Keep Calm and Carry On: The Brexit Referendum, 2016

Crisis Director: Vincentas Vičas

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Letter from CD

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to "Keep Calm and Carry On: Brexit 2016" at MUNE XIV! My name is Vincentas (Vinny) Vičas, and it is my pleasure to serve as your Crisis Director for this committee. I am currently in my second year at Emory, double majoring in History with a concentration in European History, and Film and Media Studies. I am originally from the Isle of Wight in the United Kingdom, where I enjoy spending time with seagulls and taking a boat to work! A fun fact about me is that I served Katy Perry her food when working at a Yacht Club (she was evil). Beyond Model UN, I love hiking, exploring nature, and alternate history.

Brexit has had momentous implications on not only UK politics, but also broader European politics. The years following the Brexit referendum highlighted major weaknesses within both the UK and EU governments and can help explain some of the issues these governments face today. Likewise, Brexit delves into several topics that are both relevant today, and for the future of European geopolitics.

With that being said, I want delegates to have fun with the committee, drawing from any of the numerous aspects of Brexit. The Brexit Discussion not only explores politics, but also economics, culture, society, and history. Thus, I wish for delegates to take liberty and get creative in using the Brexit Discussion as a launchpad for bigger and grander ideas, while remaining sensible and grounded in the context of 2016 European and British society.

Sincerely,

Vincentas Vicas

Sensitivity Statement

At MUNE, it is our responsibility to ensure that everybody feels safe and respected in the committee. As such, we request that delegates treat each other with the highest level of respect and kindness. MUNE maintains a strict zero-tolerance policy for bullying or discrimination in any form. If you ever experience a problem, please raise it with your CD, ACD and or Chairs, and we will do everything in our power to help you.

Given the recency of Brexit and its aftereffects, it is important to remember that Brexit has impacted and continues to impact real people who are alive today. One of, if not the most, contentious issues surrounding Brexit was the topic of immigration. Many of those advocating for Brexit in the run-up to the referendum demonised immigration and presented Brexit as a solution to solve it. With that being said, we will not tolerate any arcs, directives, speeches or JPDs reiterating this rhetoric or even referencing this hateful rhetoric. Brexit had serious implications on immigration to the UK and seriously affected many people; delegates should not treat this issue lightly. However, migration policy is still a legitimate historical aspect of the Brexit referendum and discussion. Thus, delegates are expected to understand the seriousness of migration in the Brexit discussion and remain mature should the topic arise.

More broadly, Brexit affected real people in other ways too, through political and economic implications, and we expect delegates to respect that when engaging with this committee. We also ask that delegates also adhere to 21st century moral standards, refraining from any engagement with genocide, colonialisation, exploitation of people etc. We want to ensure that this committee is fun for everyone, and that delegates feel respected.

Introduction to Committee

It is June 23rd, 2016, and the British public have narrowly voted, with 52% of the vote, to leave the European Union.[1] Now that the public has spoken and has chosen to leave the EU, the UK parliament must now decide on how it wants to execute the departure. By this point, Britain had just experienced a general election a year prior, which saw incumbent Prime Minister David Cameron and the Conservative Party re-elected with a 330-seat majority in Parliament.[2] Cameron had promised the British public as early as 2013 that if the Conservatives were to get re-elected in 2015, a Brexit referendum would be held.[3] The United Kingdom had also weathered the consequences of the 2008 Financial Crisis only 8 years earlier, calling into question the stability and efficiency of the European Union in resolving these issues.

Among the politicians wishing for the UK to leave the EU, the biggest concerns were UK sovereignty, economic independence and more independent decision-making over its laws and borders.[4] Those wishing to remain, such as then Prime Minister David Cameron, argued that the UK benefited from EU trade and being part of the EU single market, as well as enjoying free

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[1] BBC News. "EU Referendum Results." *BBC News*, 2016, www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics/eu_referendum/results.

[2] Baker, Carl, et al. "General Election 2015." *Commonslibrary.parliament.uk*, July 2015, commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-7186/.

[3] Wright, Oliver. "The Speech That Was the Start of the End of David Cameron." *The Independent*, 24 June 2016, www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-eu-referendum-david-cameron-resignation-announcement-2013-a7101281.html.

[4] Lee, Timothy B. "Brexit: The 7 Most Important Arguments for Britain to Leave the EU." *Vox*, Vox, 22 June 2016, www.vox.com/2016/6/22/11992106/brexit-arguments.

movement within the EU.[5] Regional variations also influenced the Brexit campaign in the run up to the referendum. For example, Scotland, London, and Northern Ireland voted to remain in the EU. However, England and Wales voted to leave the EU.[6] As a result of Brexit, Britain saw more regional division and thus created more problems in trying to come up with a deal.

English interests have largely dominated the United Kingdom's long-standing Euroscepticism. Britain held a referendum in 1975 on whether to leave the EEC but voted to remain.[7] Likewise, Britain never adopted the Euro as its currency, nor did it ever join the Schengen Area, as other EU members did. More broadly, Britain's position as an island in Europe has historically created some distance between the UK and the mainland, thus leading to some thinking Britain is better off alone. As early as 2013, there were vocal factions within the Conservative party that wanted the UK to leave the EU. Prime Minister Cameron stated that a referendum would be held if the Conservatives won the 2015 election, regardless of whether he wanted it or not.

In many ways, the Brexit referendum was inevitable. Long-standing Euroscepticism and concerns over sovereignty and the economy meant that it wasn't a case of if the UK would leave the EU, it was a case of when and how it would leave.

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[5] HM Government. "Why the Government Believes That Voting to Remain in the European Union Is the Best Decision for the UK." *GOV.UK*, 2016,

assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a8055a4e5274a2e87db9392/why-the-government-believes-that-voting-to-remain-in-the-european-union-is-the-best-decision-for-the-uk.pdf.

[6] BBC News. "EU Referendum Results." *BBC News*, 2016, www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics/eu_referendum/results.

