

Model United Nations 2020

HoC Study Guide

Agenda: Brexit, with special emphasis on the political repercussions of the breakout and discussing the way out of this impasse

Tuesday 12th of March, 2019.

Chairperson: Arryan Kanodia

Vice Chairperson: Saswato Ray

Rapporteur: Aniroodh Chaudhary

Address by Executive Board

Greetings Delegate,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the House of Commons of the UK Parliament.

This committee is very different from what you would expect of a conventional UN Committee. This committee features an organization that represents the common public in the United Kingdom and as a result, it acts as a medium for their representatives to voice their opinions. This committee that shall be simulated will have you as delegates playing the role for certain personalities in the House of Commons.

As we understand the level of debate and discussion that the House of Commons has to offer, my executive board and I have set the agenda as one that would give the most fruitful outcome and give the delegates enough knowledge about something that was very significant in the history of the European Union and that had great impact on the policy and the political repercussions of the United Kingdom.

Delegates, the agenda of this committee revolves around Brexit and its repercussions as a whole on politics in the United Kingdom. Brexit basically means the withdrawal of the United Kingdom. Many effects of Brexit depend on how closely the UK is tied with the EU. The broad consensus among economists is that Brexit will likely harm the UK's economy and reduce its per capita income. That's not it. Factors like immigration, research and security are also among the many possible political repercussions that might take place.

As a result, the United Kingdom must be prepared. Thus in this committee we shall be discussing how Brexit has impacted the UK and discuss how to get out of the impasse.

My executive board has prepared this study guide to facilitate you in your research and also help you out understanding Brexit. We expect this committee to be one that has a fruitful discussion and ends up discussing and taking actions on most of them to come up with a plan to tackle these repercussions in the most efficient and flawless way. But among all this, our main aim is to make you learn about this very significant action that has taken place in global politics. Thus I wish you the very best with your research and hope to find you well prepared for the MUN.

Regards,

Arryan Kanodia - [Contact Number: 9830863311]

Chairperson of the House of Commons

Saswato Ray [Contact Number: 9831299052]

Vice Chairperson of the House of Commons

Aniroodh Chaudhary-Rapporteur

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About the House

The House of Commons, officially the Honorable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Parliament assembled, is the lower house of the Parliament of the United Kingdom. Like the upper house, the House of Lords, it meets in the Palace of Westminster. Owing to shortage of space, its office accommodation extends into Portcullis House.

The Commons is an elected body consisting of 650 members known as members of Parliament (MPs). Members are elected to represent constituencies by the first-past-the-post system and hold their seats until Parliament is dissolved.

The House of Commons of England started to evolve in the 13th and 14th centuries. It became the House of Commons of Great Britain after the political union with Scotland in 1707, and assumed the title of "House of Commons of Great Britain and Ireland" after the political union with Ireland at the start of the 19th century. The "United Kingdom" referred to was the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland from 1800, and became the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland after the independence of the Irish Free State in 1922. Accordingly, the House of Commons assumed its current title.

Under the Parliament Acts 1911 and 1949, the Lords' power to reject legislation was reduced to a delaying power. The government is solely responsible to the House of Commons and the prime minister stays in office only as long as he or she retains the confidence of a majority of the Commons.

As the chief Legislative organ of the UK, it has the sole right to deliberate on issues pertaining to the United Kingdom and especially when it comes to issues as contentious as Brexit, the word of the House of Commons is final, and this committee shall seek to do exactly the same- gain common ground and find a solution to the issue: Brexit.

An Introduction to Brexit

The United Kingdom officially joined the EU in the year 1973 under the premiership of Sir Edward Heath- a Conservative Euro Supporter. But the UK's relationship with the EU has never been smooth. As one of the countries of the so-called old world, the UK has always valued its sovereignty greatly, and the British Parliament, for a very long time, has been starkly divided into euro Remainers and Euro-sceptics. Testament to the aforesaid condition is the fact that when the common euro zone was established, the UK did not accept it, thereby retaining the pound as its national currency.

The Euro-division was but a minor crisis. Divisions in parliament were set in stone when the then parliamentarian and former mayor of London Boris Johnson started the 'Leave the EU' campaign. Being a right wing nationalist, he went as far as accusing Barack Obama of being part Kenyan, and was even ridiculed by his own party for the same. However when Johnson's campaign gained ground, the then PM David Cameron ordered a national referendum letting the people decide as to whether they wanted the UK to be a part of the European Union. Fierce political divisions ensued in Parliament and finally when the results came out: 52% had voted leave and 48% had voted remain. This set into motion arrangements for the UK to leave the EU. Article 50 of the treaty on EU was invoked on 27th March 2017 following which started negotiations for Britain's exit from the EU often abbreviated as Brexit.

Currently under Mr. Johnson's leadership the UK is out of the EU as it left on the 31st of Jan, 2020. However the freeze date of the committee is on the 12th of March 2019, the day when Theresa May lost the second vote on her secured Brexit deal. Sitting in a divided parliament the committee shall decide on what the future course of action should be in relation to the highly polarising topic- Brexit.

The History behind Brexit

The "Inner Six" European countries signed the Treaty of Paris in 1951, establishing the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC). The 1955 Messina Conference deemed that the ECSC was a success, and resolved to extend the concept further, thereby leading to the 1957 Treaties of Rome establishing the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom). In 1967, these became known as the European Communities (EC). The UK attempted to join in 1963 and 1967, but these applications were vetoed by the President of France, Charles de Gaulle.

Sometime after de Gaulle resigned in 1969, the UK successfully applied for EC membership, and the Conservative prime minister Edward Heath signed the Treaty of Accession in 1972. Parliament passed the European Communities Act later that year and the UK joined Denmark and Ireland in becoming a member on 1 January 1973.

The opposition Labour Party won the February 1974 general election without a majority and then contested the subsequent October 1974 general election with a commitment to renegotiate Britain's terms of membership of the EC, believing them to be unfavorable, and then hold a referendum on whether to remain in the EC on the new terms. Labour again won the election (this time with a small majority), and in 1975 the UK held its first ever national referendum, asking whether the UK should remain in the EC. Despite significant division within the ruling Labour Party, all major political parties and the mainstream press supported continuing membership of the EC. On 5 June 1975, 67.2% of the electorate and all but two UK counties and regions voted to stay in; support for the UK to leave the EC in 1975 appears unrelated to the support for Leave in the 2016 referendum.

The Labour Party campaigned in the 1983 general election on a commitment to withdraw from the EC without a referendum. After their heavy defeat in that election, Labour changed its policy. In 1985, the second Margaret Thatcher government ratified the Single European Act—the first major revision to the Treaty of Rome—without a referendum.

In October 1990, under pressure from senior ministers and despite Thatcher's deep reservations, the UK joined the European Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM), with the pound sterling pegged to the deutschmark. Thatcher resigned as Prime Minister the following month, amid Conservative Party divisions arising partly from her increasingly Eurosceptic views. The UK and Italy were forced to withdraw from the ERM in September 1992, after the pound sterling and the lira came under pressure from currency speculation ("Black Wednesday").

Under the Maastricht Treaty, the EC became the EU on 1 November 1993, reflecting the evolution of the organization from an economic union into a political one. Denmark, France, and Ireland held referendums to ratify the Maastricht Treaty. In accordance with British constitutional convention, specifically that of parliamentary sovereignty, ratification in the UK was not subject to approval by referendum. Despite this, British constitutional historian Vernon Bogdanor wrote that there was "a clear constitutional rationale for requiring a referendum" because although MPs are entrusted with legislative power by the electorate, they are not given authority to transfer that power (the UK's previous three referendums all concerned this). Further, as the ratification of the treaty was in the manifestos of the three major political parties, voters opposed to ratification had no way to express it. For Bogdanor, while the ratification by the House of Commons might be legal, it would not be legitimate—which requires popular consent. The way in which the treaty was ratified, he judged, was "likely to have fundamental consequences both for British politics and for Britain's relationship with the EC." This perceived democratic deficit directly led to the formation of the Referendum Party and the UK Independence Party.

