

BREXIT

BACKGROUND GUIDE

SSIC_{sim} 2018

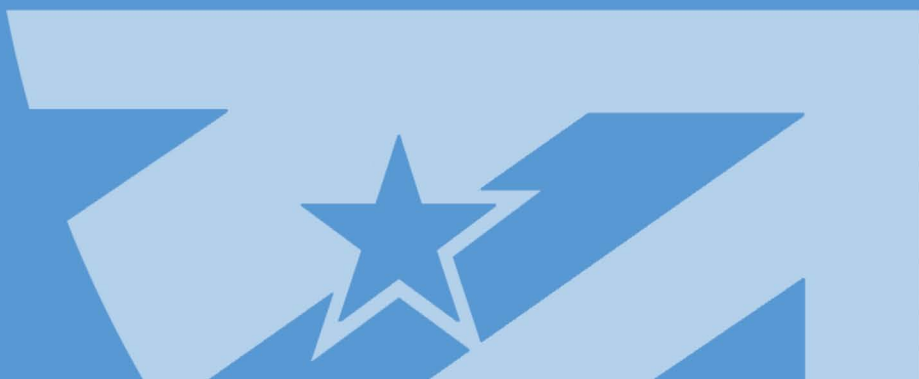
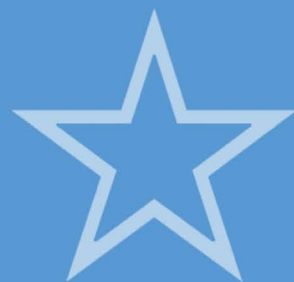
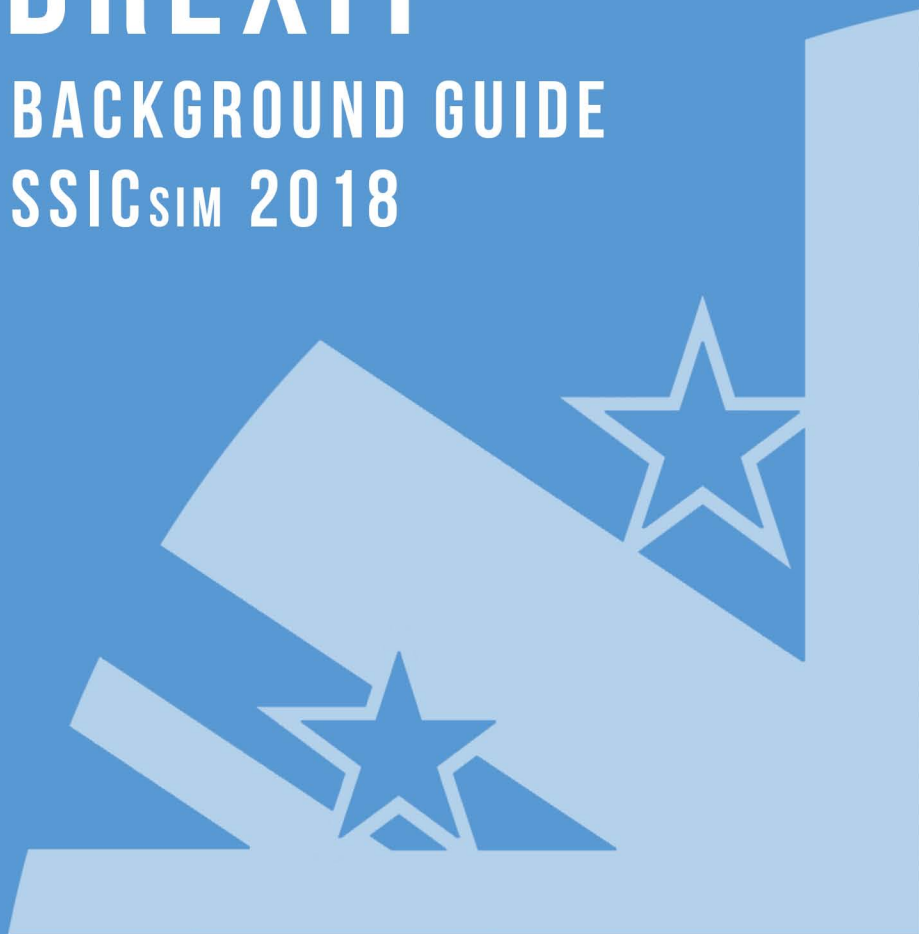


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Welcome from the Dais

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2018 Secondary School Interactive Crisis Simulation conference here at the University of Toronto. It is my pleasure to invite you as a delegate to my committee, “Brexit”. Over the course of a few intense days you will have a chance to utilise your skills at public speaking and diplomacy, as well as your political insight, to navigate the many difficulties faced by the current government of the United Kingdom as it embarks on a departure from more than 40 years of membership in the European Union. You will have to use the full breadth of your abilities and knowledge to deal with the problems brought on both from our reality and those dreamed up by both your fellow delegates and my crisis staff.

As for a bit of background on myself, I am pursuing a double major in Political Science and Economics and a minor in Mathematics at the University of Toronto. This will be the 3rd Model United Nations conference that I am staffing.

You will find here a background guide that summarizes the relevant historical, political, and economic circumstances of modern Britain, as well as an explanation of the crisis mechanics that this committee will use to simulate the contemporary political environment.