[7] Miller, Vaughne. "The 1974-75 UK Renegotiation of EEC Membership and Referendum." *Commonslibrary.parliament.uk*, July 2015,

commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-7253/#fullreport.

Historical Background

History of the European Union

The European Union originally started as an agreement between 6 countries to organise and manage coal and steel production. The European Coal and Steel Community was founded in 1951 between France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Belgium, and the Netherlands as a way to centralise the production of coal and steel, and to ensure that no country could build up enough weapons to invade one another. In 1957, the 6 founding countries created the EEC (European Economic Community) under the Treaty of Rome to further increase economic cooperation, serving as a predecessor to the modern EU. A year later, the first European Parliament was held.[8]

The signing of the Treaty of Rome in 1957 (https://jacobin.com/2017/03/european-union-wwii-trade-monnett-merkel-trump)

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[8] European Union. "History of the EU." *European Union*, 2024, european-union.europa.eu/principles-countries-history/history-eu_en.

The countries within the EEC would continue to integrate further over the course of the 1960s, establishing a Common Agricultural Policy, Free Trade Associate, removing Customs duties between EEC countries, and setting up the European Council and European Commission to merge and streamline political and economic responsibilities.[9]

On January 1st, 1973, the EEC saw its first expansion. Denmark, Ireland, and the United Kingdom were the first members to join the EEC and raised the number of countries to 9. Similarly, countries such as Greece and Portugal were beginning to democratise, laying the groundwork for future EEC and EU membership. The EEC saw further integration through the first direct elections to the EU parliament in 1979, focusing on pan-European political groups as opposed to regional or national ones.[10]

The 1980s saw further EEC expansion, with the admission of Greece, Spain, and Portugal. The Erasmus programme, a programme which would allow students from across the EEC to study anywhere within the EEC, was also established and contributed to closer European cooperation.

The 1990s were the most consequential years for EU growth and integration. As the Berlin Wall fell in 1989 and the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, prospects of a large European 'expansion' were becoming more and more realistic, just as the EEC had admitted Greece, Spain, and Portugal after their democratisation. The 1992 Maastricht Treaty set the groundwork for what would officially become the European Union, mapping out a future single currency, single market, and the removal of borders between member states. The European Single Market

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[9] European Union. "History of the EU." *European Union*, 2024, european-union.europa.eu/principles-countries-history/history-eu_en.

[10] European Union. "History of the EU." *European Union*, 2024, european-union.europa.eu/principles-countries-history/history-eu_en.

would go into effect on January 1, 1993, and the EEA (European Economic Area) would be established in 1994. Only a year later, Austria, Sweden, and Finland, would join the EU. The Schengen Agreement would be signed in 1995 between 7 member states, allowing for the free movement of people between the EU's internal borders. On January 1st, 1999, the Euro would be adopted by 11 member states for commercial and transactional purposes, with Denmark, Sweden and the UK choosing to keep their own currencies.[11]

The introduction of the Euro in Germany, 1999 (https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/jan/10/the-launch-of-the-euro-january-1999)

The 2000s would oversee the EU undertaking a wide array of logistical challenges, including its biggest expansion to date. The Euro finally became legal tender in 12 EU member states, allowing EU residents to use physical coins and notes now, as opposed to their old national currencies. The biggest change to the EU during this period, however, was in 2004 with the EU's "Eastern Expansion". 10 new countries, 8 of which had been behind the Iron Curtain, were admitted into the EU on May 1st, 2004. In 2007, two more post-communist countries,

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[11] European Union. "History of the EU." *European Union*, 2024, european-union.europa.eu/principles-countries-history/history-eu_en.

Bulgaria and Romania, would join the EU. The Treaty of Lisbon was also signed in 2007, forcing the EU and its member states to be more "democratic, efficient, and transparent" in its work.[12]

Latvians celebrate Latvia joining the EU, 2004 (https://www.instagram.com/p/DJHSHcrIUgm/)

The EU would be set back by the challenges of the 2008 Financial Crisis during the 2010s. The Eurozone Crisis, which saw a huge lack of confidence in the EU economic system, would linger until 2010 and saw countries such as Greece seek bailouts by international banking systems as a result. The EU would expand again with the admission of Croatia in 2013, raising the number of member states to 28. In 2015, the EU saw the arrival of over 1 million asylum seekers, coming in primarily on foot or by boat. Most notably however, the United Kingdom would hold a referendum on EU membership in 2016, ultimately voting to leave the EU. This was the first time an EU member state voted to leave.[13]

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[12] European Union. "History of the EU." *European Union*, 2024, european-union.europa.eu/principles-countries-history/history-eu_en.

[13] European Union. "History of the EU." *European Union*, 2024, european-union.europa.eu/principles-countries-history/history-eu_en.

<center>UK-EU Relations</center>

The UK has always had an estranged relationship with the rest of the continent. Britain's global empire had historically meant that it had no reason to care or get involved with continental affairs when it had colonies to run abroad. The wealth generated from these colonies, as well as the cost it took to run them, distracted Britain from European affairs.[14] Likewise, Britain embraced a policy of 'Splendid Isolationism' which saw no involvement with the European continent from the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815, until the start of the First World War in 1914. Even during World War Two, the UK's then Prime Minister Winston Churchill painted Britain's involvement with the conflict not as a European issue, but as a global one.[15]

It was only after World War Two, almost 3 decades later, that the UK would reluctantly join the EEC. Britain had applied to join the EEC as early as 1961, however France's President Charles De Gaulle had vetoed the UK's admission twice, stating that the UK had a "deep-seated hostility" towards the European Project.[16] Britain's collapsing global empire, as well as fears over exclusion following the beginning of the Cold War, meant that the UK was forced to seek new economic and political allies, such as those in the EEC.

