

Brexit's impact on European integration

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Abstract. Europe, the birthplace of modern civilization, has gone through thousands of years of change and war, and is still the focus of world politics, economy, and technology today. With the creation of the European Union, the concept of European integration has returned to public discussion. In recent years, Brexit has caused an impact on the theory of European integration, and the previous scholars' research on the theory of integration has been almost completely subverted. Based on previous studies on the theory of European integration, this paper analyzes from the perspectives of politics, economy, diplomacy and geopolitics to study what impact and influence Brexit will bring to the European integration.

Keywords: Brexit; European integration; International relations.

1. Introduction

Brexit has not only cost the EU an important member state, but will also have an impact on European integration. First of all, Brexit deepens the political divide in the UK, which has a negative impact on its domestic affairs and diplomacy. Secondly, the British pound depreciates sharply, and the use of the euro is restricted and cannot circulate normally. Third, Britain's status and role in the EU have declined. Finally, tensions and conflicts arose in the relationship between Britain and Europe.

2. Organization of the Text

2.1. Brexit deepens the political divide in the UK, which has a negative impact on its internal affairs and diplomacy

The first is that Britain will lose its importance within the EU, and possibly even its influence within the EU. Second, deepening political divisions in Britain will affect Prime Minister Theresa May's legitimacy and the unity of the Conservative Party. Third, Brexit may bring new uncertainty to the future relationship between the UK and the EU, and even trigger contradictions and conflicts between the UK and the EU. Fourth, there are new variables in UK-EU relations, which will also affect UK-EU cooperation.

Judging from the current situation, after the Brexit referendum, the UK's domestic politics, economy and international environment are affected in many ways, and the result is also in many ways, both positive and negative. First of all, Brexit has had a major blow and adverse impact on British politics, weakening the legitimacy of the ruling party and the implementation of effective government leadership policies across the country. Secondly, the continuous depreciation of the pound and the economic slowdown caused by Brexit have increased the financial pressure of the British government to a certain extent. Thirdly, Brexit will bring great risk of internal division to the UK. Finally, economic and trade relations between the UK and the EU are difficult to adjust.

Shortly after the Brexit vote, British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said, "Far from giving the British people a fair shake, a vote to leave the EU will make people feel 'even more unfair'." Hunt also said: "If the EU were to implement a deal without any intervention in Brexit and implement a common currency and customs regime... Then we will have a stronger, more competitive and cohesive European Union ". [1] Although he said it was based on a judgment about the interests of the British people, the competence of the government and the leadership of his party, it was certainly a statement rather than a commitment. Although Hunt himself expressed his intention not to resign and continue as foreign secretary after Brexit and would not accept a "no deal" Brexit in parliament,

it was clear that he could not dispel doubts and concerns about whether he could continue in office and serve as prime minister in the future.[2]

2.1.1. The Johnson government is at odds with Parliament over Brexit

The British government had been insisting that the original Brexit date of March 29, 2020 be pushed back to January 31, 2020, but the House of Commons rejected the arrangement. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced on September 29 that he would postpone Brexit on January 31, 2021, in order to avoid parliament passing his Brexit deal. On September 30, Johnson made another request to the prime minister's office to delay Brexit until January 27, 2021, but the government refused. Johnson then announced that he would allow parliament to vote on the Brexit deal in order to avoid a no-deal Brexit. On October 7th yet another MP suggested calling for an early election so that, in the event of a "no deal" Brexit, it could be used to achieve Britain's goal of leaving the EU. On the afternoon of October 8, Johnson again asked MPS to vote on the prime minister's request for an extension of Brexit day. On the same day, both Conservative and opposition lawmakers expressed opposition to the delayed vote.

The reasons given by the British government for delaying Brexit mainly include:

First, the British government believes that Brexit has reached the point of "imminent" and that delaying it is the wisest option. Second, the British government believes that if Brexit is not completed by January 31, 2020, it will do great harm to both the UK and the EU. Thirdly, Prime Minister Johnson said in the plenary session of the House of Commons on October 6, 2019, "We must ensure that the agreement reached with the EU is valid on January 31, 2020." Finally, in response to opposition MPS 'objections to delaying Britain's departure from the European Union and calling an early election, Johnson also said: "We are seeking a way for Parliament to set the date of Brexit through legislation." "Now is the time for a general election," he said [3] In fact, the British government proposed a delay because no agreement was reached at the EU summit on 24-27 June 2019. Under the terms of Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, both sides must abide by a special arrangement that would delay Britain's departure from the EU if the two sides could not reach an agreement. Under the current agreed timetable, the two sides are supposed to finalize elements of the agreement by the end of October, and on that basis produce a draft agreement for an extension. However, unfortunately, due to the two sides on the deadline and specific details of the big differences, resulting in the delay in the draft agreement.

