

Integration and Disintegration in Europe: A Study on Brexit

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Abstract

Regionalism is the creation of political, economic, or social structures loyal to a detailed analysis of a Geographic area with a similar population in terms of ideology and culture. Capitalism and state-to-state diplomacy are fundamentally based on regional integration. The ideas emphasize how interdependent and geographically significant states are. These nations are widely acknowledged as a single commercial bloc and are pursuing more ambitious political and economic goals. To accomplish this, member states' capitalism and intergovernmental systems come together. The European Union (EU) is Europe's attempt to become a regional organization, the most significant effort to establish regionalism in markets in the 20th century. The United Kingdom (UK) will leave the European Union on March 29 2019, leading to a new course in the world. When on June 23 2016, a majority voted in favour of the United Kingdom leaving the European Union (EU), it generated a host of unknowns. Over to the referendum, all are focused on anticipating the impact and implications of Britain's withdrawal from the European Union. This paper will add another piece to Brexit and its emergence. This paper tries to explain regionalism in Europe and European integration, the UK's Withdrawal referendum, and its Exit and also traces the importance of the political parties in Britain. Afterwards, it briefly introduces Britain's historically fractious relationship with the EU. In light of Britain's historical role, the remaining part of this paper goes on to estimate the background and impact of Brexit on the regional organization like European Union, which members and institutions within the organization emerges (the EU 27) will be best able to benefit from the strategic vacuum created the Brexit in the Globalized era.

Keywords: Regionalism; European Union; Brexit; Integration; Euroscepticism

Introduction

Regionalism frequently results in officially recognized agreements between groups of nations designed to convey a shared sense of identity while attaining shared objectives and enhancing the quality of life. The European Union is a unique economic and political alliance of 28 European nations that spans most of the continent. EU was established following World War II. The first step of the Union was to foster the economic cooperation. The EU traces its origin to the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) and the European Economic Community (EEC). In 1993 Maastricht treaty established the European Union under its current name European Union is one of the best examples of the most developed model of regional integration. In the early 1950s, the European Union has been a pioneer in regional integration. The European Union is a singular example of sovereign nation-state collaboration through political and economic alliances. A unique economic and political partnership between 27 European nations, the Union, spans most of the European continent. Following

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the conclusion of World War II, the European Union was born. The EU's member states have worked to harmonize legislation and implement uniform policies on an expanding range of economic, social, and political concerns over time. The EU member states collaborate on a joint trade and agriculture strategy, as well as a customs union, single market, and free movement of capital, goods, services, and people.

Moreover, the involvement of mass states illustrates Europe's intention to achieve a more profound political and capitalist system that integrates further than the neoliberal regional trade agreement (RTAs). Member states work together through several EU institutions to set policy and promote their collective interests. The UK is one of the EU's most important political and economic powers.

The internal and foreign crises the European Union has experienced are numerous. One of the primary topics is the British Exit from the European Union, which is Exit of Britain from the European Union. It is a political and legal procedure. The European Union is considering the ideal structure for a regional organization. The Union promotes regional economic growth and prosperity across Europe. Following its Exit from the Union, Britain still has sovereign authority over 27 European nations. The first nation to quit the EU is the UK. The reasons for the UK's Exit from the EU are based on its many difficulties, such as the growth of Euroskepticism and the participation of anti-EU political parties. This paper is an effort to find the relationship between the EU and The UK, on the other hand, Britain's membership and withdrawal. The significant impacts happen to the EU due to the emergence of Brexit.

Regionalism and Globalization

In three ways, regionalism is compatible with globalization. First and foremost, the adverse effects of globalization on national sovereignty have led to the formation of regional economic blocs. As a result of normative adaptation within the larger discourse of international politics, governments have been more likely to cooperate closely with other states in the same region. Due to the financial markets and multinational companies (MNCs) significant influence on the nature of national sovereignty, this has been economically startling. It is important to note that the seemingly irreversible globalization trend has impacted even the wealthiest and most powerful economies. A member state in a regional bloc does indeed have at least some degree of political influence. (Robert Leach B. C., 2011)

The ability of regional economic blocs to withstand pressure from global exterior competition is a second justification for their existence. As a result, a regional bloc that also functions as a customs union can serve as a stronghold against the forces of the larger global economy. The European Union is arguably the best example of this claim (EU). The group has frequently been charged with erecting trade barriers against nations outside the group. This point is significant in light of several of the poorest economies in the Global South.

