the Treaty of Utrecht of 1713. Thankfully the world has changed since 1713. The Treaty of Utrecht also gave Brazil to Portugal, much of Italy to the Hapsburgs and gave Britain the monopoly on the shipping of African slaves to South America. Thankfully none of those turned out to be perpetual and the British occupation of Gibraltar is equally immoral and anachronistic. That the Foreign and Commonwealth still quotes the Treaty of Utrecht is evidence of the moral bankruptcy of the British government's position.

There is a key point here. Empires cannot cloak their continued Imperial possessions under the “right of self-determination” of Imperial client populations. Still less is there a “right of self-determination” for an entire Imperial client population to leech off tax avoidance activities by virtue of their Imperial possession status. The right of self-determination does not apply to the colonists of Gibraltar, who like the Falklanders are an introduced Imperial population – contrary to myth the large majority of Gibraltarians are not descended from the original Spanish population. Gibraltar is plainly [listed by the UN](#) as a Non Self Governing Territory. Self-determination is not applicable in international law. [UN General Assembly Resolution 2353](#) specifically asserted that Gibraltar is a colony which impinges on the territorial integrity of Spain and thus on Spanish right to self-determination, and that a referendum of the colonial population could not change that.

Britain's fervidly jingoistic attempts to hold on to its remaining colonies are pathetic. I have a memory as a very small child of watching Rolf Harris on TV dressed in union jacks singing “Please Don't Alter Gibraltar” to the tune of Land of Hope and Glory. Google has just [reassured me](#) this really happened and was not a nightmare. I now realise from the timing that was a riposte to the UN General Assembly discussions. That it was Rolf Harris gives the perfect pointer to the grossly immoral British position on Gibraltar.

Ironies abound.

Irony 1

It is the Little England Brexiteers who are frothing at the mouth over the EU saying it will take heed of Spain's position on Gibraltar – despite the fact the Gibraltarians voted 96% in favour of the EU. They cry, how dare the EU take into account the position of the United Nations and of its member state, Spain, against what will be a non-member state? Who could have seen that coming?

Irony 2

Gibraltarians of course voted in favour of the EU in order to benefit from the opportunity to continue undermining EU tax regimes.

Irony 3

The Daddy of them all. The Britnats who crowed repeatedly at Scots, extolling alleged (and improbable) Spanish desire to veto Scottish EU membership, are shocked, shocked that Spain may veto a Brexit settlement over Gibraltar.

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