Thatcher, who had previously supported the common market and the Single European Act, in the "Bruges speech" of 1988 warned against "a European super-state exercising a new dominance from Brussels". She influenced Daniel Hannan, who in 1990 founded the Oxford Campaign for Independent Britain; "With hindsight, some see this as the start of the campaign for Brexit", the Financial Times later wrote. In 1994, Sir James Goldsmith formed the Referendum Party to contest the 1997 general election on a platform of providing a referendum on the nature of the UK's relationship with the rest of the EU. The party fielded candidates in 547 constituencies at that election, and won 810,860 votes—2.6% of the total votes cast—but failed to win a parliamentary seat because the vote was spread across the country. The Referendum Party disbanded after Goldsmith's death in 1997.

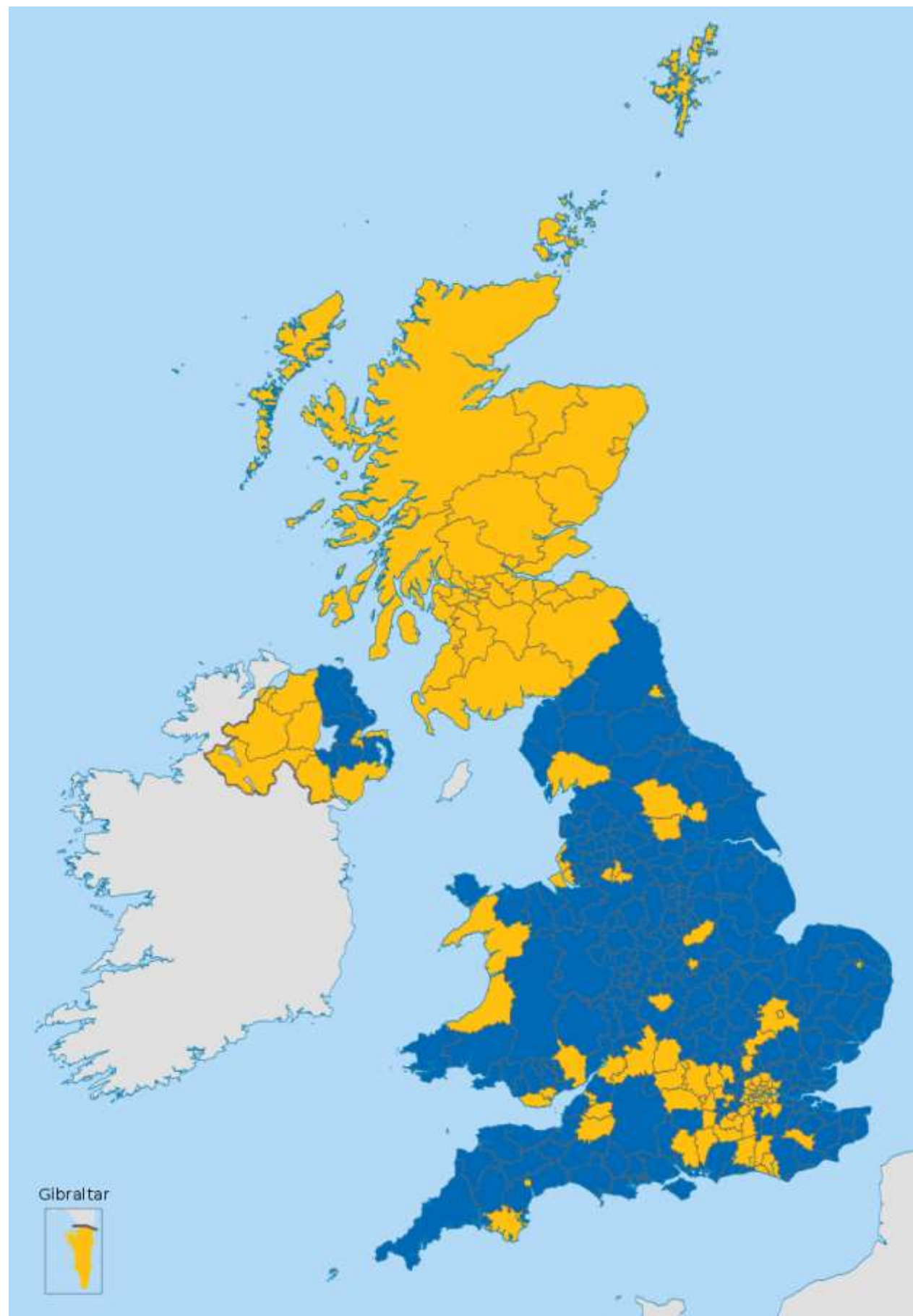
The UK Independence Party (UKIP), a Eurosceptic political party, was formed in 1993. It achieved third place in the UK during the 2004 European elections, second place in the 2009 European elections and first place in the 2014 European elections, with 27.5% of the total vote. This was the first time since the 1910 general election that any party other than Labour or the Conservatives had taken the largest share of the vote in a nationwide election. UKIP's electoral success in the 2014 European election is documented as the strongest correlation of the support for the Leave campaign in the 2016 referendum.

UKIP won two by-elections (triggered by defecting Conservative MPs) in 2014; in the 2015 general election, the party took 12.6% of the total vote and held one of the two seats won in 2014.

The 2016 Referendum

The United Kingdom European Union membership referendum, commonly referred to as the EU referendum or the Brexit referendum, took place on 23 June 2016 in the United Kingdom (UK) and Gibraltar to ask the electorate whether the country should remain a member of, or leave, the European Union (EU). The result would then be facilitated through the European Union Referendum Act 2015 and also the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. The referendum resulted in 51.9% of the votes cast being in favour of leaving the EU.

Although the referendum was legally non-binding, the government of the time promised to implement the result. Before the referendum David Cameron as the leader of The Conservative Party led a Remain campaign and when the UK voted otherwise David Cameron resigned from the post of prime minister. The conservative leadership elections started and due to lack of competition, Theresa May became the Prime Minister *faute de mieux*. The succeeding government, led by Theresa May, initiated the official withdrawal process on 29 March 2017, meaning that the UK was due to leave the EU on 29 March 2019 (when the two-year period for Brexit negotiations was due to expire).



Changes in Leadership

1. David Cameron Resigns

David Cameron resigned as British Prime Minister, shortly after it was announced that his country had voted to leave the European Union. While some polls had suggested the Leave camp might be victorious in the EU referendum, the polls in the immediate run up to Election Day suggested that the Remain side might well win a very tight vote. However, that was not the case. Turnout was higher than in a modern day general election, with approximately 72% of the electorate voting – 52% to leave the EU and 48% to remain. These figures obscured the seismic impact of this decision, something which the financial markets immediately recognized, with almost 20% being wiped off the value of Sterling before 9am on the same day, with Sterling worth a figure last seen in the mid-1980s.

With the decision now made, the question of leadership was on everyone's lips. Cameron staked his position as Prime Minister on a Remain vote; something he repeatedly told the British people was in their best interests. However, it seemed the British people did not believe him or trust his judgment – and that's a position no Prime Minister can survive. The question was not whether Cameron would continue as Prime Minister, but when he would resign and in what way. On such a turbulent day, the question of who would replace him had not yet been fully considered. When Cameron approached the lectern in Downing Street, the British public was expecting a speech that would ease minds and address worries in the financial markets – something which Bank of England Governor Mark Carney did soon afterwards. However, with the appearance of Samantha Cameron by the PM's side, it was clear almost immediately that this was not a speech simply to steady the ship. Instead, Cameron began by praising the Remain campaign, his opponents and the British people, before inevitably moving on to his own future.

Cameron took an unusual path out of Downing Street. With so much uncertainty and instability in Britain, and with renewed and invigorated calls for a second Scottish referendum, he couldn't simply resign and leave without damaging Britain's financial situation further. An immediate departure would also have left the political establishment, particularly the Conservative Party, in chaos. Instead, he followed the template laid down by his predecessor as Conservative Party leader, Michael Howard. Cameron remained as leader, and Prime Minister, for several months, to deal with immediate issues arising from the referendum result, and to oversee the election of his successor. With his voice breaking, Cameron confirmed this would be completed by the Conservative Party conference in October.

2. Theresa May becomes Prime Minister *faute de mieux*

The 2016 Conservative Party leadership election occurred as a result of Prime Minister David Cameron's resignation as party leader. He had resigned following the national referendum to leave the European Union.

Theresa May won the contest on 11 July 2016, after the withdrawal of Andrea Leadsom left her as the sole candidate.