2.1.2. The British Parliament does not support the Brexit deal

The House of Commons voted on October 6 to reject the government's bid to postpone Brexit until January 31, 2020, by 432 votes to 334. Lawmakers in the House of Commons had made it clear before the vote that they would not support Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government's bid to delay Brexit until January 31, 2021. Although the prime minister has repeatedly said he will stay on as a cabinet minister if he is able to deliver a smooth Brexit by January 31. But MPS have rejected the Johnson government's bid to delay Brexit.

The Speaker of the House of Commons, John Bercow, said the government had made no commitments to Parliament and EU member states. Prime Minister Boris Johnson then responded on October 10, saying Parliament would vote on whether to support the government's request to delay Brexit until January 31, 2021. But Bercow said the result would not change the fact that the EU had promised and agreed to delay Brexit.

2.1.3. Opposition parties opposed to an early general election will vote in January

In an interview with Britain's Sky News on Oct. 9, Johnson said he supported a general election before Dec. 12. The British government has previously asked parliament for an early election. Johnson also reiterated his support for an early election and asked party leaders to set a date for him at a full meeting of the House of Commons on Oct. 6, Reuters reported. Lawmakers from the governing Conservative Party are now considering a proposal to delay or cancel Brexit. The

Conservative MP, a spokesman for the Labour government, said the proposal already had the support of a majority of MPS.

If the proposal is approved and implemented, a new election will be held on January 19th. Labour's parliamentary spokesman said: "Labour has no intention of changing its Brexit plans" and "an early election is not realistic". In addition, opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn also expressed support for early elections.

The political changes in the UK deserve attention and analysis. This is despite British Prime Minister Boris Johnson saying in a media interview on October 8 that he had reached an agreement with the EU to postpone the date of Britain's departure from the EU until January 31, 2020. However, as the House of Commons voted to extend Brexit, the political changes in the UK will be the focus of attention. The first is the clash between the "Leave" and "remain" campaigns.

Amid growing divisions within the Conservative Party and opposition in the House of Commons, Johnson told MPS at a plenary meeting of Parliament on Oct. 6 that he had informed them of the decision to delay Brexit until Jan. 31, 2021. But Johnson refused to make the statement when the House of Commons convened for a special session.

On the other hand, if the lower House of Parliament also approves Johnson's request for an early election after delaying the Brexit date, an early election campaign could lead to new turmoil in British politics [4] Brexit may bring new uncertainty to the future relationship between the UK and the EU, and even trigger contradictions and conflicts between the UK and the EU. In the process of Brexit negotiation, as the two sides do not agree on many issues and the UK's position on Brexit is at odds with that of the EU, contradictions and conflicts between the two sides are inevitable, and the UK-EU relationship is changing. First, how to maintain trade relations with the EU after Brexit is a problem that the UK needs to solve. After Brexit, Britain will not be able to get zero tariff treatment if there is a difference in free trade between the UK and the EU. That means Britain's trading relationship with the EU must be based on free trade, not mutual benefit.[5]

If the UK wants to keep the free trade relationship intact after leaving the EU, it would have to be renegotiated.

That would mean EU goods and services would be completely exempt from the UK free trade deal, but at the same time EU tariffs on UK goods would remain zero.

This will lead to higher prices for British goods, huge losses for British companies, a cut in exports and a recession for the country, as well as extra costs for British companies, lost jobs and lost employment.

Although the UK and the EU have reached some compromises on the free trade agreement, there are still some differences and uncertainties between the UK and the EU that cannot be resolved, and these are exactly the problems that the UK is trying to solve.

2.2. The British pound depreciated sharply, and the use of the euro was restricted and could not be normally circulated

In the wake of Brexit, the pound has come under unprecedented downward pressure. In August 2018, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee raised interest rates by 25 basis points, marking the first increase in borrowing costs since the Brexit referendum. Following the rate hike, the pound initially rose against the dollar but later fell more than 3% in value. However, the pound did not experience a sharp drop after April 2018.[6] Since the British government has not reached any binding agreement in the trade negotiations with the EU, although the EU side has repeatedly said that it will try its best to help the UK through the difficulties and even provide support, many British people still believe that if the trade negotiations with the EU again, there will be no bilateral trade agreement between the UK and the EU.

If the Brexit negotiations are a game, then trade between Britain and the EU is a political game.[7] In a previous article about the relationship between the pound and the euro, the world's second currency has become a major competitor to the largest EU country. However, the rise of the yuan in recent months has once again stalled trade talks between Britain and the EU. This has led to a further

fall in the value of the pound - which is no longer the most popular currency in the world (it was close to being the most popular currency in the world over the last decade). The euro is currently the most influential currency in Europe, second only to the dollar, but the pound still has a place on the world stage.