I look forward to meeting you all in person.

Regards,

David Baldrige

Brexit

Committee Director, SSICsim 2018



Introduction

On June 23, 2016, the people of the United Kingdom voted, by a margin of 52-48%, to leave the European Union.¹ This referendum came about as a promise made by the Conservative government of David Cameron to give the British people a “simple choice” about their future in Europe.² Though the referendum was declared to be non-binding because it was technically only advisory in a legal sense, the UK government nevertheless fulfilled the wishes of the people and, on March 29, 2017, with Theresa May now as Prime Minister, triggered Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union, officially expressing the United Kingdom’s intent to exit the European Union.³ This came after extensive Parliamentary debate and the passing of legislation through Parliament that confirmed Parliament’s intent to support the withdrawal.⁴

In the aftermath of the vote to leave the EU, British politics has been thrown into disarray by a variety of events both related and unrelated to Europe including: an inconclusive general election,⁵ troubles in determining the rights of EU citizens in the UK and the rights of UK citizens in the EU,⁶ difficult negotiations over the Irish border, and a weak economic situation.⁷

It is within this situation that you, as various elected officials from differing regions and political parties within the UK, will have to negotiate a successful withdrawal from the European Union and craft complimentary domestic policies that could either serve the greater wealth and prosperity of the United Kingdom, or your own personal political ambitions. The choice is yours.

¹ “EU Referendum Results,” *British Broadcasting Corporation*. 2016, https://www.bbc.com/news/politics/eu_referendum/results.

² “David Cameron Promises In/Out Referendum on EU,” *British Broadcasting Corporation*. 2013, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-21148282>.

³ Siobhan Fenton, “Brexit vote ‘not legally binding’ says Supreme Court judge,” *The Independent*. 2016, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-vote-eu-referendum-not-legally-binding-supreme-court-legal-challenge-article-50-a7418706.html>.

⁴ Anushka Asthana, Heather Stewart, and Peter Walker, “May triggers Article 50 with warning of consequence for UK,” *The Guardian*. 2017, <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/mar/29/theresa-may-triggers-article-50-with-warning-of-consequences-for-uk>.

⁵ “Election 2017 Results,” *British Broadcasting Corporation*. 2017, <https://www.bbc.com/news/election/2017/results>.

⁶ “Rights of EU citizens in the UK: Policy Paper Factsheet,” *HM Government*. 2017, https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/622177/6.3545_HO_EU_Citizen_Rights_Policy_Factsheet_A5_FINAL_WEB_260617_2.pdf.

⁷ Lisa O’Carroll, Jennifer Rankin, and Heather Stewart, “EU rejects Irish border talks and says Brexit talks could still fail,” *The Guardian*. 2018, <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/apr/20/eu-rejects-irish-border-proposals-and-says-brexit-talks-could-still-fail>.



Background Information

Origins of the European Project and British Ascension

Though the British public would eventually become very skeptical of the “European Project” the intellectual origins of a political union of the continent (including Britain) come from the great British statesman Sir Winston Churchill, no less. His first expression of a desire for a united Europe came in May 1938 when he wrote a column for *The News of the World* titled ‘Why not “The United States of Europe”?’⁸ Churchill again attempted to encourage further political integration during the early phase of World War II, in June 1940 before the Fall of France, when he proposed a union of Britain and France under which they would be “no longer by two nations, but one Franco-British Union,” including “a common citizenship” and “joint organs of defence, foreign, financial, and economic policies.”⁹

In the immediate aftermath of the Second World War in Europe, the coalition government that had ruled for the entire war fell apart and a general election was called for June 1945. Britain’s traditional political division between the Labour and Conservative Parties re-emerged, and the election delivered a shocking majority for the Labour party.¹⁰ Now in opposition, Churchill was free to devote his energy to his quest for a European union, and did so by giving supportive speeches, writing newspaper editorials, and establishing an organization to promote the cause.¹¹ At the time, one could see many arguments for integration – British cities had been flattened by years of German air raids, the UK government was deeply in debt, and economy was in rough shape. On the continent, things were even worse, having suffered the additional trauma of ground combat, brutal German occupation policies, and some of the worst atrocities ever seen. In addition to economic problems, Europe faced the problem of dealing with 60 million refugees and the ever-looming threat of the Soviet Union, combined with a less interventionist United States under President Truman, who had quite suddenly cut all lend-lease aid to the UK.¹² A program of deep political and economic integration could help rebuild Europe economically and ensure that never again would such horrendous atrocities occur on European soil.

Though the idea of European integration could be seen as more attractive because of the UK’s dire post-war situation, many arguments for the other side were made as well, including by the Labour government of Clement Atlee that succeeded Churchill’s after the 1945 election. The new government was primarily concerned that a ‘United States of Europe’ would draw Britain into a disastrous war with the Soviet Union, that such a union would give too much power to Britain’s

⁸ Benjamin Grob-Fitzgibbon, *Continental Drift*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, 2016, 35

⁹ Grob-Fitzgibbon, *Continental Drift*, 2016, 35

¹⁰ Addison, Paul. “Why Churchill lost in 1945.” *British Broadcasting Corporation*. 2011.
http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/election_01.shtml.