Britain would finally join the EEC on January 1st, 1973, to little fanfare. Those most critical of this decision would be on Britain's left, part of the Labour Party. Once Labour was

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[14] Nugent, Ciara. "It's Complicated: From the Roman Empire to Brexit, Britain Has Always Struggled to Define Its Relationship with Europe." *Time*, Time, 11 Apr. 2019, time.com/5563689/britain-europe-relationship-history/.

[15] Nugent, Ciara. "It's Complicated: From the Roman Empire to Brexit, Britain Has Always Struggled to Define Its Relationship with Europe." *Time*, Time, 11 Apr. 2019, time.com/5563689/britain-europe-relationship-history/.

[16] Morris, Chris. "Brexit: 12 Big Dates in the UK-EU Relationship." *BBC News*, BBC News, 2019, www.bbc.co.uk/news/extra/D6MgynFwGo/12_big_moments_in_UK_EU_relationship

back in power in 1974, a referendum was held to renegotiate and question the UK's membership in the EEC. In 1975, a referendum would finally be held on the UK's membership in the EEC. The British public would vote Remain, with 67.2% of the vote. However, Euroscepticism would still rumble on.[17]

Conservative party leader Margaret Thatcher expressing support for the UK to remain in the EU
(https://x.com/paul1kirby/status/606930689230041089)

For the next 40 years, the United Kingdom would get to pick and choose what rules it wanted to obey and what rules didn't apply to them. The UK would renegotiate how much it contributed towards the EU budget, citing the Common Agricultural Policy as disproportionately benefitting countries outside of the UK. However, Thatcher would then help push for the creation for a single European Market in 1986. The rest of the UK's relationship with the EU would thus be defined by self-centred decision-making.[18]

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[17] ibid.

[18] Morris, Chris. "Brexit: 12 Big Dates in the UK-EU Relationship." *BBC News*, BBC News, 2019, www.bbc.co.uk/news/extra/D6MgynFwGo/12_big_moments_in_UK_EU_relationship

In 1988, Thatcher would describe the European Community as a "super-state exercising a new dominance from Brussels," pushing for more sovereign and independent decision-making for the countries of Europe. Conservative Prime Minister John Major would fight for the UK's opt-out on certain aspects of the Maastricht Treaty, such as the single currency and compliance with social laws. It is important to note however, that opting out of some EU laws was few and far between. Denmark had also opted to keep its national currency, but these opt-outs did not significantly impact EU integration. 1992 also saw the catastrophic events of "Black Wednesday." The UK's currency, the Pound Sterling, had been pegged to the value of the Deutsche Mark under the ERM (European Exchange Rate Mechanism), serving as a precursor to the Euro. Foreign speculators doubted the UK's ability to remain in this mechanism and betted against it. Despite government efforts, the UK was forced to leave the ERM, causing the Pound's value to drop drastically. This moment in time would serve as the breaking point within the Conservative Party, causing great scepticism towards big European projects and setting the groundwork for pro-Brexit sentiment.[19]

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[19] Morris, Chris. "Brexit: 12 Big Dates in the UK-EU Relationship." *BBC News*, BBC News, 2019, www.bbc.co.uk/news/extra/D6MgynFwGo/12_big_moments_in_UK_EU_relationship

UK newspapers reporting on the Pound Sterling's devaluation, 1992
(https://www.theguardian.com/business/2012/sep/13/black-wednesday-20-years-pound-erm)

Debate over the UK's membership in the EU would rise again after the "Eastern Enlargement" in 2004. The UK was one of three EU member states to admit migrants from Eastern Europe from the day they joined, with some on the UK's political right linking large numbers of migration to the UK to EU membership. Among those, was Nigel Farage. Farage was an outspoken Eurosceptic, and former member of the Conservative party. After the admission of many Eastern European countries to the EU and subsequent migration to the UK, Farage's party, UKIP (United Kingdom Independence Party), would paint Eastern European migration as placing strain on job availability, social services, and housing. Farage's party would place third in the 2004 European elections, and in 2014 it would place first.[20]

UK-EU relations would come to a boiling point in 2013, when Prime Minister Cameron gave in and promised a referendum on the future of UK membership in the EU. Cameron stated in an interview that this was the public's decision, and that the referendum would only go ahead

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[20] Morris, Chris. "Brexit: 12 Big Dates in the UK-EU Relationship." *BBC News*, BBC News, 2019,

www.bbc.co.uk/news/extra/D6MgynFwGo/12_big_moments_in_UK_EU_relationship

if the Conservatives won the 2015 general election.[21] Despite Cameron's wish to remain in the EU, the Conservatives would end up winning the election and Cameron was forced to hold a referendum the next year.[22]

<u>Scottish Independence</u>

The United Kingdom is made up of 4 separate "constituent" countries - England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. These countries (excluding England because they host the capital) have their own assemblies (parliaments) and their own First Ministers (Regional Prime Ministers) but ultimately depend on Parliament in London for most things including defense and government funding.

Scotland had been largely independent for most of its history. Despite sharing an isle with England and Wales, the Scottish managed to preserve their independence and fight off the Romans and English. However, Scottish self-determination would slowly slip after 1603, after the death of Elizabeth I, who had been Queen of England and Ireland. Before she died, it was clear that Elizabeth's distant cousin, King James IV of Scotland became the first king of England, Scotland and Ireland through succession. Despite his attempts to unite the three countries, his vision would prove unpopular, and Britain would be beset by civil war and monarchical tyranny.[23]

[21] Morris, Chris. "Brexit: 12 Big Dates in the UK-EU Relationship." *BBC News*, BBC News, 2019, www.bbc.co.uk/news/extra/D6MgynFwGo/12_big_moments_in_UK_EU_relationship

[22] UK Parliament. "European Union Referendum Act 2015 - Parliamentary Bills - UK Parliament." *Parliament.uk*, 2015, bills.parliament.uk/bills/1570.

[23] Solly, Meilan. "A Not-So-Brief History of Scottish Independence." *Smithsonian Magazine*, 30 Jan. 2020, www.smithsonianmag.com/history/brief-history-scottish-independence-180973928/.

