**BREXIT**

The result of the United Kingdom European Union Referendum of 2016 was a victory for the 'Leave' campaign, amassing a total of 51.9% of the vote. This meant that the outcome was in favour of the United Kingdom to leaving the European Union, a decision and process that has come to be known as "Brexit". Consequently, British Prime Minister Theresa May triggered Article 50 on 29th March 2017, starting the process of the UK's exit from the EU.

**What does Brexit mean?**

It is a word that has become used as a shorthand way of saying the UK leaving the EU - merging the words **Br**itain and **exit** to get Brexit.

**What is article 50?**

Article 50 is a plan for any country that wishes to exit the EU. It was created as part of the Treaty of Lisbon - an agreement signed up to by all EU states which became law in 2009. Before that treaty, there was no formal mechanism for a country to leave the EU.

It spells out that any EU member state may decide to quit the EU, that it must notify the European Council and negotiate its withdrawal with the EU, that there are two years to reach an agreement - unless everyone agrees to extend it - and that the exiting state cannot take part in EU internal discussions about its departure.

**Who wanted the UK to leave the EU?**

The UK Independence Party has campaigned for many years for Britain's exit from the EU. They were by about half the Conservative Party's MPs, including Boris Johnson and five members of the then Cabinet. A handful of Labour MPs and Northern Ireland party the DUP were also in favour of leaving.

**What were their reasons for wanting the UK to leave?**

The 'Leave' campaign campaigned primarily on issues relating to sovereignty and migration. They said Britain was being held back by the EU, which they said imposed too many rules on business and charged billions of pounds a year in membership fees for little in return. They also cited sovereignty and democracy, and they wanted Britain to take back full control of its borders and reduce the number of people coming here to live and/or work.

One of the main principles of EU membership is "free movement", which means you don't need to get a visa to go and live in another EU country. The Leave campaign also objected to the idea of "ever closer union" between EU member states and what they see as moves towards the creation of a "United States of Europe".

**Who wanted the UK to stay in the EU?**

Then Prime Minister David Cameron was the leading voice in the Remain campaign. Sixteen members of Mr Cameron's Cabinet, including the woman who would replace him as PM, Theresa May, also backed staying in. The Labour Party, Scottish National Party, Plaid Cymru, the Green Party and the Liberal Democrats were all in favour of staying in.

US president Barack Obama also wanted Britain to remain in the EU, as did other EU nations such as France and Germany.

**What were their reasons for wanting the UK to stay?**

The remain campaign focused on the economic impacts of leaving the EU. Those campaigning for Britain to stay in the EU said it got a big boost from membership - it makes selling things to other EU countries easier and, they argued, the flow of immigrants, most of whom are young and keen to work, fuels economic growth and helps pay for public services.

They also said Britain's status in the world would be damaged by leaving and that we are more secure as part of the 28 nation club, rather than going it alone.

**What was the result of the referendum ?**

A referendum - a vote in which everyone (or nearly everyone) of voting age can take part - was held on Thursday 23 June, 2016, to decide whether the UK should leave or remain in the European Union. Leave won by 51.9% to 48.1%. The referendum turnout was 71.8%, with more than 30 million people voting.

* England voted for Brexit, by 53.4% to 46.6%.
* Wales voted for Brexit, with Leave getting 52.5% of the vote and Remain

47.5%.

* Scotland and Northern Ireland both backed staying in the EU.
* Scotland backed Remain by 62% to 38%,.
* Northern Ireland voted Remain 55.8% and 44.2% Leave.

**Brexit and social issues:**

This theme is likely to continue to dominate throughout the years, giving organisations the opportunity to join the conversation and, importantly, to offer solutions. Here’s a brief rundown of 5 social issues:

**1. Hate**

Cybercrime, hate crime and bullying all featured heavily in the media during the latter part of 2016. Increases in violent crime and hate crime were reported in the immediate aftermath of the Brexit vote. ith the internet as the next crime frontier, the government announced £1.9bn of spending on cyber-defences, and more recently announced that it will fund research into social media hate crime with companies including Google, Facebook and Twitter also coming under pressure to remove hate speech.

**2. Mental health**

People have to deal with the possibility of losing their job within 24 hours, losing their right to work and live across the EU. The feelings this must bring up and the effects it must have on their daily life are some issues researchers are discussing about. In some studies they found that families have been ripped apart and couples have split up. Many studies reported that Brexit wasn’t just a personal blow for EU and UK citizens; it was also a moral and emotional blow in terms of the future of the world they live in.

A Mental Health Foundation poll found that 54 percent of EU citizens felt powerless, 39 percent felt insecure, and 38 percent felt worried as a result of the threat of Brexit.

**Brexit and economic issues**

There are a few clear consequences.

While we do not know the shape of any EU-UK deal, the EU has potentially lost its most economically liberal member.

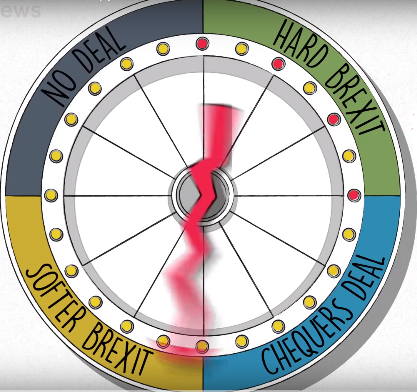
A vote by a Member State to leave is an immense shock to the Union’s self-image, global standing and sense of durability of the European project.

Dealing with complex Brexit negotiations reduces the resources available to deal with all these crisis and increases the complexity of managing these crises as they begin to feed off one another.

This interaction between crises can be seen in the use by nationalist forces, such as those of the Front National in France to deploy the Brexit result in a broader attack against EU and euro zone membership. It galvanises anti-EU forces across the continent, with the prospect that the EU is indeed toppling and it will only need a few more events like the Brexit vote to end the Union.

**What future awaits the UK and the European**

**Union countriesafter Brexit?**

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**Watch the video. Read the predictions and decide which strategy of leaving the EU is it: Watch the video:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7eoDwvl0QGk>

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- the UK government will set their own rules and regulations on trade, boarders, etc.

- will be beneficial for British traders who sell their goods in the UK

- import and export of goods to/from the UK will be more expensive

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- invented by the Prime Minister Theresa May (and called after her home)

- both European and British politicians aren’t in favour of it

- the UK will sign a “common rule” book, and will continue on sharing some regulations with the EU

- more freedom for new deals with countries from all over the world

- the rights of immigrants will be protected, but there will be more control over migration

- crossing the border will remain easy but there will be more control over the free movement

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- Britain will continue to observe some general EU regulations.

- trading and travelling abroad will remain easy

- some Brits might see it as a betrayal of the referendum, because few things will change

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- it might cause chaos both across the UK and the UE

- possible economic crash, problems with trade, huge delays at the border, food shortages

- a hard border required between the UK and Ireland