

## BREXIT

*The article discusses the story of brexit from the perspective of a Brit. Including the background to this story, the possible reasons the vote went the way it did, and the possible consequences for the future.*

**Key words:** *brexit, European Union, UK, referendum, membership*

The shot review about “Brexit”. The description of a history.

Anyone who even glances occasionally at the news will have noticed the stories regarding ‘Brexit’. Brexit is a portmanteau (a new word formed of two words to describe a specific theme), which is commonly used now to describe Britain’s exit from the European Union (EU). Attitudes surrounding Brexit have always been of interest to non-Brits, therefore I hope this article will enlighten you about the subject from a British perspective.

Britain’s relationship with the EU has always been a tumultuous one. Britain joined what, what was then called the ‘European communities’ (EC) in 1973, which later changed its name to the EU. It was a Conservative prime minister, Ted Heath, who brought Great Britain into Europe, but following his defeat to the Labour party in 1974, a referendum was called in 1975 on whether to stay in the EC or to leave. In the 1975 referendum, the first ever national referendum in UK history, 67.2% of the electorate voted to remain in the EC. This was a resounding victory, and many would have thought that such a result would cement Britain’s place in Europe. However over the following decades a significant shift in political opinion in Great Britain would see the attitude to Europe turned upside down. The group colloquially known as ‘Europhiles’ (the pro-EU supporters) in 1975 typically belonged to the Conservative party, which is the voice of the centre right of British politics, who originally saw Europe as a great opportunity for increased trade and business; while

the Labour party, the centre left party in Great Britain, were skeptical of the terms of Britain's membership of the EC, believing it a threat to British jobs and worker's employment. By 2013 though this attitude had shifted, the Labour party were now committed to the European dream, satisfied with the protections given to workers rights in the European treaties, and it was the Conservatives who had become 'Eurosceptic' (those who were against the EU), due to what was considered interference by the EU in British domestic law. The then Prime Minister David Cameron promised that if his party (Conservatives) won the 2015 general election, they would hold a nationwide referendum on Britain's membership of the EU. He subsequently won that election and the referendum was due to take place in June 2016, which would be won by 'the leave campaign' by 52-48% of the vote.

The main question asked by non-brits about Brexit is 'why did Britain vote to leave?' This is not a simple question to answer, as the reasons are complex, and each voter had his or her own motivation to vote the way they did. However, in general the reasons to vote leave can be boiled down to three main categories, according to research carried out by the 'Lord Ashcroft Poll'. They are: sovereignty, immigration and culture.

According to the Lord Ashcroft poll, nearly half (49%) of leave voters said that the biggest reason for them wanting to leave the EU was "the principle that decisions about the UK should be taken by the UK". EU membership was seen by them as taking power away from national bodies, such as parliament, in favour over domination by regulatory bodies – especially the unelected European Commission, and distancing power makers from the people. The second most cited reason for wanting to leave the EU was immigration, making up nearly one third of respondents to the poll. Membership of the EU has as one of its core principles the free movement of people across the continent. For the more developed countries of the EU, of which the UK was a part, this saw levels of immigration rise significantly. The rise of the immigrant population in the UK (200% between 2001-2015 according to Ipsos MORI) has had an enormous impact on British life, especially among poorer, working class communities. Primarily because of economic competition, for jobs and

increase in house prices. Additionally it was seen that increasingly immigrants to the UK were failing to integrate into British society, therefore fears were raised in the native population about the status of British norms and culture. The affects of immigration clearly influenced the vote to leave, with areas that had experienced the largest swings in immigration voting more heavily to leave the EU in 2016.

The vote of 2016 created numerous divisions within the UK which might pose threats to the future. Firstly, the closeness of the result itself (52% leave to 48% remain) show that the country itself is very evenly divided on the subject of Brexit. This divide is amplified even more when one looks at the demographics more closely, it begins to show more divides particularly between the nations of the UK.

The referendum was conducted within the United Kingdom, which is comprised of England Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Additionally the British overseas territory of Gibraltar also took part in this referendum. The majority of the electorate in England and Wales voted to leave the EU, whereas in the other nations of the UK the situation was the opposite. In Scotland the result of the referendum looks most likely to become politically problematic, having voted only two years before, narrowly, to remain part of the UK, the result of the 2016 referendum renewed calls from the Scottish nationalists for another independence referendum. So far, such demands look unlikely to be accepted by the UK government in Westminster; however some commentators suggest that the longer Scotland goes without a say on its future, the more likely when an independence referendum comes about, they are to vote to leave the UK. Similarly, in Northern Ireland, Republicans (those who believe that Northern Ireland should become part of the Republic of Ireland) are using the results of the referendum for a united Ireland, and regain EU membership. Although Gibraltar voted, out of all the parts of the UK, most heavily to remain in the EU, it is seen as unlikely to have any serious consequences for its relationship with the UK.

The UK finally exited the EU on January 31<sup>st</sup> 2020, following the reelection of a conservative majority under Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who pledged to take the UK out of the EU fulfilling the result of the referendum. Until the end of this year the

UK is in a transition period, while both sides attempt to draw up an agreement for the future relationship between the UK and the EU. By June this year we will know more details about what that arrangement will look like. Until then, this story looks likely to continue to dominate the headlines in the UK and abroad.

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## **CHILDREN WITH REDUCED FUNCTIONAL ABILITIES IN SCHOOL AND LEISURE TIME IN NORWAY**

*This article is deduced from a study done by the Norwegian Department of Education. Its theme is “Integration of Children with reduced functional abilities in the Norwegian primary and junior high school”.*

**Key words:** *physically handicapped children, special adapted education, disabilities, inclusive school, social participation*

All children get the most out of an education when it is adapted to their level of performance ability, and some children need extra adaption to perform the best according to their abilities. Among those who need extra adaption, are pupils with challenges connected to behavior, reading and writing issues, reduced functional abilities and over average skilled pupils. Adaption according to each pupil's individual needs may include physical adaption, special pedagogical support or special training.

### **Main Points**

80% of primary schools are not sufficiently accessible for physically handicapped children.

About 8% of all pupils are included in some kind of special adaption for the year 2018/19