Following failed colonisation attempts abroad, and concerns over Scottish succession, England and Scotland would finally unite under the 1707 Act of Union. In doing so, England was guaranteed political security by reducing the risk of Jacobite rebellion (supporters of James II), and Scotland gained economic support and access to England's colonial network. For the next 200 years, Scotland was firmly in the hands of Westminster, which proved unsurprisingly unpopular among Scottish people.[24]

Attempts to restore Scottish self-rule began as early as 1886 when Prime Minister William Gladstone's idea of 'home rule' in Ireland also took off in Scotland. In 1913, MP William Cowan introduced a bill to create a Scottish parliament, yet his idea failed. Dreams of Scottish autonomy would subside after World War One began. Once Ireland gained independence in 1922, Scotland soon realised it too was no longer benefiting from Britain's global status.[25]

In 1934, the National Party of Scotland and the Scottish Party merged to form the Scottish National Party, a party that would spearhead the modern movement of Scottish Independence. Scottish Independence would stagnate from then on until the 1970s, when oil was discovered off Scotland's coast in the North Sea. Scottish politicians used this new-found oil prospect to push for Scottish independence. In 1974, the SNP won 11 seats in Parliament. In 1997, the Scottish public overwhelmingly voted in favour of a decentralised legislature, with the Scottish Parliament meeting for the first time in 1999.

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[24] Solly, Meilan. "A Not-So-Brief History of Scottish Independence." *Smithsonian Magazine*, 30 Jan. 2020, www.smithsonianmag.com/history/brief-history-scottish-independence-180973928/.

[25] Solly, Meilan. "A Not-So-Brief History of Scottish Independence." *Smithsonian Magazine*, 30 Jan. 2020, www.smithsonianmag.com/history/brief-history-scottish-independence-180973928/.

The SNP would go onto win a majority government in Scotland in 2011 and promised voters that a referendum on Scottish independence would be held if the SNP won a majority in the Scottish Parliament.[26] In 2014, the Scottish public voted to stay part of the UK. 45% of the Scottish public voted to leave while 55% voted to stay.[27] However, Scotland had overwhelmingly voted to stay in the EU in 2016,[28] which thus raised questions on another Scottish independence referendum in the hopes of rejoining the EU.

A Statue of Liberty advocating for Scottish Independence, 2014
(https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/scottish-independence/scottish-independence-the-statue-of-liberty-makes-its-presence-known-in-edinburgh-9741992.html)

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[26] Solly, Meilan. "A Not-So-Brief History of Scottish Independence." *Smithsonian Magazine*, 30 Jan. 2020, www.smithsonianmag.com/history/brief-history-scottish-independence-180973928/.

[27] BBC News. "Scottish Independence Referendum - Results - BBC News." *Bbc.com*, BBC News, 2015, www.bbc.com/news/events/scotland-decides/results.

[28] BBC News. "EU Referendum Results." *BBC News*, 2016, www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics/eu_referendum/results.

The UK-Ireland Border and the Question of Northern Ireland

The Northern Irish border proved to be an incredibly contentious issue after the Brexit referendum, with few people realising the true implications in the run-up to the election. Before the Brexit vote, people from both the UK and Ireland could move across freely under the Common Travel Area. The CTA was a mutually understood agreement that went into effect in 1922 after the creation of the Irish Free State.[29] Both British and Irish citizens were free to move between Ireland and the UK to work, live, and study. This agreement would only be reinforced once both countries joined the EEC in 1973.

However, questions arose surrounding the border once a Brexit referendum came into debate. The Republic of Ireland, a member of the EU, had no intention of leaving the EU and thus Brexit raised concerns on what could happen to the Northern Irish border. The Republic of Ireland is the only country that the United Kingdom shares a land border with, and residents on both sides have enjoyed little restriction moving across. A key part of British Irish relations improving since the Troubles has been admission to the EU and the benefits that came with EU membership.[30]

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[29] Citizensinformation.ie. "Common Travel Area between Ireland and the UK." *Www.citizensinformation.ie*, 9 Apr. 2025, www.citizensinformation.ie/en/government-in-ireland/ireland-and-the-uk/common-travel-area-between-ireland-and-the-uk/.

[30] Stourton, Ed. "Brexit Worries on Both Sides of the Irish Border." *BBC News*, 8 Feb. 2016, www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-35502736.

Border checkpoint between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland during the Troubles
(https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-35502736)

However, if the UK were to leave the EU, this would create an external border between Ireland and the UK and would thus have to be treated like any other international border. Communities living along the border worried that the implementation of a 'hard border' would not only restrict their abilities to visit family and travel but also undermine the peace processes of the 1990s.[31]

The State of the Conservative Party in 2016

Despite the fact that the Conservative Party was in power when Brexit took place, it was ultimately the voice of a loud minority that had pushed for the UK's departure from the EU. Prime Minister David Cameron had given the British public the opportunity to vote on EU membership as a way to get rid of party infighting and factionalism, asking pro-Leave members

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[31] Stourton, Ed. "Brexit Worries on Both Sides of the Irish Border." *BBC News*, 8 Feb. 2016, www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-35502736.

of the party to "stop banging on about Europe."[32] However, it was exactly this decision that gave way to Cameron's resignation on June 23rd, 2016, the morning after the Brexit result.

Senior members of the Conservative Party at this point, such as Daniel Hannan and Douglas Carswell, argued that the EU was outdated and restricted the UK's ability to flourish. Many members of the Party in the 1990s could remember the disaster that was Black Wednesday in 1992, setting the seeds for the 'Brexit' faction of the Conservatives. However, it was through former Chancellor of the Exchequer, Norman Lamont, that Euroscepticism came back. During a speech in 1994 at a Conservative Party conference in Bournemouth, he spoke against EU integration, and it was this rhetoric that would haunt the party until the declaration of a referendum in 2013.[33]

Cameron's decision to hold a referendum reflected growing concerns over EU membership – as many as 150 Tory MPs were in favour of leaving the EU pre-Brexit and as leader of the Tories it was Cameron's responsibility to make those voices heard.[34] However, those unhappy with the Conservative Party would ultimately end up creating their own party, UKIP.