Similarly, the EU can adopt a stance during negotiations that will allow its members to fend off the forces of competition unleashed by globalization. For instantiate, the EU can take a unified view in a trade pact with China or the US. As a member of one of the biggest single markets in the world, a nation-state is more likely to be heard than if they were not a part of that organization. Such a unit would possess more power than the sum of its parts, increasing the member nations' perceptions of their collective power in the past.



Member states argue that expanding access to regional markets is the key to development. Being a member of a regional bloc firmly committed to free trade is advantageous in an increasingly globalized economy. Access to a bigger market is made possible by membership in a free trade area. Doing this helps businesses in the regional bloc achieve economies of scale. Regional trade agreements also allow labour and money to move freely. It may be interesting to note that there are now well over 300 regional trade agreements, up from just 50 in 1990.

The relationship between regionalism and globalization can be seen as conflicting from the opposite perspective. Regional integration is clearly at odds with the true purpose of globalization when used to divide up the world economy. A truly global economy cannot be created with the rapidly expanding scope and scale of regional accords. Since regionalism emphasizes the local than the international, it is the antithesis of the alleged global interconnectedness of governments and non-state entities. This claim is supported by the fact that regional organizations promote intra-regional trade rather than globalized trade. Regional common markets, customs unions, and free trade zones encourage transactions between their members rather than trading with outside parties. These organizations can impose limits on governments that are not members of the organization, thanks to regional integration. (Ranchod M. , 2017)

British Politics and the European Regionalism

The EU has claimed sovereignty over 27 European states, acting as a “supranational” economic power. According to Cohn (2016), the European Union (EU) replaced the European Community (EC) as the name for this evolving Union of regional member states in 1993. A further indication of Europe's desire to build a more integrated political and economic framework than the neoliberal regional trade agreements (RTAs) is the engagement of the smaller states. Although RTAs have helped the EU become a more “integrated” economy and a more “developed” Single European Market (SEM), more integration is still desired by the EU. By doing this, the EU hopes to implement all the policies outlined in the Maastricht Treaty (1992) and the Lisbon Treaty (2009), igniting a desire for it to become a “complete” economic union with a federal structure. The Union established a “hybrid” of institutions representing the supranational grandeur and intergovernmental legitimacy of the EU to stoke these demands for transformation.

Increased regionalist tendencies among the Community's member countries is one of the results of the European Community's (EC) process of unification's rising integration. Numerous reasons, both inside and external to the European Union (EU), have contributed to the rise of regionalism. The existence of ethnolinguistic differences that separate regions from the country serve as the earliest and most fundamental foundation for regionalist movements. This can be observed, among other places, in the French island of Corsica, the Catalan and Basque areas of Spain, Scotland, and Wales, in the United Kingdom.

Britain's Conservative and Labour governments had failed to deal with her insistent economic complications. The only possible solution in front of them to solve those problems is to enter the European Economic Community (EEC). The EEC started its journey with the six countries that formed the EEC in 1957, growing much faster than Britain. British membership was increasingly seen as a potential answer to slow economic growth and a lack of competitiveness. Both Macmillan's Conservative and Wilson's Labour governments made

applications to join in 1963 and 1967, but French President de Gaulle effectively vetoed both applications. In 1973, Heath's administration successfully secured membership when de Gaulle left office. Following some modest reworking of the terms of entrance by the newly elected Labour administration in 1974, membership was subsequently approved by two-thirds of British voters in a referendum in 1975. The time finally seemed ripe for Britain to engage with Europe. Membership barriers in the past, such as ties to the British Empire, Commonwealth, and the larger world, did not appear as significant. Most former colonies had already attained complete independence or would do so very soon. As part of a scaling-back of defence obligations, the British military had left the region east of Suez, and the pound was no longer a significant reserve currency. Britain's entry into the Community had been supported by the leaders of all three parties, and those politicians who had opposed it largely accepted that the 1975 referendum had settled the issue for the immediate future. However, the British commitment to Europe was less than wholehearted and entry into the European Community (EC) provided no instant answer to Britain's economic problems. (Robert Leach B. C., 2016)

