

As Prime Minister, Johnson Faces the Brexit He Championed

Boris Johnson, Britain's brash former *foreign secretary* and *standard-bearer* for leaving the European Union, on Tuesday won the contest to succeed Prime Minister Theresa May, with his party handing the job of resolving the country's three-year Brexit *nightmare* to one of its most polarizing politicians.

foreign secretary 外交部长

standard-bearer 领导人

nightmare 噩梦

He would take office at one of the most critical moments in Britain's recent history, immediately facing the toughest challenge of his career, to manage his nation's exit from the European Union in little more than three months. But his policy *swerves*, lack of attention to detail and *contradictory* statements leave the country guessing how things will unfold.

swerve 背离；转向

contradictory 矛盾的

Johnson has doubled down *lately* on Brexit, promising to take Britain out of the European Union by the Oct. 31 deadline "do or die," if necessary risking the economic *dislocation* of leaving without any agreement, rather than seek an extension.

lately 最近

dislocation 混乱；脱位

Johnson's rare mix of *charismatic bluster* and *absent-minded* air — either *charming* or *maddening*, depending on the listener and the moment — and his unusual gift for communicating with voters have made him one of the country's best-known politicians, and carried him to two terms as London mayor.

charismatic 超凡魅力的

bluster 咆哮

absent-minded 心不在焉的

charming 迷人的；可爱的

maddening 发狂的

But his support for Brexit, along with his *penchant* for pronouncements that do not always hold up under scrutiny, has also made him a highly divisive figure. The focus will soon shift to

what clues that provides for whether he will pursue his hard line on Brexit or dial down the *rhethoric* and try to seek a deal with the European Union.

penchant 倾向；爱好

rhethoric 修辞