[32] Wheeler, Brian. "The David Cameron Story." *BBC News*, 24 June 2016, www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-eu-referendum-36540101.

[33] d'Ancona, Matthew. "Brexit: How a Fringe Idea Took Hold of the Tory Party | Matthew D'Ancona." *The Guardian*, 15 June 2016, www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/jun/15/brexit-how-a-fringe-idea-took-hold-tory-party.

[34] d'Ancona, Matthew. "Brexit: How a Fringe Idea Took Hold of the Tory Party | Matthew D'Ancona." *The Guardian*, 15 June 2016, www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/jun/15/brexit-how-a-fringe-idea-took-hold-tory-party.

Conservative Mayor of London Boris Johnson and Home Secretary Theresa May standing in front of a pro-Brexit advert, 2016
(https://conversion-uplift.co.uk/brexit/the-boris-johnson-brexit-bus-lie-of-350m/)

The UKIP Party (UK Independence Party)

UKIP, as the name implies, was a single-issue political party in the UK that ran on the sole intention of getting the UK out of the European Union.

UKIP was founded in 1993 as a protest to the Maastricht Treaty by LSE professor Alan Sked, among others such as Nigel Farage. UKIP was largely unsuccessful in its early years, given the fringe nature of 'Brexit' rhetoric during this point. In the 1997 General Election UKIP failed to secure any seats in Parliament. However, in 1999 UKIP managed to gain 3 seats during the European Parliament elections, its first victory.[35]

During this point, one member of UKIP, Nigel Farage, began to rise in popularity. Farage, a former commodities trader, had shown himself to be a well-spoken and passionate speaker. After the 2004 Eastern Expansion of the EU, Farage used this expansion to warn the UK and other Western European countries the implications of admitting a large number of new EU

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[35] Hunt, Alex. "UKIP: The Story of the UK Independence Party's Rise." *BBC News*, 21 Nov. 2014, www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-21614073.

member states, specifically regarding migration. UKIP would go on to win 12 seats in the 2004

EU parliament elections, becoming the 3rd largest UK party in the EU parliament.

Nigel Farage would go on to become leader of UKIP by 2006, and from then onward

UKIP's size would only grow. By 2009 UKIP won second place in EU parliamentary elections

and by 2014 it won first. UKIP secured 27.5% of the vote in the 2014 EU elections and reflected

a growing scepticism among the British public towards the EU.[36]

An example of a UKIP campaign poster, 2014
(https://theconversation.com/eu-election-is-ukip-a-political-earthquake-or-just-a-tremor-26675)

Beyond promises that the UK would leave the EU, UKIP ran on a fairly populist

platform. Farage vowed to increase healthcare spending, build more homes and revitalise

domestic industries. However, many of his other policies were still concerned with migration.

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[36] Hunt, Alex. "UKIP: The Story of the UK Independence Party's Rise." *BBC News*, 21 Nov. 2014, www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-21614073.

Farage wanted to prioritise jobs for British people first, clamping down on migration into the UK and cutting foreign spending.[37]

Current Problems

Relationships with The EU

The United Kingdom has openly expressed its desire to leave the EU and pursue its own independent path. However, the UK has been a member of the EU since 1973 and has been a net-contributor. The UK's only land borders are with EU countries and its biggest trading partners are other EU countries. More broadly, the UK is in Europe and its closest neighbours and allies are in the EU. A 'hard Brexit' would result in isolation from the rest of the continent and would have drastic implications on the UK's trade and economy. However, a deal too soft would defeat the point of leaving the EU in the first place. Politicians in both the UK and the EU must now decide the terms of Brexit, creating an agreement that will go into effect as soon as negotiations are over. Should EU and UK residents be able to travel between one another freely? Should the UK be subject to EU tariffs on its goods? Should the UK and EU continue to work together on regional security and cooperation? It is up to those in the EU and the UK to decide the terms of Brexit which will define EU-UK relations for years to come.

That being said, trade and economy is just one part of the Brexit negotiation. Diplomacy, political relations, and borders are another aspect of the conversation. How will conversations look regarding defense and regional security? How and or will the UK and the EU cooperate on

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[37] Quinn, Ben. "Ukip Manifesto 2015 - the Key Points." *The Guardian*, 15 Apr. 2015, www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/apr/15/ukip-manifesto-2015-the-key-points.

social and humanitarian issues? How will the border look in Ireland, or in the UK's overseas territories such as Gibraltar? Will the UK continue to get a say in broader European policy? The Brexit discussion is a reevaluation of the UK's and EU's entire relationship, and it is up to policy-makers and politicians to decide what is a priority, what needs to change and perhaps what doesn't.

Brexit is as much about the UK leaving the EU as it is about the stability and future of the EU as a whole. The UK's departure from the EU demonstrated that in theory, anyone could simply vote to leave the EU. Other Eurosceptic parties in Europe could use this referendum as an example to fuel their own campaigns. Those in the EU must work and figure out what path the EU will take in the future. Will the EU allow for more autonomy in the wake of the referendum, or will they centralise more to avoid further referendums?

The State of British Domestic Politics

British politics have been dominated by debates over the UK's EU membership for the last 20 years. The Conservative Party has no clear mindset on Brexit as different politicians want different things from the EU and view the EU as a governing body in different ways. In many ways, the Brexit debate has distracted domestic politics from discussion over other issues and has resulted in fracturing within other parties. Likewise, the presence of parties such as UKIP have called into question the strength of the Conservatives in their ability to gauge the importance of this issue and maintain their voter base.

Other parties within the UK, such as the second biggest Labour Party, must also figure out a way to manage Brexit together with Conservatives, and perhaps begin brainstorming campaign ideas for the next General Election. Other parties such as the Liberal Democrats and SNP must also find a way to work together in solving Brexit.

