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Agenda

Introduction

I. The causes of Brexit

II. The process of leaving
the EU

III. Key impacts of Brexit

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Introduction

- Brexit, a blend of "Britain" and "exit," refers to the United Kingdom's historic decision to leave the European Union (EU).
- This move, first sparked in 2016 through a referendum, has fundamentally altered political, economic, and social landscapes both in the UK and across Europe.





I. The causes of Brexit

■ **Sovereignty and Control**

A major factor behind Brexit was the desire to "take back control" over UK laws, borders, and immigration.

■ **Economic Concerns**

While the EU provides access to a large single market, critics felt it also imposed financial constraints and regulations on the UK.

■ **National Identity and Euroscepticism**

Rising nationalism and a broader distrust of the EU fueled support for Brexit. Some viewed EU influence as a threat to British cultural identity and traditional values.

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II. The process of leaving the EU

The referendum and decision

On June 23, 2016, 52% of voters supported leaving the EU. This led to a formal withdrawal process under Article 50 of the EU Treaty.

The transition period

The UK officially exited the EU on January 31, 2020, but entered a transition period lasting until December 31, 2020. This allowed the UK and EU to negotiate new trade and border agreements.

The Brexit agreement

The Brexit deal covers key issues: trade, Northern Ireland, and citizens' rights.

III. Key impacts of Brexit

Economic impacts

Trade and Investment: Brexit has disrupted trade, with increased customs checks and new tariffs on goods between the UK and EU. Some companies have relocated operations to the EU to avoid these challenges.

Social and political divides

Brexit highlighted regional divisions, with Scotland and Northern Ireland largely voting to remain in the EU, while England and Wales showed stronger support for leaving. **This has reignited calls for Scottish independence and affected the stability of Northern Ireland's political landscape.**

International relations

Brexit has also reshaped the UK's global role, with the country seeking new trade agreements with nations like the U.S., Japan, and Australia. The UK's future relations with the EU, while cooperative, remain complex and uncertain.

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IV. The Future of Brexit

■ Ongoing Adjustments

The UK and EU are still adapting to post-Brexit realities, revisiting agreements on issues like fishing rights, security, and financial services.

■ Political and Economic Adaptation

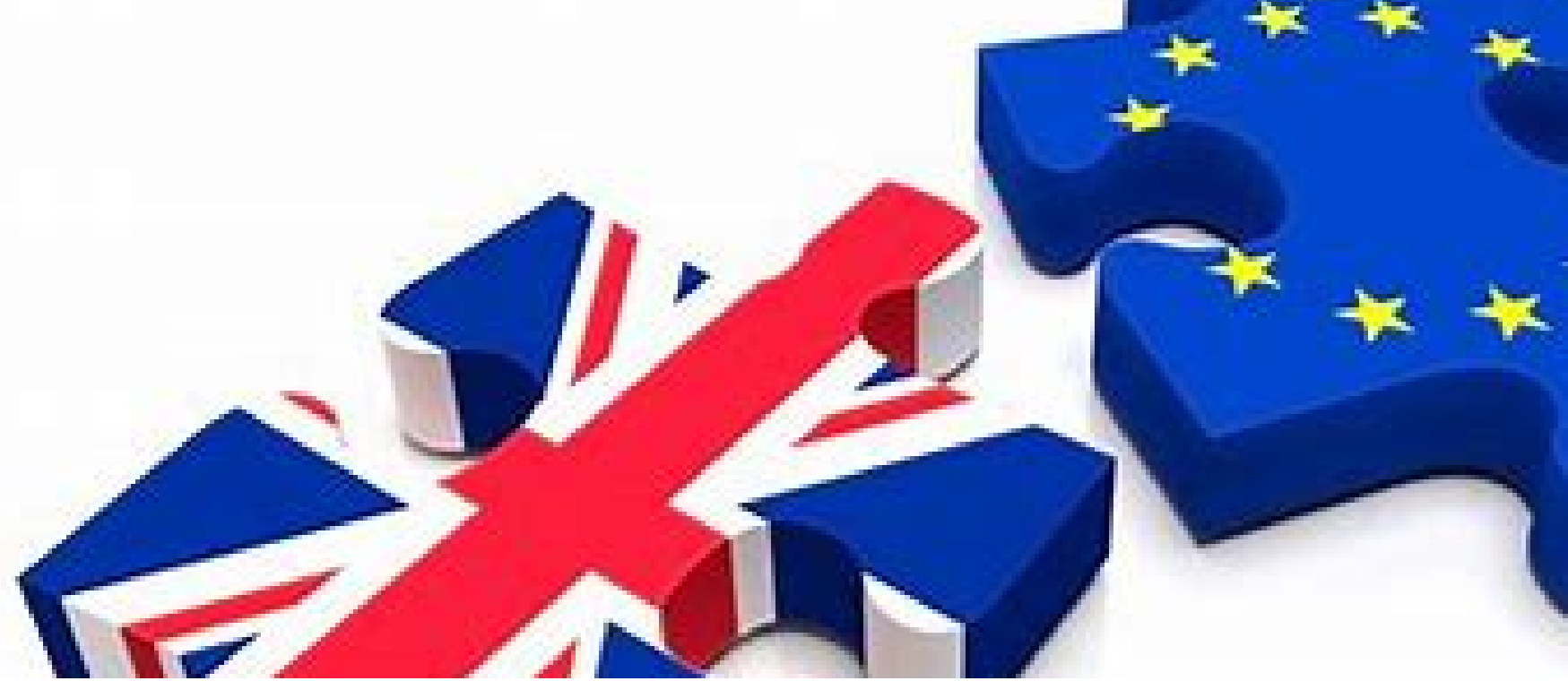
The UK government aims to capitalize on Brexit freedoms by pursuing a more flexible regulatory environment. However, economic uncertainties persist, as inflation, supply chain disruptions, and labor shortages continue to affect businesses and consumers.