Conservative Members of Parliament had voted initially in a series of ballots to determine which two candidates would go forward to a nationwide ballot of Conservative Party members for the final decision. Five Conservative MPs put themselves forward as candidates: Justice Secretary Michael Gove, Work and Pensions Secretary Stephen Crabb, former Defence Secretary Liam Fox, Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change Andrea Leadsom, and Home Secretary Theresa May. Former Mayor of London Boris Johnson, seen as the front runner by political analysts, surprised many commentators by choosing not to run after Gove withdrew his backing and announced his own candidacy.

In the first-round ballot, May, gaining the support of half of Conservative MPs, was placed first with Leadsom in second place. Fox was eliminated on the first ballot; Crabb withdrew later that day. Gove was eliminated in the second round of voting. Before the Conservative Party members were due to cast their votes, Leadsom withdrew from the contest on 11 July. May was appointed party leader later that day, and Prime Minister on 13 July. She appointed Boris Johnson, Fox and Leadsom to her Cabinet, respectively as Foreign Secretary, International Trade Secretary, and Environment Secretary.

3. The 2017 General Election and the Deadlock in Parliament

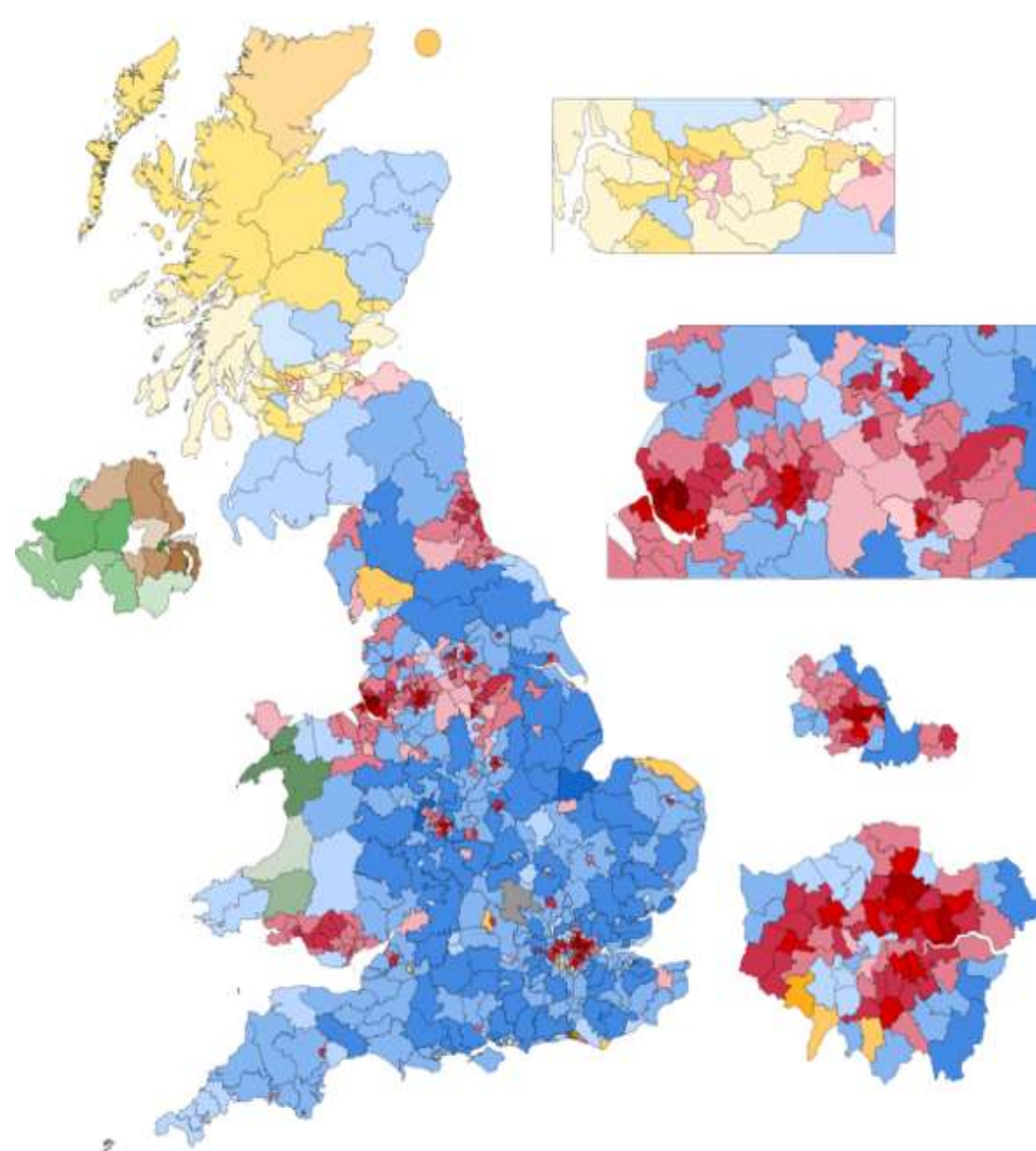
The 2017 United Kingdom general election was held on Thursday 8 June 2017, two years after the previous general election in 2015. The governing Conservative Party remained the largest single party in the House of Commons but unexpectedly lost its small overall majority, resulting in the formation of a minority government with a confidence-and-supply agreement with the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) of Northern Ireland.

The Conservative Party, which had governed as a senior coalition partner from 2010 and as a single-party majority government from 2015, was defending a working majority of 17 seats against the Labour Party, the official opposition led by Jeremy Corbyn. Under the Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011 an election had not been due until May 2020, but a call by Prime Minister Theresa May for a snap election was ratified by the necessary two-thirds vote in the House of Commons on 19 April 2017. May said that she hoped to secure a larger majority to "strengthen [her] hand" in the forthcoming Brexit negotiations.

Opinion polls had consistently shown strong leads for the Conservatives over Labour. From a 21-point lead, the Conservatives' lead began to diminish in the final weeks of the campaign. In a surprising result, the Conservative Party made a net loss of 13 seats despite winning 42.4% of the vote (its highest share of the vote since 1983), whereas Labour made a net gain of 30 seats with 40.0% (its highest vote share since 2001 and the first time the party had gained seats since 1997). This was the closest result between the two major parties since February 1974 and their highest combined vote share since 1970. The Scottish National Party (SNP) and the Liberal Democrats, the third- and fourth-largest parties, both lost vote share; media coverage characterized the result as a return to two-party politics. The SNP, which had won 56 of the 59 Scottish seats at the previous general election in 2015, lost 21. The Liberal Democrats made a net gain of four seats. UKIP, the third-largest party in 2015 by number of votes, saw its share of the vote reduced from 12.6% to 1.8% and lost its only seat.

In Wales, Plaid Cymru gained one seat, giving it a total of four seats. The Green Party retained its sole seat, but saw its share of the vote reduced. In Northern Ireland, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) won 10 seats, Sinn Féin won seven, and Independent Unionist Sylvia Hermon retained her seat. The Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) and Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) lost all their seats.

Negotiation positions following the UK's invocation of Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union in March 2017 to leave the EU were expected to feature significantly in the campaign, but did not. The campaign was interrupted by two major terrorist attacks: Manchester and London Bridge; thus national security became a prominent issue in its final weeks.



Where blue stands for Conservative, Red for Labour, and Yellow for the SNP,

Corbyn and Farron called on May to resign. On 9 June, May apologized to candidates who lost their seats and confirmed she would continue as party leader and prime minister, with the intention of forming a minority government with support from the Democratic Unionist Party to ensure "certainty". May's joint chiefs of staff Nick Timothy and Fiona Hill resigned, replaced by Gavin Barwell, who had lost his seat in the election. On 10 June, a survey of 1,500 Conservative Home readers found that almost two-thirds of Conservative Party members wanted Theresa May to resign. A YouGov poll of 1,720 adults for The Sunday Times had 48% saying Theresa May should resign, with 38% against. A Survation poll of 1,036 adults online for The Mail on Sunday showed 49% of people wanting her resignation, with 38% against. On 11 June George Osborne, former Chancellor of the Exchequer, described May as a "dead woman walking".

In a post-election reshuffle carried out on 11 June, May promoted her close ally Damian Green to become First Secretary of State and brought Michael Gove into the cabinet as Environment Secretary, making Andrea Leadsom Leader of the House of Commons. Liz Truss, David Lidington and David Gauke changed roles, while eleven cabinet members including key figures such as Boris Johnson, Amber Rudd, Michael Fallon, Philip Hammond and David Davis remained in post.