Since joining the EC in 1973, the UK's participation has significantly impacted its politics, public policy, the entire system of government, and foundational constitutional values. However, Britain's long-standing membership in the EU has become more divisive, splitting existing parties and encouraging the rise of new ones antagonistic to the entire European idea. Following are probably its most significant victories, the creation of a single European currency in 2002 and the political unity of a continent previously divided by the Iron Curtain following the enlargements of 2004 and 2007, the European Union itself now faces numerous challenging difficulties. New divisions inside a broader, more varied European Union, as well as challenging relations with the United States, Russia, China, and the developing world over trade, the environment, and security issues, are among these challenges right now. (Molchanov, 2005)

The primary goal of Robert Schuman and Jean Monnet, the ancestors of the new Europe after centuries of war, was the abolition of future hostilities. However, it was undoubtedly hoped that greater European integration would also aid in the restoration of the continent's agricultural and industrial output. The Schuman Plan of 1950 intended to bind their economies together as tightly as possible to prevent another conflict between France and Germany. It envisioned a continual integration of crucial policy areas that would eventually result in closer unity as governments and peoples reaped the rewards of cooperation. As a result, the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), which has broad authority to oversee the coal and steel industries in member nations, was established in 1952 by France, Germany, Italy, and the Benelux states are Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg. The Treaty of Rome was signed in 1957 by the same nations. This marked the beginning of the European Economic Community (EEC), which formed the European Atomic Energy Authority and a customs union with internal free trade (Euratom). Three-quarters of the EEC budget was initially allocated to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), but as time passed, more money was given to social and regional programmes. (Robert Leach B. C., 2016)

At first, the British government stayed out of these developments. British concerns and interests diverge from those of the EEC members at the end of World War II. With a still sizable empire abroad, Britain maintained the appearance of being a great power and one of



the “big three” that had beaten Nazi Germany. Its governmental structure was stable, and its financial and economic interests continued to be global.

According to British leaders and the broader British public, there was no pressing need for a tighter economic and political Union with other European countries. In the years immediately following the war, Britain was strongly influenced by her empire, the Commonwealth, and its “special relationship” with the United States of America. In a speech in Zurich in 1946, Winston Churchill called for “a form of United States of Europe,” but he made it clear that Britain would be among its “friends and sponsors of the new Europe” rather than a fundamental component of it.

Britain's Entry to the EU

The European Coal and Steel Community was born in 1952 (ECSC). In 1956 ECSC proposed to complement itself with two new communities. One for a common market and one for atomic energy. Then it leads to European Economic Community EEC and EURATOM. European Economic Community is one of the first Economic Powers in the world. In 1959 first, Great Britain joined the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). It is an alternative organization which eventually failed. After the failure of EFTA, Britain entered into European Economic Community on January 1 1973. Britain joined in 1975 with the countries like Denmark and Ireland. On 1993 November 1, EEC was to be called as European Union. The Euro, the currency, appeared in 1999. Since 2002 has been the single currency in Eurozone except for members like the UK and Denmark. The Euro became the single currency of Europe. In January 1973, Britain became one of the EU members. Among the 28 European countries, Britain was one of the EU's most important political and economic powers.

The main characteristics of EU member countries are the countries in the European Continent. They have economic, social and territorial Cohesion. The Euro is Europe's single currency, with no fluctuation risk and foreign exchange cost, more choice and stable consumer prices, and closer economic cooperation with EU countries. The single currency, the Schengen treaty, provides the right to free movement, which means no police or customs check at borders between most EU countries and Norway, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, and Ireland. Controls strengthened at the EU's external borders. More cooperation between Police and immigration authorities from different EU countries. When travelling between EU countries, buy and bring back any goods for personal use.