Regional Priorities

The UK is a vast and diverse country, with different priorities. Regional parties such as the SNP have voiced their concerns over the Brexit vote as this referendum is not reflective of the entire country. Scotland and Northern Ireland voted against Brexit, and thus what would happen to the UK if these regions were to succeed in the hopes of rejoining the EU? Likewise, big urban centres such as London largely voted to remain, raising questions on if cities such as London would entertain the idea of self-government in the name of retaining EU membership. It is clear that the UK will not rejoin the EU anytime soon. It is up to regional representatives, such as city mayors and First Ministers (regional prime ministers) to decide whether they want independence, in the hopes of rejoining the EU separately, or whether they want to sink with the ship. Those representing regional priorities must find a way to deal with Brexit with whatever way they deem fit, whether it be with or without the rest of the UK. Those seeking to rejoin the EU under a new government must note that declaring independence does not guarantee them automatic EU membership; they must reapply. Thus, newly independent states must also figure out not only their relationship with the UK, but also with the EU and its member states. That being said, Brexit was a unique referendum, and now might be the prime time for regional parties to exploit this chaos.

The Leadership of the UK

Prime Minister David Cameron resigned on the morning of the Brexit result, stepping aside for another member of the Conservative Party to follow on with Brexit. Despite it being he who allowed for the referendum, he did not want to leave the EU. Thus, the Conservative Party must now figure out who will lead the country in negotiations with the EU, and what path it wants to take regarding the terms of Brexit. The Prime Minister cannot act alone in negotiations with the EU and must cooperate with other members of his party, and Parliament. The newly elected Prime Minister will serve as a representative for what the committee wants from a Brexit negotiation, and will be expected to lead their party into the next general election. Ultimately, the Prime Minister is but one piece in the larger Brexit puzzle, but will help centralize ideas regarding Brexit, as well as domestic politics. This leadership change will also help the committee understand where the room sits on the Brexit deal as a whole, encouraging debate on policy, the EU's future and the UK's future.

The UK as a Global Power

If the UK has decided to leave the EU, it must now figure out its position on the world stage. Politicians, both within and outside the UK, must decide where the UK sits in terms of global politics, trade, defence, and culture. While the UK is closer both historically and geographically to other European countries, it also has a long history with other countries in

North America and Oceania. Thus, the UK must decide who it will align itself with in this increasingly polarised world.

State of Committee

It is June 23rd, the day of the Brexit referendum results, and the UK is seemingly in shambles. The UK has just voted to leave the European Union, which will have major implications on UK's domestic and international policy, as well as the future of the EU and its decision-making abilities. Delegates have a lot on their plate, and must figure out what path they want to take and what they want to prioritise. From the British perspective, politicians both for and against Brexit are fighting for the very existence of the UK. Brexit could either involve the UK cutting Europe off entirely, choosing to focus on its relationships elsewhere, and forever changing the state of modern geopolitics. On the other hand, Brexit could involve a few policy changes but ultimately changing nothing, in true political fashion. Political parties in Parliament are fighting for their interpretation of what a Brexit deal should be, making sure that their voices are heard both at the national and international level. Those in charge of regional parties and pro-EU areas are at a crossroad - do they follow the path of statehood among this chaos or do they choose to sink with the ship? It seems that Brexit is the prime time to do so but it is ultimately the will of people.

The EU similarly has its own battles it must fight. How will Brussels approach the departure of one of its biggest contributors? Will the EU try to stop the UK from leaving? The EU serves as a beacon of cooperation in the international community, and it cannot afford to lose

one of its biggest members. More importantly, what does this mean for other members? Other big players in the EU must now reevaluate their relationship with the EU, whether they want it to continue to centralise, or whether they should let member states pick and choose policies to avoid a second Brexit. The EU right now is arguably at its weakest, nothing like this has ever happened and both individual EU member states and the EU as a whole must now decide the future of this union. The EU was initially created to prevent another war in Europe, and the departure of one of its members could lead to events more sinister than people think.

As of now, the possibilities really are endless. Now is the perfect time to reignite past hatreds, old loves and bold policy. Politics never have been and frankly never will be a rational field of work, and so long as it is done through existing political and legal frameworks, members of this committee are free to exercise free (and fair) will. In other words, delegates should aim high with their ambitions and get creative, but remember that we are working in Europe in 2016.
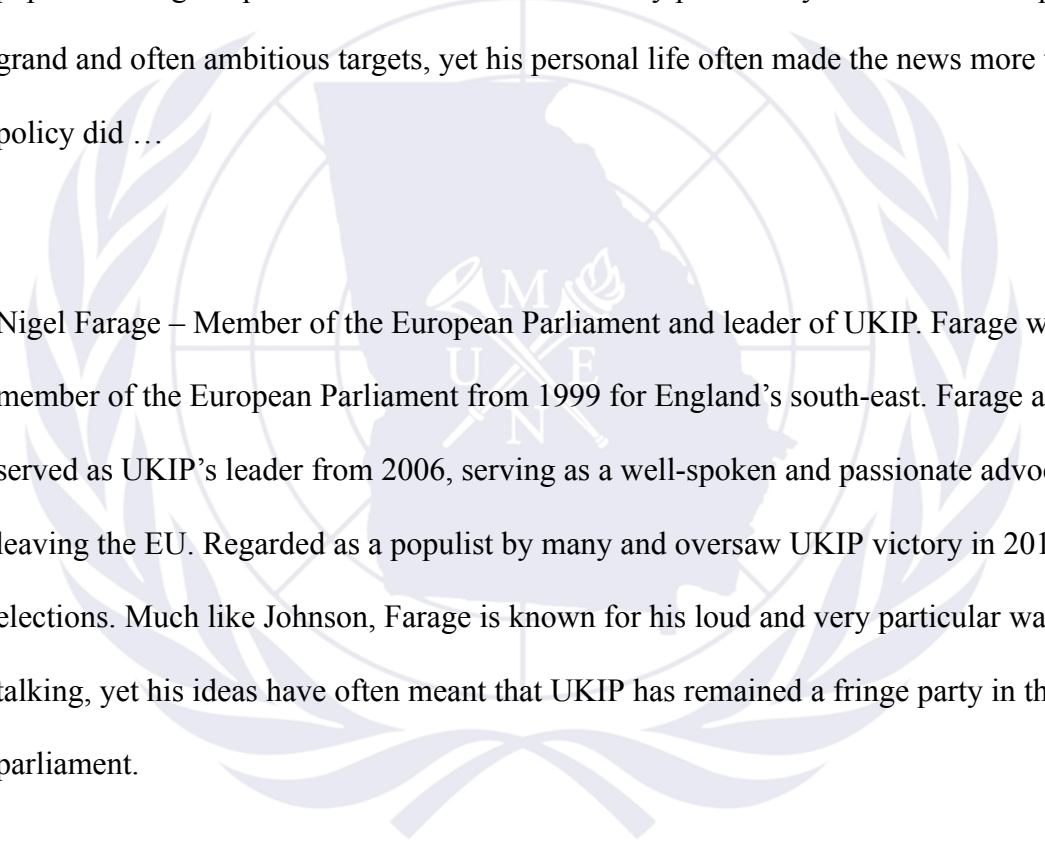
Brexit negotiations, much like in real life, did not take a day to complete. Brexit is an incredibly big and complex challenge to take on and each realm of the Brexit conversation (trade, borders, military etc.) will take the form of passing directives, as per traditional crisis.