Negotiations between the Conservatives and the DUP began on 9 June. On 12 June, it was reported that the State Opening of Parliament, scheduled for 19 June, could be delayed. DUP sources informed the BBC that the Grenfell Tower fire on 14 June would delay finalisation of an agreement. On 15 June, it was announced that the Queen's Speech would occur on 21 June. A confidence and supply deal was reached on 26 June, with the DUP backing the Conservatives in key votes in the House of Commons over the course of the parliament. The agreement included additional funding of £1 billion for Northern Ireland, highlighted mutual support for Brexit and national security, expressed commitment to the Good Friday Agreement, and indicated that policies such as the state pension triple lock and Winter Fuel Payments would be maintained. Various commentators suggested this raises problems for the UK government's role as a neutral arbiter in Northern Ireland, as is required under the Good Friday Agreement.

In April 2020, Sky News's Tom Rayner and The Independent's Jon Stone reported on an 860-page dossier into the handling of allegations of anti-Semitism by Labour members and officials. Stone stated that the right-wing of the party weaponised claims of anti-Semitism—amongst other things—in an active attempt to undermine Corbyn and prevent Labour from winning the 2017 election in the hope that a poor result would trigger a leadership contest to remove Corbyn as leader.

This very deadlock in Parliament would later turn detrimental. When May would put forth her Brexit deal for the first time, she would lose by a huge margin due to lack of consensus, and for the second time, the gap shall reduce but despite that, she would lose. Now that 2 meaningful votes have been held it is up to the committee to decide on what the future course of action should be for the UK in relation to Brexit.

The Deal with Europe

1. The EU Withdrawal Agreement Bill

Following intense negotiations between the EU and the United Kingdom, a bill was drawn up by both the parties officially titled: Draft Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, as agreed at negotiators' level on 14 November 2018.

Given that the Agreement was a treaty between the EU and the British government, ratification by Parliament was necessary before it could be approved by the Council or the European Parliament.

On 24 July 2018 the Government produced a white paper on the proposed bill and how the legislation would work, but following that talks in Parliament with regard to Brexit were limited to Statements only. In response to this dither and denial, on 4 December 2018, on a motion passed by MPs by 311 to 293 votes, the May Government was found in contempt of Parliament; the first government to be found in contempt in history. The vote was triggered by the government failing to lay before Parliament any legal advice on the proposed withdrawal agreement on the terms of the UK's departure from the European Union, after a humble address for a return was unanimously agreed to by the House of Commons on 13 November 2018. The government then agreed to publish the full legal advice for Brexit that was given to the Prime Minister by the Attorney General during negotiations with the European Union.

On 12 December 2018, May faced a vote of no confidence in her leadership over opposition to her negotiated Brexit deal from the Conservative Party, after the number of Conservative MPs exceeded the 48 no-confidence letter threshold that the 1922 Committee Chairman, Sir Graham Brady required for one to be held. May won the vote with 200 Conservative MPs voting for her, compared to 117 voting against. As part of her speech to the Parliamentary Conservative Party before the no-confidence vote was opened, it was reported that May conceded that she would step down as prime minister after delivering Brexit and would not lead the Conservative Party into the next General Election in exchange for Conservative MPs voting to have confidence in her leadership so that she would be able to keep the party, Parliament and the UK stable during the final stages of Brexit. May later confirmed this to BBC News Political editor, Laura Kuenssberg after meeting EU leaders, including Jean-Claude Juncker in Brussels.

On 17 December 2018 in the House of Commons, the Leader of the Opposition and Labor Party Leader, Jeremy Corbyn, tabled a motion of no confidence in May's prime minister-ship, citing May's refusal to set the date for

the meaningful vote on her Brexit deal before Christmas, and instead pushing it back to mid-January.

The following day the government refused to allow time for the motion to be debated. John Bercow, Speaker of the House of Commons, confirmed that they were under no obligation to do so. Following the defeat of May's Brexit deal on 15 January 2019, Corbyn tabled a motion of no confidence in the Government, to be voted on by parliament the following evening. The motion was defeated by 325 votes to 306; a majority of 19.

On 15 January 2019, May's government was defeated in the House of Commons by a margin of 230 votes (202 in favor and 432 opposed) in a vote on her deal to leave the European Union. It was the largest majority against a United Kingdom government in history.

On 14 February the same year, May suffered another Commons defeat after MPs voted by 303 to 258 – a majority of 45 – against a motion endorsing the government's Brexit negotiating strategy.

On 12 March, May was again defeated in the Commons by 149 votes (242 in favor and 391 against) on her latest deal after she secured last-minute concessions from the EU.

The contents of the Withdrawal Agreement were as follows:

- It sets out exactly how the UK will make "divorce bill" payments to the EU for years to come
- It repeals the European Communities Act, which took the UK into the EU, but then reinstates it immediately until the end of 2020 when the transition period ends
- It contains language on how the new protocol on Ireland – setting up what amounts to a customs and regulatory border between Northern Ireland and Great Britain – will work in practice
- It sets out areas in which the European Court of Justice still plays a role in the UK, and makes the withdrawal agreement in some respects "supreme" over other areas of UK law
- One of those areas may be in the arbitration procedure for disputes about the withdrawal agreement. The bill introduces a duty for the government to report on this
- It prohibits any extension to the transition period beyond the end of 2020, even if a free trade deal isn't ready in time
- In the section on citizens' rights it sets up an independent monitoring authority (IMA) with which EU nationals in the UK can lodge any complaints about the way the government treats them

- In several policy areas, particularly in Northern Ireland, the bill gives ministers a lot of power to change the law (through secondary legislation) without MPs getting to vote
- It introduces a duty for the government to report on its use of the arbitration procedure for disputes about the withdrawal agreement

Given the fact that Mrs. May's Deal has been defeated in Parliament for the second time, the Committee set on 12th March 2019 shall decide on what the future of the UK-EU relationship would be and what Brexit would mean for the UK.

2. The Irish Backstop

The Irish backstop (formally the Northern Ireland Protocol) is a defunct appendix to a draft Brexit withdrawal agreement developed by the May government and the European Commission in December 2017 and finalized in November 2018, that aimed to prevent an evident border (one with customs controls) between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland after Brexit.

The backstop would have required keeping Northern Ireland in some aspects of the Single Market, until alternative arrangements were agreed between the EU and the UK. The proposal also provided for the UK as a whole to have a common customs territory with the EU until a solution were delivered to avoid the need for customs controls within the UK (between Northern Ireland and Great Britain). The 'backstop' element was that the arrangement would have continued to apply potentially indefinitely unless the UK and the EU were both to agree on a different arrangement, for example on a trade agreement between UK and EU at the end of the transition period.

The Irish government and Northern Irish nationalists (favoring a united Ireland) supported the protocol, whereas Unionists (favoring the existing United Kingdom) opposed it. By early 2019, the Westminster Parliament had voted three times against ratifying the Withdrawal Agreement and thus also rejected the backstop.

The Republic of Ireland has, after Luxembourg, the second-highest gross domestic product per capita in the EU, thanks to a favorable corporate tax system, and its membership of the European Single Market. Approximately 85% of Irish global freight exports pass through ports in the United Kingdom, about half of which are destined to the UK, while half continue to the EU via Dover and Calais. Using the UK as a "land bridge" is rapid (taking 10.5 hours for the route Dublin-Holyhead-Dover-Calais) but could be compromised by customs checks in Wales and Calais in a no-deal Brexit. This is because, in the absence of a trade agreement, the goods trade relationship between the UK and the EU (including

the Republic) would revert to World Trade Organization (WTO) membership terms. These stipulate that the same customs tariffs and checks must be indiscriminately applied between all WTO members (Most Favored Nation criterion), unless specific members have a trade agreement. This principle would also apply to trade across the land border in Ireland in the absence of a trade agreement.

Given the political and economic position of Ireland, Irish assets are important not only to the Kingdom but also to the Union, and it is left for the House to decide what the future of Ireland shall be.