¹¹ Grob-Fitzgibbon, *Continental Drift*, 2016, 35

¹² Grob-Fitzgibbon, 33



recent enemies, Germany and Italy, and that it would direct British foreign policy away from its traditional direction – the still substantial British Empire.¹³

Over the next five years, the British and French governments would engage in many talks and conferences in the hopes of achieving some kind of union (with opposition leader Churchill exerting a lot of pressure behind the scenes), but ultimately, frustrated with British recalcitrance, the French would turn east and look to the newly formed West Germany as a partner. Additionally, the dramatic events of the Berlin crisis in 1948-49 had put American foreign policy back to a more active role in Europe, slowing the impetus for a full political union. Ultimately, the French and German governments unveiled their proposal for a European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), which would pool the reserves of those resources among those nations and any others who would like to join, including the UK. The planning and negotiations for this were done entirely independent of the British government, which opted not to join.¹⁴

Over the next two decades, British governments of various political ideologies would debate and negotiate the prospects of integrating with first the ECSC, and then its successor, the European Economic Community (EEC), which was established by the Treaty of Rome in 1957. These efforts were frustrated by the consistent hostility of French President Charles de Gaulle, who thought the UK incompatible with European integration because it was “insular and maritime, linked by her trade, her markets and her food supplies to diverse and often far-flung countries”.¹⁵ He also stated that “In short, the nature, structure, the economic situation, that characterise England, differ profoundly from the Continent. How then could England, as she lives, as she produces, as she trades, be incorporated into the Common Market as it was conceived and as it works?”¹⁶ Due to these sentiments, President de Gaulle used France’s veto to block British ascension to the EEC twice, in 1963 and 1967.¹⁷

In 1969, owing to domestic political strife, Charles de Gaulle resigned as President of France after more than a decade in power. Shortly thereafter, on November 9, 1970, he passed away.¹⁸ Under the leadership of the ardently pro-European Prime Minister Edward Heath, the British government began a third attempt at joining the EEC. After extensive debate, the British Parliament voted to join the EEC on October 28, 1971.¹⁹ Without President de Gaulle to exercise his veto, the negotiations to join the EEC went smoothly and the United Kingdom formally became a member on New Year’s Day, 1973.

In 1974, the Conservative government of Edward Heath was replaced with one lead by Harold Wilson, who was considerably more Eurosceptic than his predecessor. Consequently, Wilson

¹³ Grob-Fitzgibbon, 61

¹⁴ Grob-Fitzgibbon, 121

¹⁵ Grob-Fitzgibbon, 300

¹⁶ Grob-Fitzgibbon, 300

¹⁷ Grob-Fitzgibbon, 330

¹⁸ Grob-Fitzgibbon, 341

¹⁹ Grob-Fitzgibbon, 362



renegotiated the terms upon which Britain had joined the EEC and called a referendum on British membership for the Spring of 1975. The result was an overwhelming two-thirds majority in favour of the UK remaining within the EEC.

The Rise and Victory of Euroscepticism

Between the end of the Second World War and the 1980s, the Conservative Party had been, within the UK, the party of Europe, and correspondingly, the Labour Party was for all intents and purposes opposed to European integration. The government of Clement Atlee of course stopped Britain from joining the ECSC back in 1950, and Wilson's government in the mid-1970s forced a renegotiation of Britain's membership and a referendum on the subject.

All of this was reversed with Margaret Thatcher. Thatcher was not initially entirely opposed to the idea of Europe. Indeed, during her three election campaigns as Conservative leader (1979, 1983, and 1987), Britain's role in Europe was not a major issue.²⁰ Rather than being explicitly anti-Europe, Thatcher merely ignored the question and focused on developing a strong relationship with the United States under President Reagan, which she saw as the true defender and leader of the western world.²¹ She was forced to turn her attention to Europe in 1985, however, when Jacques Delors became the President of the European Community (EC, after a name change from EEC). Delors was an ardent French socialist who used his mandate as President to push for expanded membership of the EC in order to dilute the power of individual members, and for a more centralized system of economic planning within the EC.²² All of this ran against Thatcher's free market, neoliberal policies, and, speaking before the College in Belgium in 1988, declared that "We have not successfully rolled back the frontiers of the state in Britain, only to see them re-imposed at a European level, with a European super-state exercising dominance from Brussels."²³ Thatcher was ejected as Prime Minister and leader of the Conservative Party in 1990 and replaced by the much more pro-European John Major, but the Conservative Party has possessed a sizable and vocal Eurosceptic wing since her term.

In 1992, Major signed the Maastricht Treaty that transformed the EC into the much more integrated European Union (EU). The EU introduced the concept of European citizenship, with all member countries' citizens possessing rights across all of the Union. It also established a "common foreign and security policy" and increasing authority in the areas of "transport, education, and social policy" in addition to the existing economic zone.²⁴ Major and his two Labour successors Tony Blair and Gordon Brown would remain broadly pro-European, while keeping Britain distinct from the deep integration being pursued on the continent. For instance, Britain retained its own currency, the

²⁰ Jeremy Black, *History of Britain: 1945 to Brexit* (Indiana University Press: Bloomington, 2017), 211-12

²¹ Black, *History of Britain*, 212

²² Black, 214

²³ Black, 215

²⁴ Black, 218-19



pound, and did not enter the Eurozone. It also remained outside the Schengen area of passport-free travel and maintained a closer relationship with the United States than most other EU countries.

