

Channel-Crossing Crisis

Will France and Britain compete to become the world's greatest exporters of millionaires?

by Theodore Dalrymple



According to an article in the *Journal du Dimanche*, France is the largest exporter of millionaires in the world. Over the last decade, it has consigned 60,000 of them to other countries in Europe, the United States, and elsewhere. London, in particular, has benefitted from the [Thomas Piketty](#)'s favored solution to mankind's problems.

As a hard-line opportunist, not necessarily the worst thing to be in politics, Macron may soon, like Sganarelle in *Le Médecin malgré lui* (he is said to be a great fan of Molière), change all that. Conceptually, this is easy to do; politically, it is not, thanks to years of anti-rich demagoguery. But Macron now has a strong hand, and if he succeeds, the flow from Paris to London could soon reverse, even become a flood.

Britain is on a knife's edge, and anti-rich demagoguery is on

the upsurge. The leader of the opposition, Jeremy Corbyn, could soon become prime minister, and he has already suggesting requisitioning property by government fiat for reasons of alleged social justice. Following the disastrous fire in [crude and vulgar self-indulgence](#), is inimical to rapid improvement; and now, in addition, there has been a recrudescence of the notion that wealth derives from redistribution, rather than from creation.

There is no fatality in politics; it is not inevitable that the reflux from Britain to France will take place. But if I were a betting man, I would put money on it—if Corbyn still allowed me to have any, that is.

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