3. Chequer's Agreement

The deal reached between ministers and Theresa May, which is also known as 'the Prime Minister's deal' or the 'Chequers deal', is made up of 12 points. They mean that the UK would keep close ties with the EU, creating an EU-UK free-trade area and a common rulebook. There would be no freedom of movement and no paying the EU, but the UK could still strike other trade deals.

The 12 points that make up the Chequers proposal are:

1. Leaving the European Union on the 29th March 2019.
2. Ending free movement and taking back control of our borders.
3. No more sending vast sums of money each year to the EU.
4. A new business friendly customs model with freedom to strike new trade deals around the world.
5. UK-EU free trade area with a common rulebook for industrial goods and agricultural products which will be good for jobs.
6. Commitment to maintain high standards on consumer and employment rights and the environment.
7. Parliamentary lock on all new rules and regulations.
8. Leaving the Common Agricultural Policy and Common Fisheries Policy.
9. Restoring the supremacy of British courts by ending the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice in the UK.
10. No hard border between Northern Ireland and Ireland, or between Northern Ireland and Great Britain.
11. Continued close cooperation on security to keep our people safe.
12. An independent foreign and defense policy working closely with the EU and other allies.

In a statement, the government said that Cabinet Ministers 'collectively agreed the UK's vision' for its future relationship with the European Union.

In addition to Theresa May, the Cabinet at the meeting was: Jeremy Hunt, David Davis, Michael Gove, Liam Fox, Penny Mordaunt, Gavin Williamson, Boris

Johnson, Sajid Javid, Damian Hinds, Karen Bradley, Philip Hammond, Claire Perry, Caroline Nokes, Esther McVey, and Chris Grayling.

Why did the EU reject the Chequers deal?

The European Union's proposal to the UK was for Northern Ireland to remain in the customs union, which would create a customs border between the island of Ireland and the rest of the UK.

Theresa May had proposed a 'backstop' customs system with facilitated customs arrangements in order to avoid a hard Irish border. But European Council president Donald Tusk said the plan needed to be "reworked", saying that "there will be no Withdrawal Agreement without a solid, operational and legally binding Irish backstop."

"We agreed to have a joint political declaration that provides as much clarity as possible on the future relations," he said.

"Everybody shared the view that while there are positive elements in the Chequers proposal, the suggested framework for economic cooperation will not work. Not least because it risks undermining the single market." The Chequers plan, officially known as 'The future relationship between the United Kingdom and the European Union' is a UK Government white paper concerning Brexit, published on 12 July 2018 by the Prime Minister, Theresa May. The paper was based on a three-page cabinet agreement from 6 July and laid out the type of future relationship between UK and European Union (EU) that the UK sought to achieve in the Brexit negotiations.

In July 2018, former Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union (Brexit Secretary), Dominic Raab, described it as a "detailed proposal for a principled, pragmatic and ambitious future partnership between the UK and the EU". He also stated that "[t]he white paper proposes a free trade area for goods to maintain frictionless trade, supported by a common rulebook and a new facilitated customs arrangement, but only for the rules that are necessary to provide frictionless trade at the border."

The white paper was finalized at a meeting of the UK Cabinet held at Chequers on 6 July 2018. Brexit Secretary, David Davis, and Foreign Secretary, Boris Johnson, resigned in opposition to the plan. The plan was rejected by the EU in September 2018.

4. Negotiation policy

The UK aims for a relationship based on "friendly cooperation between sovereign equals" with both sides respecting each other's "legal autonomy". It will not abide by EU rules and states the UK "will not negotiate any arrangement in which the

UK does not have control of its own laws", will not accept any "obligations" to be aligned with EU laws, or the "EU institutions, including the court of justice".

This is a complete departure from the political declaration agreement and lays the ground for a fierce battle between both sides over the "level playing field" they both aspired to in the October document.

The UK wants a "comprehensive free trade agreement" but in the same paragraph states it wants a Canada-style agreement "supplemented" by a range of other agreements including "fisheries law enforcement ... judicial cooperation in criminal matters, transport and energy".

This indicates the UK's goal is not the ambitious comprehensive associate arrangement sought by Theresa May and that Johnson is willing to settle for a bare bones trade agreement with a series of side deals to cover the remaining issues.

The then Secretary of State David Davis made clear where the UK shall lead its negotiations to, as it sits on the negotiating table with its EU counterparts. On 17 January 2017 the Prime Minister set out the 12 principles which will guide the Government in fulfilling the democratic will of the people of the UK.

These are:

1. Providing certainty and clarity;
2. Taking control of UK's own laws;
3. Strengthening the Union;
4. Protecting our strong historic ties with Ireland and maintaining the Common Travel Area;
5. Controlling immigration;
- 6 The United Kingdom's exit from and new partnership with the European Union, securing rights for EU nationals in the UK and UK nationals in the EU;
7. Protecting workers' rights;
8. Ensuring free trade with European markets;
9. Securing new trade agreements with other countries;
10. Ensuring the United Kingdom remains the best place for science and innovation;
11. Cooperating in the fight against crime and terrorism; and
12. Delivering a smooth, orderly exit from the EU.

Economic Repercussions

Political and Economic Pundits are more worried about the UK after Brexit than of Brexit in itself. The Effects of Brexit on the economy is proven, by data analysis and is severe, as most political scientists say:

- The economic analysis shows that the UK will be economically worse-off outside of the EU under most plausible scenarios.
- The failure of the UK to achieve an open trading and investment with the EU post-Brexit would have negative implications for the UK and EU, and provide little, if any, gain for the US.
- The option of leaving the EU with no deal and simply applying World Trade Organization (WTO) rules would lead to the greatest economic losses for the UK. The analysis of this particular scenario shows that trading under WTO rules would reduce future GDP by around five per cent ten years after Brexit, or \$140 billion, compared with EU membership.
- The WTO outcome would likely move the UK decisively away from EU standards and result in significantly increased non-tariff standards, harming the ability of UK businesses to sell services to EU countries. The services sector, including financial services, dominates the UK economy, contributing to around 80 per cent of its GDP.
- Under WTO rules, the EU would also lose out economically, but nowhere near the same proportion as the UK. The economic loss to the EU could be about 0.7 per cent of its overall GDP ten years after Brexit.
- The seven other trade scenarios would be considerably better for the UK than WTO rules, but most would still lead to economic losses compared its current status as an EU member.
- Of all the scenarios analyzed, the one that would have the most benefit would be a trilateral UK-EU-US agreement, essentially a TTIP-like agreement. The UK would be 7.1 percentage points of GDP better than the WTO rules scenario, which is even slightly better than continued EU membership would be. This is because the UK would gain preferential access to both the US and the EU marketplaces and benefit from their stronger economic growth attributed to a TTIP. However, a TTIP-like arrangement is seen as very unlikely in the current political environment.
- None of the 'soft Brexit' scenarios would be as beneficial to the UK as the trilateral UK-EU-US agreement. All three scenarios are likely to lead to modest financial losses to the UK economy compared to the current arrangement of EU membership.

- After Brexit, political and security effects would be the more important to the US. The potential economic gains and losses for the U.S. in Brexit are small, apart from the TTIP-like arrangement which would result in substantial economic gains for the US. The US will miss the influence and global perspective that the UK brings to the EU decision-making process, particularly around foreign policy, security and defense.
- The EU is likely to engage with the UK during Brexit negotiations, but may see benefit in adopting a 'zero sum game' approach. Europe's top political priority is to discourage other member states from withdrawing.
- It will be important for the UK to seek ways to move away from a 'zero-sum game' and towards a 'positive-sum game' as negotiations proceed, to ensure the best possible deal for all parties. A UK strategy of trying to pick apart European unity is unlikely to work since it is in the best interests of all EU member states to work together.
- Overall, it is in the best interests of the UK, and to a lesser extent the EU, to work together to achieve some sort of open trading and investment relationship post-Brexit. The "no deal/WTO rules" option would be economically damaging to both parties.