The voices of Euroscepticism that emerged in the Thatcher years only grew in strength and number over the next two decades of broadly pro-European government. The explicitly anti-EU United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) was founded in 1992 and saw its support steadily grow over the years, peaking at 12.6% of the popular vote (3rd highest of any party) in the 2015 general election. In June 2012, over one hundred Conservative backbench MPs wrote a letter to their leader, Prime Minister David Cameron, demanding a referendum on the UK's membership in the EU, and facing these combined pressures of backbench dissent and the rise of UKIP, Cameron declared in 2013 that a referendum would be a part of the Conservative Party's 2015 general election campaign manifesto.²⁵

Cameron secured a narrow Conservative majority in the 2015 general election and as promised declared a referendum on Britain's EU membership for the following year. After a hard-fought campaign, the final result showed that 52% of voters wanted to leave the European Union. The Leave side drew support from both traditionally Conservative, wealthier voters in Southern England as well as traditionally Labour, working-class voters in the North of England and Wales to build a small majority over Scottish and urban voters from both sides of political divide.²⁶ Unsurprisingly, this suggests that the vote was ultimately decided not by economic factors but matters of identity politics like immigration and Britain's place in the world.

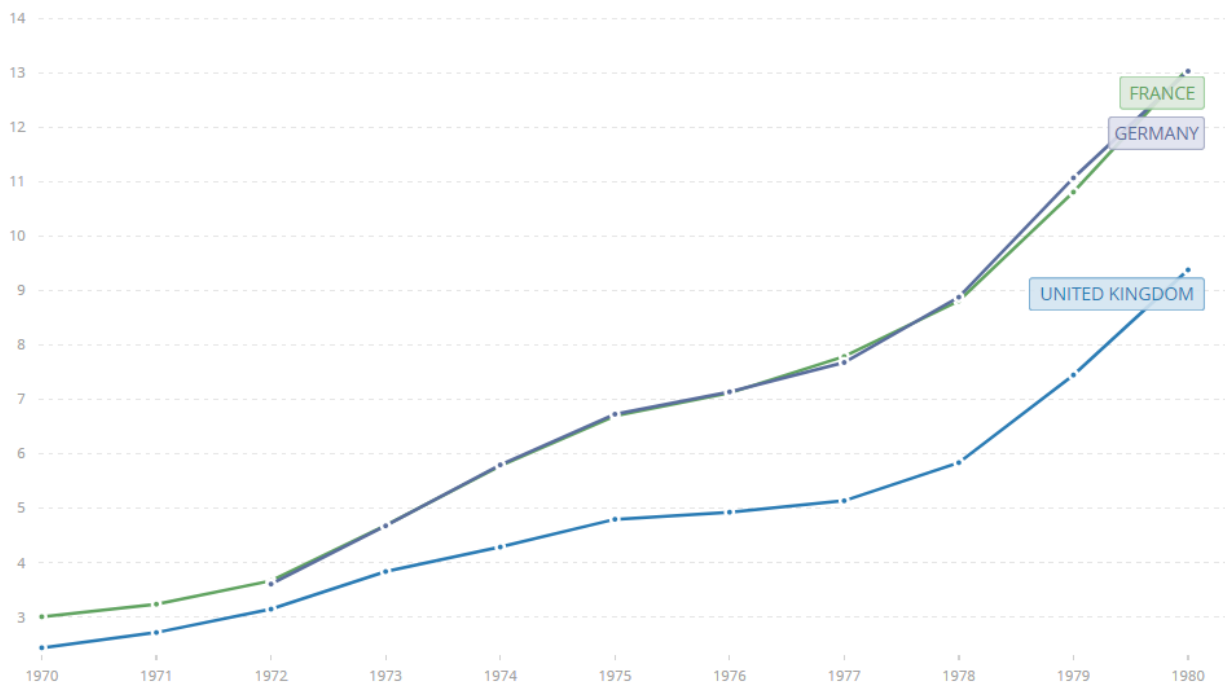
²⁵ Black, 222-23

²⁶ Black, 225

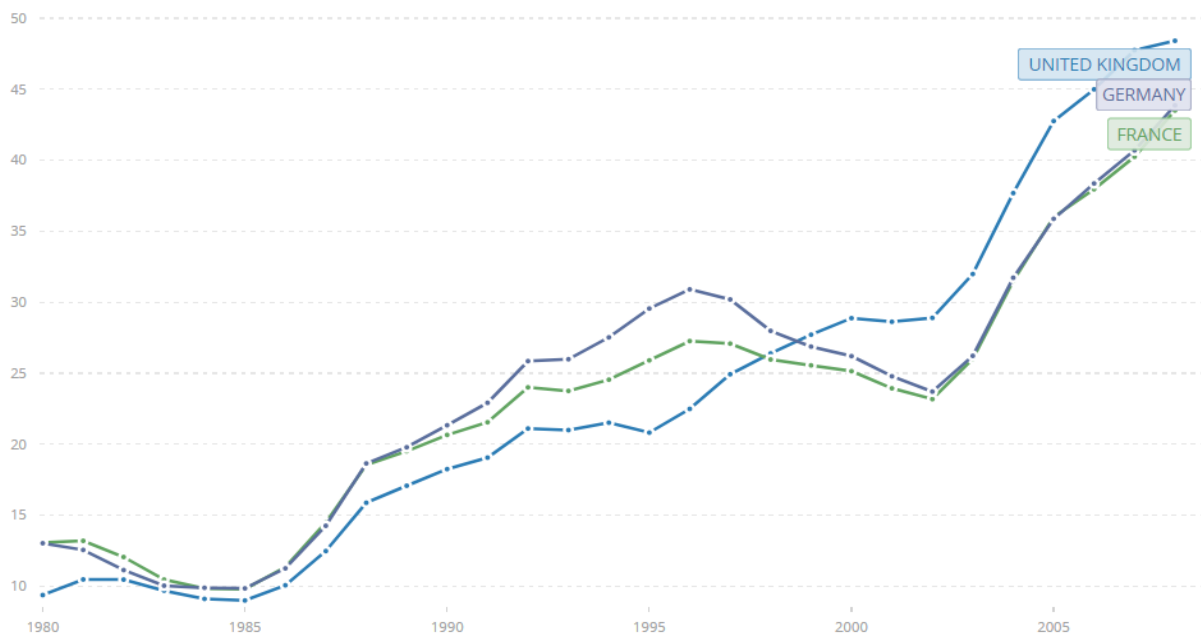