The UK had a vote in June 2016 to exit the EU; Britain's departure from the EU is a legal and political process. In March 2017, the UK began its Exit from the Union by activating Article 50. Following a vote, the withdrawal was slated by law to take place on March 29, 2019. Finally, a second Article 50 extension until January 31, 2020, was requested by the UK and granted. The UK parliament approved the separation agreement on January 23, 2020, and the European Parliament on January 29, 2020, indicating that a plan will be in place if the UK quits the EU. The UK will quit the European Union's single market and customs union in 2018. The EU and the UK make important trade-related decisions. Although the UK leaves the EU, the first year is Britain's transition phase. Due to several factors, including the emergence of populist and, to some extent, anti-EU political parties, the actual departure took place. They work to uphold the economic and cultural ties that exist between the EU and Britain. One of the EU's more significant members is the UK. The more than the 45-year

relationship is complicated by the UK's Exit from the EU. Due to this, the EU's withdrawal procedure took a lot of work.

Britain's Exit from the European Union

The British government operated inside a multi-party political system with a well-developed framework for parliamentary democracy. The conservative and labour parties have historically been the two main political parties. The Conservative party, the Labour party, the Liberal Democrats, and the United Kingdom Independent Party are just a few political parties operating in Britain (UKIP). UKIP was crucial to Britain's decision to leave the European Union. On January 31, 1973, Britain officially became a member of the EEC, and this membership will last until 2020. It has served as a critical member and a significant neighbour to European communities.

The first-ever nationwide referendum on the UK's membership in the European Union was held in 1975 in the United Kingdom. The U K newly established the European Monitoring system in 1979. (EMS). The EU may be negatively impacted politically and economically by the UK's leaving. The complete departure is justified by its many difficulties, such as the escalation of Euroscepticism and the participation of anti-EU political parties. The United Kingdom left the EU on January 31, 2020. It attempts to spread right-wing populism and brand ultranationalist concepts into other European countries as Brexit gains traction. After defining Euroscepticism and its associated words, we can focus on how it affects European integration. The advancement of European integration has received strong backing from most European elites. But as the European Union has grown and become more interwoven, it has been harder to maintain. Euroscepticism has become evident and stable in some member nations through public opinion. The phrase was initially used to indicate scepticism against the European Union and its policies on November 11, 1985, in the British newspaper "The Times." According to the definition of Euroscepticism, those who hold this view accuse the European Union of usurping the authority of member states' national governments and endangering their sovereignty. The first time this happened was when Margaret Thatcher, the British prime minister, delivered her "Bruges Speech" on September 20, 1988. In her speech, the Prime Minister reportedly opposed the European Union's authority overruling that of the United Kingdom.

UKIP, the United Kingdom Independent Party, favours Britain leaving the EU. UKIP, which was founded in 1993, is a political party that is anti-European. They came in third place in the 2004 European elections in the UK. In the 2009 election, they came in second place. In the 2014 European elections, they went in first place. That marked the first vote share by a party other than the Labour or Conservative Parties. The strongest association between the support for the Brexit campaign in the 2016 referendum and UKIP's election performance in 2014 has been noted. (Hanna J, 2020)

Vote To leave was selected as the primary campaign by the electoral commission at the beginning of 2016, which compelled UKIP to decide to leave the EU and make an effort to gain support among Vote Leave supporters. However, this led to conflict on both sides of the race and led to UKIP's lone-wolf campaign. However, this didn't pose an issue because Farage received a lot of press in the media due to this persona. In May 2016, UKIP successfully launched its independent campaign by introducing the purple bus (UKIP's Launches Brexit Battle Bus). It then proceeded on a cross-country tour to turn out voters in



places where the remaining campaign felt it would be unfavourable to a campaign. More crucially, as Farage repeatedly spoke to his voter base about how immigration impacts local British communities and public services, anti-immigration rhetoric became a more prominent role in UKIP's speeches and actions. (David Baily, Leslie Budd, 2019)

After World War II, British exceptionalism, which supports emotions of otherness toward the rest of Europe, has been more prominent in the UK's political discourses. It tends to place greater trust in the special relationship with the United States than it does in the representation of the continental powers, which is based first on a shared cultural and historical legacy but is frequently enforced by shared security interests. Over the past ten years, the Eurozone and migration crises have strengthened misconceptions about the potential advantages of European integration. Ironically, pro-European politician Tony Blair initiated the initial action that led to the nation's final Exit from the EU. In 2003, the UK government supported the Iraqi invasion alongside the George W. Bush administration, which created a problem for the integration of Atlanticist and community-oriented EU member states. Based on further institutionalizing the political decision-making process, the Atlanticist foreign policy tradition of the UK placed a higher weight on national security assets than cooperative security choices. (Molder, 2017)