Political Repercussions

The possible withdrawal of Great Britain from the EU could have significant consequences regarding the integrity and political unity of the UK. In England, Euroscepticism is more pronounced than in Scotland. Great Britain's withdrawal from EU is not supported by the Scottish National Party (SNP). In the event of the UK exit from EU SNP could demand a second referendum regarding the independence that would offer the Scots the chance to decide whether to detach from the UK while maintaining relations with the EU. England's withdrawal from the EU would not only change the domestic political climate, but it would have significant political consequences both within the EU and on the future relations between EU member states and other non-EU countries. For example, UK's exit from the EU could encourage other member states to re-evaluate the terms and conditions of their membership. The same applies if Great Britain succeeds to renegotiate these terms and conditions while keeping the status of EU member. At the same time also, if Great Britain manages to negotiate (after a possible exit) a preferential agreement with the EU, this could lead to the renegotiation of EU's relations with other European countries that are not part of the EU (Switzerland, Norway, and Turkey). Last but not least, from a geopolitical point of view, Great Britain's exit from the EU could be seen externally as a sign of decline, EU would lose the financial, economic, political and military powerhouse. From this point of view, the European Union itself would have a major political and economic interest to conclude a mutually beneficial agreement with Great Britain considering that it would want to terminate its EU membership.

The risks of Brexit are very serious as they may result with the dissolution of the United Kingdom, a union that was created more than 300 years ago. Based on the results of the referendum, Scotland and Northern Ireland voted against leaving the EU, and the most dissatisfaction with Brexit were in Scotland. The results of the June 23 referendum highlighted a hypothesis that perhaps the UK might be dissolved in the future and that maybe in five years there will no longer be a United Kingdom. Scotland will be independent and part of EU. Less certain but quite possibly all or part of Northern Ireland will join Ireland. On September 18, 2014, Scotland had organized a referendum on its independence from the United Kingdom, but the results were 55.30% with 44.70% in favor of continuing to be part of the UK. The result was greatly influenced by the fact that an independent Scotland would most likely be treated as a new state, and therefore has to apply for membership on the EU. That process can take years and all EU members would have to approve the application and the risks of Brexit would be increased. Scotland's first minister, Nicola Ferguson Sturgeon, claimed that the UK's withdrawal from the EU could trigger a second referendum on Scotland independence because Brexit damages the future of the Scots, especially in the economic terms. The British government demands Scotland to be included in Brexit plans, but this demand contradicts the pro-European attitudes of the Scots, and the disadvantaged circumstances of Brexit will force them to reorganize this

referendum. Minister Sturgeon has promised to reveal her plans for a second independence referendum in the "not too distant future", after claiming there was currently too much "chaos" over Brexit. Meanwhile, if Scotland organizes another independence referendum, the Scots anger caused by Brexit can be expressed through votes and detaching Scotland from the UK. The fear of the dissolution of UK is also increased by the EU's promise to Northern Ireland after Brexit. According to international law, states can be created in an original way, and also can be created in derivative form by force (uprising) or peacefully (by agreement), always respecting the international legal order. If, after the UK leaves the EU and Northern Ireland decides to join the Republic of Ireland, it automatically becomes part of the EU, referring to the above mentioned point of the international law. DUP as a conservative government supporter requires a special Northern Ireland status in the UK/EU and if London does not agree its requirements, then its support for the conservative government may be jeopardized.

Proposed Strategies

-) Conservatives-During the 2016 referendum, the Conservatives voted to remain. However they were quite eager to cling to power and therefore in spite of being a Remainer, Theresa May pledged to "Get Brexit done". She however never made it clear that Brexit with a deal was the only way out keeping the prospect of a No-Deal Brexit on the table. Whenever asked by the opposition as to whether she would support a no deal Brexit or not, May always said, "If you don't want No-deal, you have to vote for a deal". As the government in power, the Conservatives have always wanted Brexit but the very large portion of them did not support Mrs. May's deal. The party was divided; fragmented and Mrs. May could do nothing in order to unify the party. She lost the vote on her deal for the first time by the biggest margin of defeat that any sitting government has ever faced since the 1920s. However she has been clear that there is only one deal on the table and the only way of ensuring a systematic Brexit is to vote for that deal.
- 2) Labour-The Labour party's policy toward Brexit is broken and is characterized by dither and delay. Despite being the only deal that the EU would agree to, Theresa May's divorce bill was not supported by Labour. They maintained a neutral policy on Brexit and supported a second referendum given the fact that the margin in the first was a mere 2%.
- 3) SNP - The SNP also never supported Theresa May's divorce bill. They however never maintained a neutral stance on Brexit. Following the referendum it was noted that the entirety of Scotland had voted to remain in the EU and the SNP therefore they said that in times like these when England and Scotland did not agree on an issue as integral as this, Scotland must have its own say. Taking advantage of the scenario, the SNP used this opportunity to ask for Scottish independence. This was repeatedly negated by the government saying that the Scottish people had already spoken in the Scottish referendum of 2014 and that the SNP must concentrate on serving the people instead of unduly asking for independence
- 4) The Liberal Democrats-The liberal Democrats said that they regretted the referendum. Later when Brexit was being thrown about by the Conservatives and Labour, the Liberal Democrats went as far as to try to "Stop Brexit", bringing up the dangers of Brexit and in essence negating the result of the referendum. Joanne Swinson was a particularly strong proponent of stopping Brexit for she went as far as to, along other Liberal Democrats, lead the "Bollocks to Brexit" campaign.
- 5) The DUP-The DUP believes that whilst they want to secure Brexit, the terms have to be in accord with the integrity of the UK reiterating that the backstop has the potential to create an internal trade border within the United Kingdom and would cut Northern Ireland off from their main internal market, being Great Britain. The DUP has consistently said that they won't agree to Mrs. May's deal for they believed it would damage the Union. Throughout the Brexit

negotiations, they have spent their time fighting against the Irish backstop for they believed that the Union of the United Kingdom with Northern Ireland was quite precious to them.

Portfolio Profiles

THERESA MAY

Theresa Mary May is a British politician who is serving as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and Leader of the Conservative Party since 2016. May served as Home Secretary from 2010 to 2016 and has been Member of Parliament (MP) for Maidenhead since 1997. Ideologically, she identifies herself as a one-nation conservative. She has always been a powerful figure in the house. She firmly believes that UK should exit EU as per the deal she has framed and wants the Brexit referendum to be honored.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16383ybn2QA>

The given link is that of Prime Minister's Questions in December 2018, one of Theresa May's most consequential PMQs.

ANDREA LEADSOM

Andrea Jacqueline Leadsom is a British Conservative politician who is serving as a Member of Parliament (MP) for South Northamptonshire since 2010. Leadsom is serving as the Leader of the House of Commons since 2017. Leadsom has run to contend for Leader of the Conservative Party, in 2016.

Andrea Leadsom has said she will not attempt to renegotiate the Brexit deal and insisted she would pursue a managed no deal if Conservative MPs and members back her as the next prime minister.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LzKSinxQ4Zo>

MICHAEL GOVE

Michael Andrew Gove is a British Conservative Party politician who has been the Member of Parliament (MP) for Surrey Heath since 2005. Gove served in the First Cameron government as Secretary of State for Education from 2010 to 2014 and Secretary of State for Justice in the Second Cameron government from 2015 to 2016, and he has also served in the Second May government as Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. He has run to contend for Leader of the Conservative Party, in 2016, finishing in third place. He has always been a front bencher in the house.

He believes that Brexit should be achieved according to the British withdrawal agreement.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3o7a8LXxQWg>

STEPHEN BARCLAY

Stephen Paul "Steve" Barclay is a British politician who has been serving as Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union from November 2018. A member of the Conservative Party, he has been the Member of Parliament (MP) for North East Cambridgeshire since 2010. Barclay served as Lord Commissioner of the Treasury from 2016 to 2017 and Economic Secretary to the Treasury from 2017 until 2018. After the January 2018 cabinet reshuffle, he became Minister of State at the Department of Health and Social Care; Barclay was appointed Brexit Secretary in November that year following the resignation of Dominic Raab. He is playing a great role in this Brexit deal and will be a key member in its success. He is the spine of the deal and without him it won't be possible.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0rCHdoeSXY8>

PHILIP HAMMOND

Philip Hammond is a British Conservative Party politician who is Chancellor of the Exchequer since 2016 under Prime Minister Theresa May. He is a Member of Parliament (MP) for Runnymede and Weybridge since 1997. He calls for the economy to be put up first and then wants the Brexit agreement to be negotiated with other parties.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CXRG6FMjRXI>

DAVID LIDINGTON

Sir David Roy Lidington is a British politician who is the Member of Parliament (MP) for Aylesbury since 1992. A member of the Conservative Party, he serves as Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster from 2018 and was frequently described as being Theresa May's de facto Deputy Prime Minister

Between 2010 and 2016, he served as Minister of State for Europe holding the position for the entirety of David Cameron's premiership, a longer period than any of his predecessors. Theresa May appointed him to the cabinet for the first time in June 2016, where he held a number of roles including Leader of the House of Commons, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice.