Questions to Consider

- How will delegates approach the terms of Brexit in the wake of the referendum?

- How will different political parties tackle the Brexit question in working with the Conservative Party, and their own political success?

- How will regional governments, such as the Scottish, Northern Irish, and Welsh assemblies ensure that their voices are heard during negotiations?

- How will the EU ensure its own stability and strength after the departure of one of its members?

- How will the UK ensure its strength and reputation abroad after Brexit?

- How will the Conservative Party deal with the leadership change following the Brexit referendum?

- How and or will the EU and UK choose to cooperate on broader European issues after Brexit?
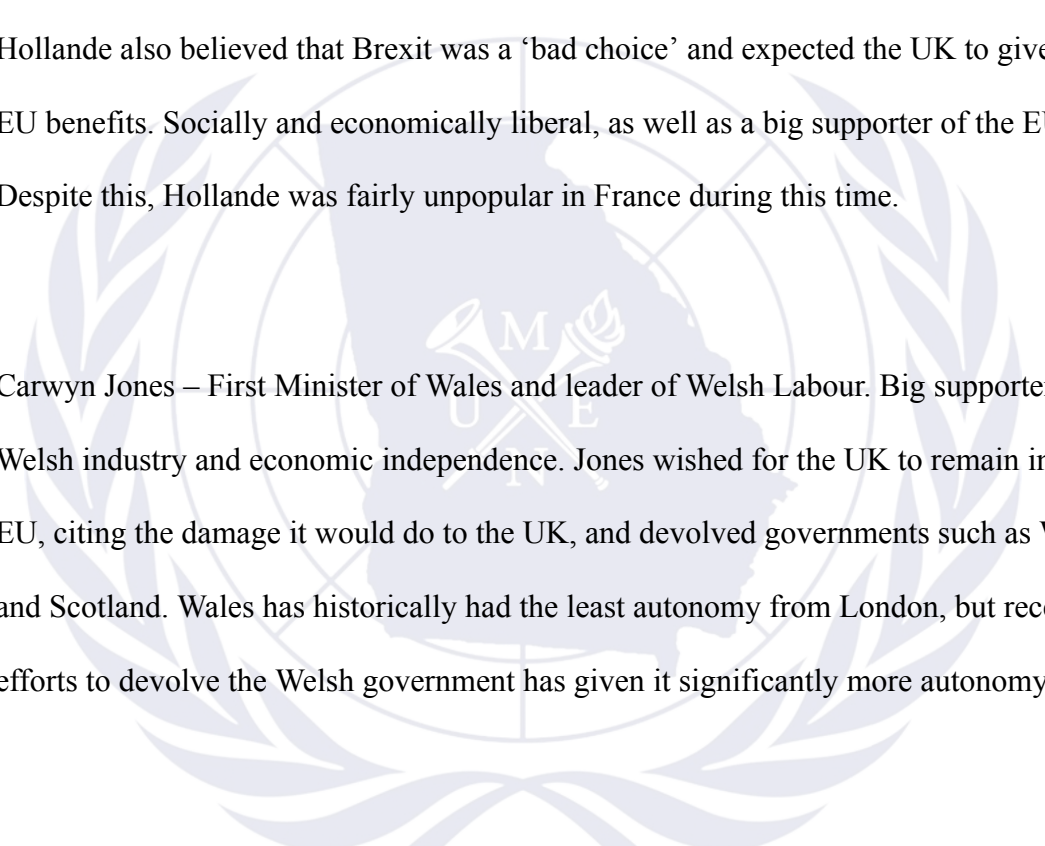
Character Dossier

1. David Cameron – the former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and caretaker Prime Minister of the UK. Cameron had been leader of the Conservative Party since 2006 and had been Prime Minister since 2010. He oversaw the Brexit Campaign and allowed for a referendum to take place, despite being pro-remain. Having overseen the UK during the aftershocks of the Financial Crisis, Cameron was largely popular with the public, even after Brexit.

2. Jeremy Corbyn – leader of the Labour Party and leader of the Opposition. Corbyn was a self-proclaimed Socialist and advocated for more left-leaning economic policies and social policies aimed at helping the British public. Corbyn was also an outspoken critic of Brexit, wishing to have remained in the EU. Corbyn's policies have often been demonised by many MPs for being too socialist, yet he remains incredibly popular among young people and those in urban areas.