A Short Economic History of Modern Britain

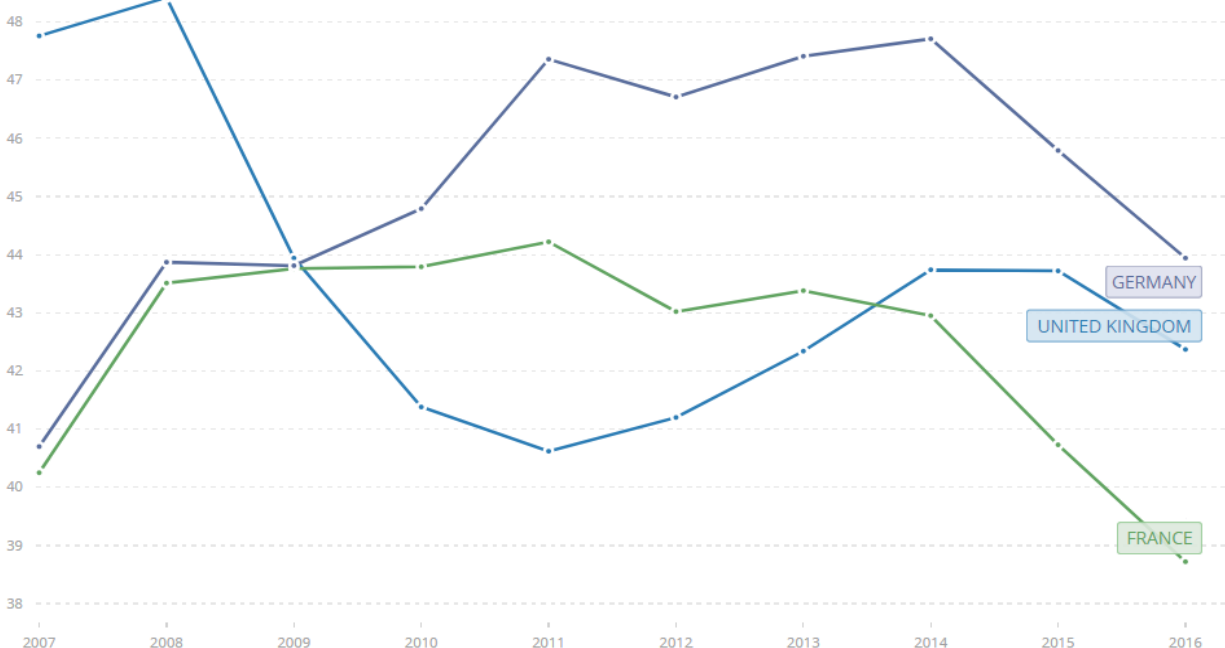
Graph 1: GDP per Capita in Thousands of US Dollars, 1970-1980



Graph 2: GDP per Capita in Thousands of US Dollars, 1980-2008



Graph 3: GDP per Capita in Thousands of US Dollars, 2008-2016



GDP per capita (the total output of an economy divided by its population) is a crude, but effective measure for understanding the relative performance of the British economy within Europe. As seen in Graph 1, in the 1970s, the UK was considerably poorer than its European counterparts. It also faced extremely high unemployment and inflation and was thus dubbed “the sick man of Europe”. Through the 1980s, like all major economies, the UK suffered from an extended period of slower growth as the prevailing economic policy at the time favoured sacrificing economic growth for subdued inflation. By the late 1990s, however, the UK had overtaken its European neighbours in large part because of the growing importance of London’s financial sector. This was a double-edged sword and as a result the UK suffered greatly during the 2008-2009 financial crisis and has only recovered slowly since then.

Source for GDP data: World Bank²⁷

²⁷ GDP per capita (current US\$),” *World Bank*. 2018, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD?view=chart>.



Topics of Discussion

Given the complex nature of the UK's long relationship with the European Union, and the various political and economic headwinds that the country faces domestically, there are three issues that you, the delegates, will have to sort out upon your arrival in committee on March 29, 2017, the day that the withdrawal process begins.