He firmly supports Brexit following the deal crafted by his side.

Following is a clip of PMQs between David Lidington and Emily Thornberry

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

JEREMY HUNT

Jeremy Richard Hunt is a British politician serving as Member of Parliament (MP) for South West Surrey since 2005. A member of the Conservative Party, he serves in the Cabinet since 2010 including as Foreign Secretary from 2018. He identifies as a one-nation

conservative, and has been associated with economically liberal and socially liberal policies. He served as Secretary of State for Health, later Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, from 2012 until 2018. He oversaw the imposition of a controversial new junior doctors' contract in England after the failure of negotiations. During the dispute, junior doctors undertook multiple strikes, the first such industrial action for 40 years. Hunt was re-appointed Health Secretary in the May Government; with an additional portfolio of social care in England in January 2018. On 3 June 2018, Hunt became the longest-serving Health Secretary in British political history. The following month, he was appointed Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. He supports Brexit and wants the withdrawal deal to be acknowledged.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-Addsx3qXA>

SAJID JAVID

Sajid Javid is a British politician who has served as the Member of Parliament (MP) for Bromsgrove since 2010. A member of the Conservative Party, he is Home Secretary since 2018. Javid was the first British Asian to hold one of the Great Offices of State in the UK. He is one of the most important and dominating members in the house.

He wants Brexit as per UK's deals and does not approve of EU'S negotiations.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hMJqwvbsV6M>

DOMINIC RAAB

Dominic Rennie Raab is a British politician who is a member of the Conservative Party, he has also been the Member of Parliament (MP) for Esher and Walton since 2010.

Raab was appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Justice on 12 May 2015. When Prime Minister Theresa May appointed her first government a year later, he returned to the backbenches. Following the 2017 general election, he was appointed Minister of State for Courts and Justice. When the government was reshuffled in January 2018, Raab moved to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. In July 2018, May promoted Raab to his first Cabinet role, becoming Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union following the resignation of David Davis. Raab resigned as Brexit Secretary four months later, in opposition to the Draft Withdrawal Agreement which he had been involved in negotiating with the EU.

He believes a no-deal scenario could provide more leverage in the context of a free trade agreement and resolve long-standing issues such as the Irish backstop.

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

JACOB REES MOGG

Jacob William Rees-Mogg is a British politician who has served as Member of Parliament

(MP) for North East Somerset since 2010. A member of the Conservative Party, Rees-Mogg is a social conservative. He prefers the old tics of politics and is widely respected among the members of the house.

His word being very important, he believes that the Withdrawal deal preceding Brexit will be best for UK.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjsH4B8OVzw>

GAVIN WILLIAMSON

Gavin Alexander Williamson is a British Conservative politician. Williamson has served as Secretary of State for Defence from November 2017.

He has served as Member of Parliament (MP) for South Staffordshire since the 2010 general election. Williamson served in the Second Cameron ministry as Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS) to Patrick McLoughlin, the Secretary of State for Transport prior to being appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Prime Minister in October 2013. From 14 July 2016 to 2 November 2017, he served as Chief Whip in the May Government.

He approves of the negotiated withdrawal deal and supports Brexit with a deal.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9akUuOZuMA>

NIGEL ADAMS

Nigel Adams is a British Conservative politician serving as the Member of Parliament (MP) for Selby and Ainsty since 2010. He had previously held various government ministerial posts. These have included as an Assistant Government Whip on two occasions (June 2017 to January 2018, November 2018 to April 2019), Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Wales.

He strongly wants Brexit as per the deal formed by the conservatives and believes in dominating the deal.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_SoiqNJShc

BORIS JOHNSON

Alexander Boris de Pfeffel Johnson is a British politician, author, and former journalist. He was Foreign Secretary from 2016 to 2018 and Mayor of London from 2008 to 2016. Johnson was Member of Parliament (MP) for Henley from 2001 to 2008 and has been MP for Uxbridge and South Ruislip since 2015.

Ideologically, he identifies as a one-nation conservative. In 2015, Johnson was elected MP for Uxbridge and South Ruislip; he stepped down as mayor the following year, during which he became a prominent figure in the successful Vote Leave campaign for Brexit in the 2016 EU membership referendum. He then served as Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs during the earlier stages of Theresa May's premiership; he resigned from the post two years later, in criticism of May's approach to Brexit and the Chequers Agreement. He firmly supports May's Brexit with a deal policy.

This clip is from October, 2019 when he had already become Prime Minister, but committee shall be down marking if any delegate brings up these points as Johnson's own, as this video is for reference only.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8TFVudiM1UU>

JO JOHNSON

Joseph Edmund Johnson is a British politician who has served as the Member of Parliament (MP) for Orpington since 2010. A member of the Conservative Party, he served as Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation from 2015 to 2018.

He strongly supports no-deal Brexit and says a deal would hamper UK's economy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n51wGayXPol>

PRITI PATEL

Priti Sushil Patel is a British politician who has served as the Member of Parliament (MP) for Witham since 2010. She served as Secretary of State for International Development from 2016 to 2017. A member of the Conservative Party, she is ideologically positioned on the party's right wing and considers herself to be a Thatcherite. She was first elected MP for Witham, a Conservative safe seat in Essex, at the 2010 general election, before being re-elected in 2015 and 2017. Under Cameron's government, Patel was appointed Minister of State for Employment and served as vice-chair of the Conservative Friends of Israel. She attracted attention for her socially conservative stances.

She is in support of Brexit with the deal taking pace along with it. She insists that the deal is for the benefit of the people of UK, however she voted against May's deal throughout.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p1mJFJDpDQQ>

JEREMY CORBYN

Jeremy Bernard Corbyn is a British politician who has served as Leader of the Labour Party and Leader of the Opposition since 2015. Corbyn has been the Member of Parliament (MP) for Islington North since 1983. Ideologically, he identifies himself as a socialist. He takes one of the front seats and is extremely powerful in the house; he has an influencing hand in most of the house's decisions. There is also a great deal of responsibility on him as he is the leader of the opposition and it is believed that the opposition has the duty of checking the government in power.

He has a neutral stance on Brexit which he believes is mature and sensible on his part.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ADS_KXk95xg

EMILY THORNBERRY

Emily Anne Thornberry (born 27 July 1960) is a British politician who has been the Member of Parliament (MP) for Islington South and Finsbury since 2005. A member of the Labour Party, she has served in the Shadow Cabinet of Jeremy Corbyn as Shadow First Secretary of State since 2017 and Shadow Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs since 2016.

Thornberry practiced as a barrister from 1985 to 2005. She was first elected to Parliament in 2005, and served as Shadow Attorney General in Ed Miliband's shadow cabinet from 2011 until she resigned in 2014 after sending a tweet that was described as "snobby". After Jeremy Corbyn won the 2015 leadership election, Thornberry was appointed shadow employment minister. In January 2016, she was appointed Shadow Defence Secretary, and in June 2016 she was appointed Shadow Foreign Secretary.

She is a contender to replace Corbyn as the Leader of the opposition in 2020. She believes in having Brexit with a newly pitched deal. She would take utmost responsibility of crafting the said deal.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BE3du0LBfCc>

Please be careful about some of the comparisons she makes in her speech. On further research, you will find that several things she said actually happened after the freeze date so I would advise you to be careful in that regard.

DIANE ABBOTT

Diane Julie Abbott is a British politician who has served as the Shadow Home Secretary in the Shadow Cabinet of Jeremy Corbyn since 2016. She has been the Member of Parliament (MP) for Hackney North and Stoke Newington since 1987. As a member of the Labour Party, she has held various positions in successive Shadow Cabinets; she is the country's first black female MP and is the longest-serving black MP in the House of Commons.

She proposes to have a negotiated Brexit deal similar to what David Cameron tried before the 2016 referendum.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EeWdgaWn3aw>

REBECCA LONG BAILEY

Rebecca Roseanne Long-Bailey is a British Labour Party politician and former solicitor serving as Member of Parliament (MP) for Salford and Eccles since 2015. Long-Bailey was Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury from 2016 to 2017, deputizing for Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell.

