

Opinion: Smaller government needed in Calif.

By Kerry Jackson, Orange County Register

As much as the Brexit vote, coming just before Canada's and America's own independence celebrations, drove the West's elitists to call those who don't agree with them "rubies" and far worse, it also inspired other autonomy movements to increase their efforts to break away from those ruling them from a distance. There is a significant roster of other nations considering leaving the European Union, and some states on this side of the Atlantic have been thinking about going their own ways.

Then there's the talk of a Calexit – and the curious case of efforts to split the state in two, or more, parts.

Partitioning California has been a matter of debate since before it was a state. More recent proposals include lopping the state into northern and southern halves, creating a coastal California by separating the state north to south, and slicing the state into three smaller ones – northern central and southern.

Independence movements make sense. When government is physically removed from the governed, in Washington or in Brussels, the governed are typically exploited and suffer from a lack of proper representation. Meanwhile, the officials in power, the elitists who make up their support network, and those who are provided for and subsidized by them thrive.

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