Topic One: Trade and the Single Market

As a member of the European Union, the UK had also been a part of the European Single Market, which consists of all EU members as well as Norway, Switzerland, Lichtenstein, and Iceland. In the Single Market, goods and services (including in the digital sphere) move freely across borders, subject to a single set of regulations.²⁸ According to data from the UK's own customs department, around half of UK trade is with countries in the Single Market. Another important consideration to make is that the EU also has free trade agreements with important UK trading partners such as Turkey, South Korea, and Canada, and is in the process of negotiation with others, including the United States.

This is a major dilemma facing the British government. It can remain within the Single Market, like Norway, but then would not have any say over the rules by which its industries are bound and would probably draw the ire of those most stringently opposed to European integration. Or it could leave the Single Market and attempt to negotiate its own trade deals with the world, which would generate significant uncertainty and worry in the business community. This issue, and several more nuanced solutions, are explained quite well in this brief prepared by the British Department of Finance: <https://www.ukfinance.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/BQB1.pdf>.

Topic Two: Civilians Caught in the Crossfire

There are 2.9 million EU citizens living permanently in the UK, and 1.2 million UK citizens living in various parts of the EU.²⁹ As common citizens of the EU, these people did not previously require any kind of visas and could choose to live wherever they wanted. Now, without some sort of deal or visa arrangement, all will have to be deported to their respective countries of origin. This would obviously not only be a logistical and ethical nightmare, but also cause great troubles for the UK labour market.

²⁸ "The European Single Market," *European Union*. 2018, <http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/>.

²⁹ "Reality Check: How many EU nationals live in the UK?" *British Broadcasting Corporation*. 2016, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-uk-leaves-the-eu-36745584>.



Topic Three: A dis-United Kingdom?

Scotland

Scotland voted 62-38% to remain in the European Union.³⁰ Will the Scottish Nationalist Party use the pro-European attitudes of Scots to push for a second referendum on the independence of Scotland from the UK, after the failure of their first attempt in 2014?

Northern Ireland

The vote to leave the European Union took an already complicated political situation in Northern Ireland and made it much worse. Presently, Northern Ireland is governed by a power-sharing agreement in which the First Minister and Deputy First Minister have equal political power, with one required to be a Unionist (in favour of maintaining Northern Ireland as part of the UK) and one a Nationalist (in favour of joining the Republic of Ireland).³¹ Brexit presents two problems. First, Northern Ireland relies heavily on overland trade with the Republic of Ireland, and so some new deal will have to be worked out with either the entire EU or the Irish government to avert economic catastrophe.³² Second, any change to the sensitive balance of power between the Unionists and Nationalists could easily result in the revival of political violence by extremists on both sides.

³⁰ “EU Referendum Results,” BBC, 2016.

³¹ “Power-Sharing,” *Northern Ireland Assembly*. 2017, http://education.niassembly.gov.uk/post_16/snapshots_of_devolution/gfa/power_sharing.

³² Johnny Hanna, “The impact of Brexit on Northern Ireland,” *KPMG*. 2017, <https://home.kpmg.com/ie/en/home/insights/2017/05/impact-brexit-northern-ireland.html>.



Characters

Theresa May: As Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and Leader of the Conservative Party, Mrs. May will need to find competent ministers to craft and execute an agenda to address both Brexit and the various social and economic problems faced in Britain. Though she will start out with considerable political capital, this could be quickly and easily squandered as the number of problems facing her government and leadership start to pile up.

Boris Johnson: Like his idol, Sir Winston Churchill, Mr. Johnson sees himself as the unlikely figure who will seize both power and the imagination of the British public at a time of crisis. In the meantime, he remains one of the main leaders of the Brexit movement. As Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, he is responsible for negotiating with the European and other foreign governments, as well as the EU itself, in order to chart a new place for Britain in the world.

Phillip Hammond: Mr. Hammond, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, endorsed the Remain side during the EU referendum. As such, he represents the moderate, business-oriented wing of the Conservative Party and stands against the more extremist anti-Europe member of his party by advocating, for instance, that Britain should remain within the Single Market. Caution is, however, warranted, as those same Eurosceptics might be able to get him fired!

Amber Rudd: Ms. Rudd, another supporter of Remain during the referendum, occupies the position of Home Secretary. This position entails control of the police and security services, which will become increasingly important, especially if social unrest starts to boil over.

Kenneth Clarke: Mr. Clarke is the longest-serving member of the House of Commons and the leader of the pro-EU faction of the Conservative Party. Through ingenious manoeuvring, Mr. Clarke may be able to conspire with his colleagues in the Labour Party to defeat the government and somehow overturn the result of the 2016 referendum.

Jacob Rees-Mogg: Mr. Rees-Mogg, formerly an unimportant backbench Conservative MP, has captured the imagination of the right-wing of the Conservative Party because of his hardline views on everything from the EU to immigration to the economy. Like Mr. Clarke, an unsatisfied Mr. Rees-Mogg may be able to use his influence to topple the government and could possibly become Prime Minister himself.

Ruth Davidson: Scotland has been politically hostile to the Conservative Party since about the mid-1970s. Under the leadership of the charismatic Ms. Davidson, however, the Scottish Conservatives have managed somewhat of a political renaissance. This has been accomplished by using a moderate style of conservative politics, embracing immigration and the European Union.