3. Theresa May – Home Secretary under Prime Minister David Cameron. A high-ranking member of the UK cabinet, May was elected Home Secretary (Secretary of State) in 2010 and pushed hard for crime reduction and better policing. May also pushed to remain in the EU despite the referendum. Many of May's policies concerned better surveillance and stricter police, in many ways a true reflection of the Conservative Party's domestic policies during this period.

4. Boris Johnson – Former Mayor of London (2008-2016). Johnson had been Mayor of London for 8 years under two terms, seeking to reduce crime, improve transport, and oversaw the 2012 London Olympics. More recently, Johnson was incredibly vocal about the UK's departure from the EU, campaigning for pro-leave, and being seen as largely popular among the public. His loud and often wacky personality allowed him to speak of grand and often ambitious targets, yet his personal life often made the news more than his policy did …

5. Nigel Farage – Member of the European Parliament and leader of UKIP. Farage was a member of the European Parliament from 1999 for England's south-east. Farage also served as UKIP's leader from 2006, serving as a well-spoken and passionate advocate for leaving the EU. Regarded as a populist by many and oversaw UKIP victory in 2014 EU elections. Much like Johnson, Farage is known for his loud and very particular way of talking, yet his ideas have often meant that UKIP has remained a fringe party in the UK parliament.

6. Nicola Sturgeon – First Minister of Scotland and leader of the Scottish National Party. Sturgeon stood firmly against the UK's leave from the EU, given Scotland voted to remain in the EU. In terms of domestic policy, Sturgeon pushed for Scottish independence and self-determination, as well as liberal economic and social policy.

Sturgeon served as deputy minister during the 2014 Scottish Independence referendum, and wanted another one following the result.

7. Arlene Foster – First Minister of Northern Ireland and leader of the Democratic Unionist Party. Foster was in favour of Brexit but wanted a soft border with the Republic of Ireland, allowing for more movement between the two. Supported Northern Ireland as part of the UK and socially conservative. As the leader of the UK's most contentious and divisive country, she personally experienced the Troubles in Northern Ireland during her youth.

8. Michael D. Higgins – President of Ireland. Higgins opposed a 'hard border' with Britain as the only country to share a land border. Higgins was also incredibly popular in Ireland and made efforts to reconcile with the UK being the first Irish President to visit the UK. Following strained and difficult UK-Ireland relations for the majority of history, Ireland must now figure out where it wants to sit in terms of Northern Ireland in the Brexit discussion.

9. Jean Claude Juncker – President of the European Commission. Juncker believed that Brexit could have been prevented by dispelling the lies associated with the campaign. Juncker also pushed for more fruitful and cooperative negotiations with the UK in the

wake of the referendum result. Juncker also served as the Prime Minister of Luxembourg, one of the EU's founding members.

10. Francois Hollande – President of France. As one of the EU's biggest contributors and closest UK allies, Hollande pushed for the UK to face the consequences of its actions. Hollande also believed that Brexit was a 'bad choice' and expected the UK to give up its EU benefits. Socially and economically liberal, as well as a big supporter of the EU. Despite this, Hollande was fairly unpopular in France during this time.

11. Carwyn Jones – First Minister of Wales and leader of Welsh Labour. Big supporter of Welsh industry and economic independence. Jones wished for the UK to remain in the EU, citing the damage it would do to the UK, and devolved governments such as Wales and Scotland. Wales has historically had the least autonomy from London, but recent efforts to devolve the Welsh government has given it significantly more autonomy.

12. Sadiq Khan – Mayor of London and Labour Party member. London voted overwhelmingly to remain, and Khan's belief that Britain should have remained reflected the views of other regional leaders. Khan wished to see a second referendum, however he ultimately respected the choice of the British public. Khan was socially liberal, fighting against discrimination in London, as well as pushing for transport reform.

13. Angela Merkel – Chancellor of Germany. Merkel was strongly opposed to Brexit, horrified by Britain's decision to leave the EU. She engaged in pre-referendum negotiations with Cameron. Merkel's Germany was a big supporter of EU unity, a net-contributor to the EU, and one of the EU's most powerful members. Merkel had enjoyed an incredibly high approval rating in Germany, and is among the most influential politicians in the EU.

14. Dominic Cummings – Campaign Director of Vote Leave. Cummings was a strong supporter of Brexit, designing the slogan "Take Back Control" in the run-up to the referendum. Claimed that being a member of the EU cost the British government £350 million a week, and that this money could be used to fund the British healthcare system (incredibly treasured by the public). Up until this point, Cummings had been a fairly minor politician, with this job being his biggest.

15. Tim Farron – Leader of the Liberal Democrats. As the leader of Britian's 4th largest party, Farron was strongly pro-remain, stating he would have reversed the Brexit vote if the Lib Dems were in power. Farron was also liberal in his economic and social policies. The Lib Dems had been in a coalition government with the Conservatives up until 2015, when they faced a major defeat in the General Election.

16. George Osborne – Chancellor of the Exchequer. Osborne oversaw the UK's financial policy under Prime Minister Cameron. Osborne was responsible for the UK's

implementation of austerity measures in 2010, and was pro-remain much like Cameron. Osborne stated Brexit would cause Britain to be 'permanently poorer' despite criticisms that his economic policy lead people to vote Brexit.

17. Ivan Rogers – Representative of the United Kingdom to the European Union. Rogers was the UK's permanent representative to the EU, and later functioned as a key negotiator for the UK to the EU after the Brexit Referendum. As a civil servant, he was not allowed to share his political views and had to remain impartial during the Brexit referendum. Rogers had also worked closely with Prime Ministers Tony Blair and David Cameron, serving as an advisor on European and Global affairs.

18. Donald Tusk - President of the European Council. Tusk, a member of the European People's Party, was also the Prime Minister of Poland up until 2014. The Presidency oversees the general political direction of the EU. As a Polish politician, he represents the new countries that joined the EU following the collapse of communism in Europe. Tusk was firmly against Brexit, but following the referendum pushed for a hard Brexit.

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