The growing popularity of UKIP reinforced anti-European sentiments inside the Conservative Party, forcing David Cameron to implement ultimately futile policies that resulted in Brexit. Cameron hoped to exert pressure on Brussels to rethink Britain's membership in the Union and make the Franco-German alliance more amenable to indulgences. Another aspect that has helped the pro-Brexit campaign is insecurity. The overwhelming majority of British voters were compelled to support Brexit by a culture of fear based on skewed conceptions of sovereignty and rising immigration. Britain has traditionally taken an exceptionalist stance toward European integration. No government, from Tony Blair to David Cameron, has gotten over the sense of natural otherness its citizens have toward continental Europe. British society has historically been characterized by British exceptionalism and mild Euroskepticism. Still, the European Union's crisis, most notably as expressed by the Euro-zone and the migration crises, fed and strengthened British Euroskepticism. In the transitional era from the Blair to the Cameron governments, when national security threats and economic issues seemed to be among the top worries in British society, nationalism took the lead in identity politics. It provided a stronger foundation for anti-integrationist sentiments. Nigel Farage strengthened the socioeconomic foundation of the eurosceptic movement, and a more narrow English nationalism emerged. Finally, Brexit is a logical outcome of the UK's politics over the past 20 years. Political elites frequently highlighted destructive tendencies associated with continental Europe and imperialistic intentions ascribed to Brussels with the backing of otherness-induced narratives, which bolstered hostility to the European Union.

Brexit appears to threaten the EU's political integrity and regional integration. Sovereignty is significant for the British People. The purpose of Britain in the EU was economical, and they were against political and cultural integration. The UK is potentially and geographically divided in the Brexit referendum. Even though the world respects the division of the UK to leave. There are many reasons behind Brexit; the sovereignty issue is the most important factor among them because, as an EU member and Britain lost its decision-making powers. The heavy regulation of the UK's economy is another reason. The UK exited on January 31

2020, but the first year considers Britain's transition period. After one year, Britain remains free, and Brexit happens successfully. Britain can stand its legs. The Brexit process considers a freedom fight movement. Finally, Britain will be free from the hands of the European Union in the Year 2021.

Conclusion

Brexit calls into question the idea of a shared European identity and set of values since it determined that being British does not automatically mean being European. The Vote by Britain to leave the European Union is a watershed moment for Europe because it highlights how nationalist political paradigms and discourses have permeated the continent and called into question the supranational nature of the European Union. The European Union is turning back to nationalist ideals due to various crises. (Brown, 2020) The principles and identity of Europe, upon which European integration is based, are in doubt. Brexit reopened the divide between liberal and conservative ideologies, left and right political parties in Europe, and the historical divide between the East and West in that continent. This study investigates the formation of modernist, nationalist narratives in the European Union during a crisis that cast doubt on post-national reports that serve as the foundation for European integration. Additionally, it provides a framework for new EU narratives that should serve as the basis for the postmodern notion of European identity.

Brexit is considered an excellent idea of right-wing nationalism represented by a minority. The root of Brexit has a long history; right from its membership of Britain in the EU, the UK is one of the significant members of the EU. The withdrawal of the UK indicates specific impacts and implications in the integration process of the EU. This paper focuses on the relationship between European Union and Britain through the lens of regionalism. In the smooth functioning of the European Union, Britain plays a deteriorating role inside the Union. This article has sought to estimate regional integration and the UK's intention to leave the EU. The UK has played an essential role in shaping the politics of the Union, but the withdrawal of Britain will generate significant legacies. The major findings are, first, in terms of some political arrangements within the UK's Domestic Politics. The second is the emergence of Brexit and its legal process within the European Union. Finally, the changes within the EU will undoubtedly have implications for the organization's place in the world. Brexit will prove to be a political and Economic threat to the European Union and its regional integration. (Daley, 2015)

Each part of the article sought to address clear goals: to distinguish alternative meanings of region and regionalism; to document and evaluate the nature and success of EU regional policies; to identify trends in political and institutional decentralization in European Union states, and to establish the relationship between regionalism and EU enlargement. Finally, about the British entry and Exit.

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