Jeremy Corbyn: The leader of the Labour Party and Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, Mr. Corbyn comes from the hard-left, anti-capitalist, and anti-EU wing of his party. This could cause difficulties because his views, especially on the economy, are not held by many Britons and the



party he leads is vehemently pro-EU. This would make it difficult for Mr. Corbyn to win a general election and leaves him vulnerable to an internal party coup.

Liz Kendall: Ms. Kendall, who came last in the Labour leadership election of 2015, represents the centrist, Blairite-wing of the Labour Party, which is generally pro-business and pro-EU. Ms. Kendall has more in common politically with the likes of Mr. Clarke than her leader Mr. Corbyn, and as such might use her political capital to remove Mr. Corbyn as leader and replace him with someone more moderate or break off and form an entirely new party.

Sadiq Khan: The young Mayor of London, Mr. Khan represents a new urban generation of Labour Party politicians trying to put the internal party struggles behind them. He must forcefully advocate for London's financial industry and try to acquire more money to support housing, infrastructure, and transport in his fast-growing and very expensive city.

John McDonnell: A member of the extreme left-wing of the Labour Party, Mr. McDonnell is a strong supporter of Mr. Corbyn's leadership. As Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, he can use his trade union and activist connections to advocate against the economic policies of the Conservative government and social and economic inequality in the UK in general.

Tom Watson: The Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, Mr. Watson stands for party unity and will attempt to keep the disparate factions of the Labour Party together amid considerable division over both economic policy and Brexit.

Carwyn Jones: As the First Minister of Wales, Mr. Jones represents a region of the UK saddled with a long-term economic decline and its associated social problems. Consequently, it voted in favour of Brexit. Mr. Jones should work to ensure that the interests of the Welsh people are not marginalized in the increasingly difficult Brexit negotiations.

Tim Farron: The Liberal Democrats suffered an almost complete electoral Armageddon after the coalition with the Conservatives from 2010-15. With both major parties sharply divided over Brexit and moving away from the political centre, Mr. Farron has an opportunity to recast his party as a symbol of moderation and Europeanism.

Nicola Sturgeon: Standing apart from England and Wales, Scotland voted to remain in the United Kingdom in 2016. As such, Ms. Sturgeon has an opportunity as First Minister of Scotland and leader of the Scots Nationalists to call another referendum on Scottish independence and become the first leader of a free Scotland.

Arlene Foster: Owing to its unique history of political strife, Northern Ireland faces its own special challenges regarding Brexit. An open border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland underpinned the peace agreement, and its end may spell a renewal of the strife which defined the 20th century in Northern Ireland. Mrs. Foster, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party will have to deal with extremist Ulster loyalists who will not stand for any separation from Britain.



Gerry Adams: The long-serving and controversial leader of Sinn Fein, Mr. Adams can use the prospect of Brexit to pursue integration of Northern Ireland with the Republic to the south and away from Britain. He may, however, be undermined by more impatient extremists within his movement.



Committee Mechanics

Characters

All characters in the committee will be elected politicians in the UK, from a variety of partisan, ideological, and regional backgrounds.

Political Capital

All characters will be able to use political capital to influence both public opinion and the outcome of votes in the House of Commons. All characters will initially receive a certain amount of political capital and will be able to receive more as a result of achieving political or economic success. Characters can also lose or gain a significant amount due to random events (think of the Grenfell tower fire in real life).

Parliament

The House of Commons will be set as it was on March 29, 2017, with a small Conservative majority. Any delegate can motion for a vote of no-confidence in the House of Commons (at a cost of some political capital), which, if successful, can result in the dissolution of Parliament and a fresh election.

Cabinet

The Cabinet consists of the four traditional “Great Offices of State” and must maintain the confidence of the House of Commons.

- a. Prime Minister – Appoints and can fire the other members of the Cabinet. Can ask the Queen to dissolve parliament and call an election.
- b. Foreign Secretary – The only person who can communicate with foreign governments, and for the purposes of this committee, controls the UK intelligence services.
- c. Chancellor of the Exchequer – Controls the UK’s budget and directs the Financial Crimes Investigations Unit.
- d. Home Secretary – Controls the Domestic Police Forces and acting on intelligence gathered by them, or received from the Foreign Secretary, Chancellor of the Exchequer, or any other delegate, can launch an indictment and prosecution upon any member of the committee for various crimes. They will then be tried outside the committee room in front of an impartial judge.