She supports Brexit without a deal but it should be taken to note that she has changed her stance multiple times in the past.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yk_auftZ3j0

KEIR STARMER

Sir Keir Rodney Starmer KCB QC MP (born 2 September 1962) is a British politician. He has been Member of Parliament for Holborn and St Pancras since 2015. Ideologically, he identifies as a socialist and has been described as being on the soft left.

Elected to the House of Commons in the 2015 general election, Starmer was appointed to the Shadow Cabinet in October 2016 as Shadow Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, after the vote to leave the European Union. Starmer was a vocal advocate for a second referendum, stating he would have voted to remain.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3UrkJYbYPg>

NICK BROWN

Nicholas Hugh Brown is a British Labour Party politician who has been the Member of Parliament (MP) for Newcastle upon Tyne East since 1983. Brown is currently the Chief Whip of the Labour Party and has held the position intermittently since 1997 under four Labour Party leaders, both in government and in opposition. While his party was in government between 1997 and 2010, Brown was appointed to several cabinet and ministerial roles. He strongly believes that UK should stay in the EU and also campaigns for the same.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZB2ExAMQmag>

JOHN MCDONELL

John Martin McDonnell is a British politician serving as the Member of Parliament (MP) for Hayes and Harlington since 1997. A member of the Labour Party, he has served as Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Shadow Cabinet of Jeremy Corbyn since 2015. Following his election as Labour leader in 2015, Jeremy Corbyn appointed McDonnell as his Shadow Chancellor. Alongside Corbyn, McDonnell has been seen as a key figure on the left-wing of the party. As Shadow Chancellor, McDonnell pledged to increase spending on infrastructure and research, describing his vision for the economy as "socialism with an iPad". He says that he is going to support Brexit only if the conservatives come up with a good deal and agree to negotiate it according to the labour party.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGxZKpx75Xs>

HARRIET HARMAN

Harriet Ruth Harman is a British solicitor and Labour politician serving as a Member of Parliament (MP) since 1982, first for Peckham and then its successor

constituency of Camberwell and Peckham since 1997. Harman holds the record as the longest-ever continuously serving female MP in the House of Commons. On 13 June 2017, she was dubbed "Mother of the House" by the then Prime Minister Theresa May.

She has served in various Cabinet and Shadow Cabinet positions. She served as a Shadow Social Services minister (from 1984) and as a Shadow Health minister (from 1987), Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury (1992–1994) and then, under Tony Blair, as Shadow Employment Secretary (1994–1995), Shadow Health Secretary (1995–1996) and Shadow Social Security Secretary (1996–1997).

Following the 1997 general election victory, she was appointed Secretary of State for Social Security and the first ever Minister for Women, serving until 1998 when she left the Cabinet. In 2001, she was appointed Solicitor General for England and Wales, serving until 2005 when she became Minister of State for Constitutional Affairs.

She has said will be neutral if she is elected as speaker otherwise she will strongly support the policy of no Brexit.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=illyHV98AyA>

KEVIN BARRON

Sir Kevin John Barron (born 26 October 1946) is a British Labour Party politician and former coal industry worker. He was the Member of Parliament (MP) for Rother Valley since 1983. He is very experienced; he has been in the house since 35 years. He has a great impact on the house, Despite being in the labour party he supported May's Brexit with a deal policy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMONIQ2yFQM>

IAN BLACKFORD

Ian Blackford is a Scottish politician serving as Leader of the Scottish National Party (SNP) in the House of Commons since 2017. He has been the Member of Parliament (MP) for Ross, Skye and Lochaber since 2015.

Originally from Edinburgh, he previously worked as an investment banker and has been involved with various business ventures since. He was the party's national treasurer from 1999 until 2000. Blackford has been Leader of the SNP Westminster Group since Angus Robertson lost his seat at the 2017 snap general election.

He believes in a compromised Brexit which shall benefit all parts of the UK.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xJXHDi7h6ml>

JOANNA CHERRY

Joanna Catherine Cherry is a Scottish National Party (SNP) politician. She has been the Member of Parliament (MP) for Edinburgh South West since May 2015,

and is the SNP Justice and Home Affairs spokesperson in the House of Commons.

She strongly protects Scotland therefore supports no Brexit policy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hzKbIFC-vNc>

NIGEL DODDS

Nigel Alexander Dodds is a Northern Ireland barrister and Former unionist politician. Dodds became North Belfast's MP in the 2001 UK general election and served in that role until he was succeeded by Sinn Féin's John Finucane in 2019. He has served in the past as a member of the Northern Ireland Assembly, and as Minister of Finance in the Northern Ireland Executive. He has been deputy leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) since June 2008. He has been Lord Mayor of Belfast twice, and from 1993 has been General Secretary of the DUP.

He seeks to achieve Brexit with a better deal. He believes that the current deal undermines the authority of the UK.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CuflmtE9BAM>

JO SWINSON

Joanne Kate Swinson is a British Liberal Democrat politician, Swinson served as the Member of Parliament (MP) for East Dunbartonshire from 2005 to 2015 and is also currently serving since 2017.

In 2010, after the Liberal Democrats entered into a coalition government with the Conservative Party, Swinson served as a Parliamentary Private Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg, and was later appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs. She lost her seat in the 2015 election, but regained it in the snap election held two years later.

Shortly after returning to Parliament, she was elected unopposed as Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats.

She firmly disapproves of Brexit and wants the UK to stay in the EU.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fBS-zWvLOA>

TIM FARRON

Timothy James Farron is a British Liberal Democrat politician who was Leader of the Liberal Democrats from 2015 until 2017. He has been Member of Parliament (MP) for Westmorland and Lonsdale since 2005. Farron was the President of the Liberal Democrats from January 2011 to December 2014.

He supports Brexit without a deal. For him UK exiting EU is the only concern, he is not bothered by the deal, he thinks that deal won't benefit UK.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UoGfp3bi-BU>

ALAN BROWN

Alan Brown (born 12 August 1970) is a Scottish National Party (SNP) politician. He has been the Member of Parliament (MP) for Kilmarnock and Loudoun since gaining the seat in the 2015 general election. In 2017, Brown was appointed as the SNP Westminster spokesperson on Transport, Infrastructure and Energy.

<https://www.thescottishsun.co.uk/news/5167680/snp-alan-brown-crap-brexit-deal-commons/>

NOTE:

THE YOUTUBE LINKS ARE NOT TO BE USED TO DETERMINE THE PORTFOLIOS STANCE ON THE AGENDA AS THERE WERE RECORDED AT DIFFERENT TIMES AND THE STANCE OF SOME OF THE PORTFOLIOS IN THE VIDEOS DO NOT ADHERE TO THEIR STANCE ON THE FREEZE DATE. THE LINKS ARE JUST TO GIVE YOU AN INSIGHT ABOUT PORTFOLIO'S PERSONALITY AND MANNER OF SPEAKING.

Links and References

a) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/589191/The_United_Kingdoms_exit_from_and_partnership_with_the_EU_Web.pdf

The UK Negotiation Policy

b) https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/draft_withdrawal_agreement_0.pdf

The UK Withdrawal Agreement Bill

c) <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-32810887>

The BBC's reporting on Brexit

d) http://www.globeco.ro/wp-content/uploads/vol/split/vol_3_no_2/geo_2015_vol3_no2_art_005.pdf

The economic repercussions of Brexit

e) PMQs worth watching:

24th July, 2019: [Theresa May's last]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jplu6t__Y78&t=2850s

19th December, 2018:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16383ybn2QA>

19th June, 2019:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KVZY4TJNV2s&t=941s>

10th July, 2019:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5t7d_YTOK7Q&t=1934s

Full coverage of the No-Confidence Motion:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3sD6mToHzg>

NOTE:

THE YOUTUBE LINKS ARE NOT TO USED TO DETERMINE THE PORTFOLIOS STANCE ON THE AGENDA AS THERE WERE RECORDED AT DIFFERENT TIMES AND THE STANCE OF SOME OF THE PORTFOLIOS IN THE VIDEOS DO NOT ADHERE TO THEIR STANCE ON THE FREEZE DATE.THE LINKS ARE JUST TO GIVE YOU AN INSIGHT ABOUT PORTFOLIO'S PERSONALITY AND MANNER OF SPEAKING.