■ Unity within the UK

The Brexit experience has fueled debates over national unity, particularly with Scotland's growing independence movement. The future may see significant changes in the UK's own political structure.

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Brexit remains one of the most defining moments in recent British history. It exemplifies the power of popular sovereignty but also the complexities of disengaging from a longstanding political and economic union. The UK now faces both the challenges and opportunities of defining its place in a post-Brexit world. As the UK and EU navigate their new relationship, Brexit's true impact will unfold in the years to come.

Conclusion



Vocabulary in context

- opening hook: the starting line meant to grab attention
- unbind: to detach or separate from a connection
- bold leap: taking a daring, risky move
- bold gamble: a daring decision that involves risk
- Brexit: a blend of "Britain" and "exit," referring to the UK's departure from the EU
- sovereignty: supreme authority or power, especially over a territory
- nationalism: strong identification with one's nation and its interests
- Euroscepticism: skepticism or distrust of the European Union or its policies
- referendum: a vote in which the electorate makes a direct decision
- Article 50: a provision in the EU Treaty that allows a member to withdraw from the EU
- customs territory: a region where a single set of customs laws applies
- disengaging: detaching or removing from involvement

Pronunciation in context

These words can be challenging to pronounce.

unions (/ˈjuːnjənz/): focus on the "yu" and "ny" sounds

referendum (/ˌrɛfəˈrɛndəm/): emphasize "re" and "dum"

Euroscepticism (/ˌjʊərəˈskɛptɪsɪzəm/): break down into Eu-ro-scep-ti-cism

sovereignty (/ˈsɒvrɪnti/): silent "g," pronounced sov-er-en-tee

customs (/ˈkʌstəmz/): the "t" is lightly pronounced

complexities (/kəmˈplɛksɪtɪz/): focus on "ple" and "si"

disengaging (/ˌdɪsɪnˈɡeɪdʒɪŋ/): focus on "engage" with a soft "dʒ" sound at the end

Questions for engagement:

1. Which country decided to leave the European Union (EU)?
2. In what year did the Brexit referendum take place?
3. What percentage of voters chose to leave the EU in the referendum?
4. What was one of the main reasons some people supported Brexit?
5. What does the term "referendum" mean?
6. What is "Article 50," and why is it important for Brexit?
7. When did the UK officially leave the EU?

Questions for engagement:

8. What does the "transition period" refer to in Brexit?
9. Name one key area that the Brexit deal covers.
10. What is Brexit? Explain it in simple terms.
11. What are the differences between the UK, Britain, and England?
12. What were some main reasons behind the decision for Brexit?
13. What was the outcome of the Brexit referendum, and when did it happen?



GREAT BRITAIN

+ SCOTLAND
+ ENGLAND
+ WALES



UNITED KINGDOM

SCOTLAND
ENGLAND
WALES
+ N. IRELAND



BRITISH ISLES

SCOTLAND
ENGLAND
WALES
N. IRELAND

Reading

The portmanteau "Brexit" originally derives from the term "Grexit," which referred to the potential exclusion of Greece from the eurozone, a topic debated in previous years.

The term "Brexit" emerged in May 2012, almost at the same time as "Grexit." While it was widely used by supporters of the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union, known as "Brexiters," the opposing view is represented by the term "Bremain" (a blend of "Great Britain" and "remain").

The term "Brexit" has also inspired wordplay, such as "BrexPitt" or "Bradxit" to illustrate the divorce of Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt, or "Mexitt" for Lionel Messi's international retirement.



Thank you