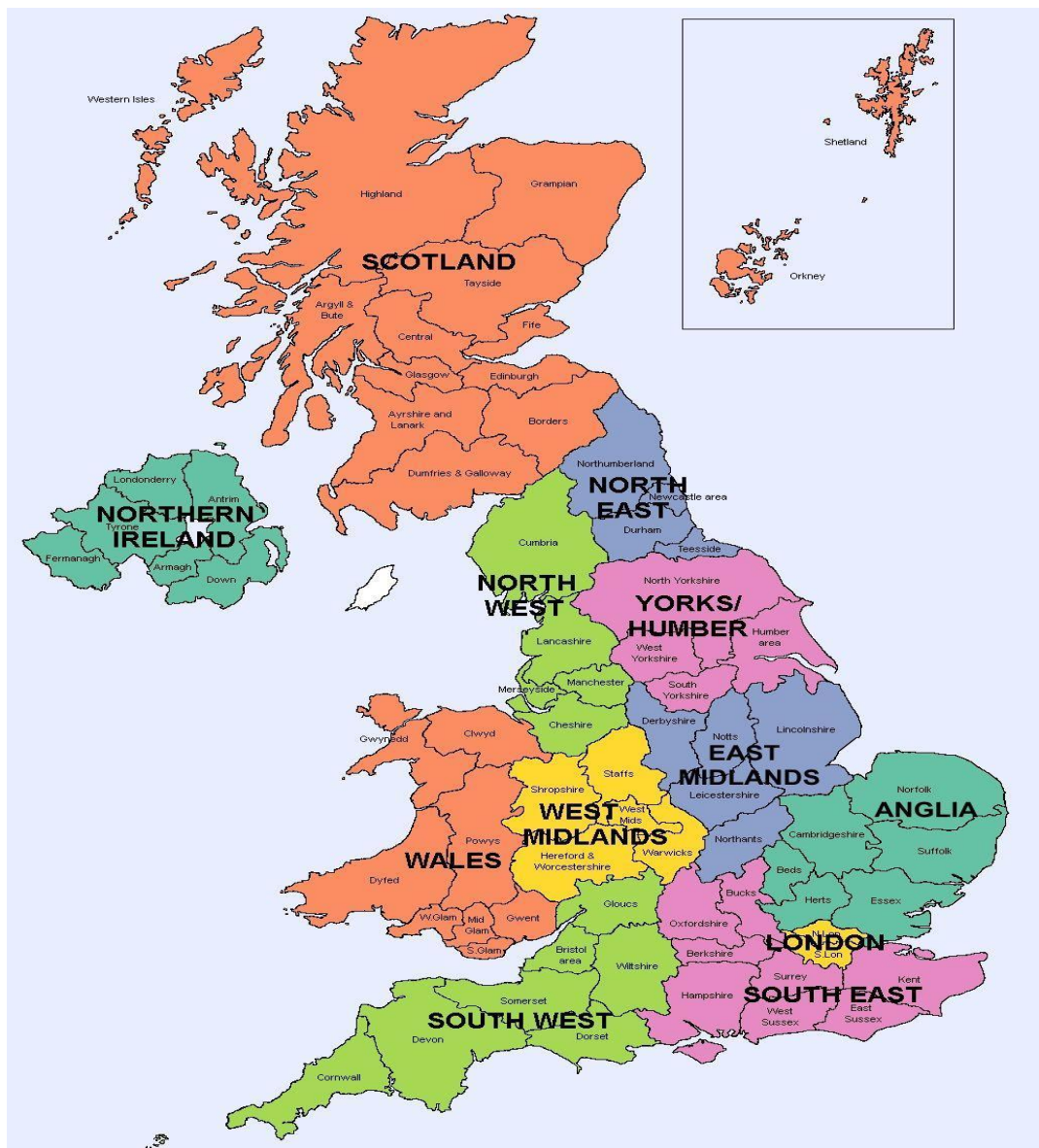
Elections occur when Her Majesty dissolves Parliament either due to a vote of no-confidence against the Cabinet or at the request of the Prime Minister. The result will be determined by how much and how smartly delegates invest their political capital, and by various ongoing factors within the crisis. The party with a majority after the election will be invited to form government, and in the event of a hung parliament, coalition negotiations must occur.



Public Opinion

Crisis staff will routinely update the committee room on public opinion toward party support, feelings towards Brexit, as well as support in Scotland for independence. These can all be influenced by political capital. The British economy can also be influenced by government policy, the outlook of Brexit negotiations, and disruptive activities induced by members of the committee using political capital (like a general strike, for example). Economic figures will be routinely updated from the crisis room.

For the purposes of the crisis, the UK will be divided into the following regions (with their corresponding number of seats in the House of Commons)³³:



³³ “Area Map Large on UK Regions,” *World Maps*. 2018, <http://4ic.me/map-uk-regions/area-map-large-on-uk-regions/>.



The South: Consisting of the Southwest, the Southeast, and Anglia, this region is wealthy, politically very Conservative, and solidly in favour of Brexit.

Seats: 196

London: Consisting of London, this region is wealthy, leans towards Labour, and is strongly opposed to Brexit.

Seats: 73

Middle England: Consisting of the West Midlands, and the East Midlands, this region is not especially wealthy or poor, politically leans towards Labour, and leans slightly towards Brexit.

Seats: 105

The North of England: Consisting of the North West, North East, and Yorks/Humber, this region is quite poor, supporting of Labour, and strongly in favour of Brexit.

Seats: 158

Wales: Consisting of Wales, this region is also poor, supporting of Labour, and in favour of Brexit. It is also home to a small independence movement.

Seats: 40

Scotland: Consisting of Scotland, this region is fairly wealthy, politically left-wing, strongly opposed to Brexit, and home to an active independence movement.

Seats: 59

Northern Ireland: Consisting of Northern Ireland, this region is quite poor and divided among its traditional sectarian lines of Catholic Nationalists (anti-Brexit) vs. Protestant Unionists (pro-Brexit).

Seats: 19

The purpose of these regions is to provide more specific targets for delegates looking to alter the political environment with political capital.



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