2.2.1. The value of the pound has fallen sharply over the past decade

There is a big difference between the value of sterling and the value of the euro. The value of both sterling and the euro fell from 2011 to 2017, but the gap between the two has narrowed since 2017. (While the EU has been a great partner for Britain, its post-Brexit economy has taken a hit.) In fact, the euro has become the world's second largest reserve asset. The pound has not been so lucky, plummeting in value by almost 40 per cent over the past decade. Meanwhile, the currencies of euro-zone countries have also moved less against the dollar relative to their gross domestic product. The pound is no longer the second largest currency in the world. However, as the US dollar's dominance as a global reserve currency declined, the pound only ranked fifth in the second quarter of 2019, meaning the value of its international reserves was only \$166bn (116bn), down 7% from the same period last year. The euro's current share of international currencies, according to the World Bank.[8]

2.2.2. The euro is the world's second largest currency, and over the past decade it has performed as well as the dollar

The dollar has done brilliantly over the last decade, and the euro has done brilliantly over the last decade, matching the dollar. The euro is currently the world's second largest currency (after the dollar), and has outperformed the dollar over the past decade. The average annual growth rate for the euro and dollar between 2011 and 2018 was 1.7 percent and 1.1 percent, respectively.[9] The euro has become the largest currency in international reserve assets, and its influence on economies in other parts of the world is growing.

2.2.3. How to maintain trade relations with the EU after Brexit is a problem that the UK needs to solve

After Brexit, Britain will not be able to get zero tariff treatment if there is a difference in free trade between the UK and the EU. That means Britain's trading relationship with the EU must be based on free trade, not mutual benefit. If the UK wants to keep the free trade relationship intact after leaving the EU, it would have to be renegotiated. That would mean EU goods and services would be completely exempt from the UK free trade deal, but at the same time EU tariffs on UK goods would remain zero. This will lead to higher prices for British goods, huge losses for British companies, a cut in exports and a recession for the country, as well as extra costs for British companies, lost jobs and lost employment. Although the UK and the EU have reached some compromises on the free trade agreement, there are still some differences and uncertainties between the UK and the EU that cannot be resolved, and these are exactly the problems that the UK is trying to solve.[10]

The future of UK-EU trade relations will depend on how each member state positions and deals with each other within the EU after Brexit, the UK will face a more complex trade relationship, which is a serious challenge for both sides. On the one hand, there are many uncertainties about the trade relationship between the UK and the EU. Will the trade relationship between the two sides change as a result of Brexit? On the other hand, how do the UK and the EU position their respective economic and trade relations? After the UK leaves the EU, the links between the EU and the UK in international economy and trade will change. If the EU co-operates more with the UK, the UK's position within the EU will become even more important. Therefore, how to position the economic and trade relations between Britain and Europe in the future will be a very important and noteworthy issue.

2.3. The decline of Britain's status and role in the EU has led to tensions and conflicts in UK-EU relations.

After the UK leaves the EU, the power structure and discourse power within the EU will change, which will lead to changes in the EU's foreign policy, and the UK's role and influence within the EU

will decline. Before the UK left the EU, the EU's foreign and security policies were jointly decided by each member state, while after the UK left the EU, the security policy has the biggest impact on the internal and external policies of the EU. From the perspective of security, the process of European integration will be seriously threatened after Britain leaves the EU. In addition, the adjustment and change of national security policies within the EU in the future will also have an impact on Britain and France.

2.3.1. The issues of the Northern Ireland

After Brexit, the relationship between Britain and the EU will be strained and conflicted. Brexit has a direct impact on the relationship between the European Community (predecessor of the European Union) and the United Kingdom. On the Northern Ireland issue, the British government was disappointed by the Northern Ireland government's "Northern Ireland" policy, which it regarded as "a selective compromise". However, as the Brexit negotiations progress, how to coordinate the future relationship with the Irish government has become a key negotiation. On the issue of Northern Ireland, the two sides also have differences at the EU level. On the EU side, the British are concerned about the economic impact of leaving the European Common Market, which includes countries like Ireland and Wales. For Britain, leaving the European Union and becoming a member of a bloc of nations independent of the United States would also have a major impact on its foreign policy.

3. Summary

With the acceleration of the Brexit process, major changes have taken place in the political development of the European Union. First, in terms of political structure, the balance of power within the EU has changed. The UK is a core member of the EU and an important force, but it is no longer important in many ways. Secondly, from the perspective of economic development, Brexit has had a significant impact on the internal structure of Europe.

The connection between European integration and Brexit. There are inextricably linked between Brexit and European integration. It can be said that Brexit has an important impact on the development of European integration. First, under the influence of Brexit, EU member states will face multiple pressures, both economically and politically. Finally, the development trend of European integration is greatly affected by Brexit.

The impact of Brexit on the EU economy and international political pattern. In recent years, the EU's economic growth momentum has weakened and its internal structure has undergone profound changes. First, the EU is increasingly dependent on global trade, accounting for 42% of total EU exports in 2019. From the internal perspective, Brexit has caused European companies to lose competitiveness in the international market, reduce overseas investment, and further aggravate inequality and social conflicts within Europe. Externally, the weaker growth momentum of the EU will also have a far-reaching impact on the pattern of world trade.

The process of the UK leaving the EU has been a dramatic and complicated one. From 2017 to now, from the referendum to the formal Brexit, there have been many twists and turns, as well as great social unrest. Against the backdrop of profound changes in the global political landscape and severe challenges in global governance, the historic event of Brexit has had an important impact on the EU and international politics and order.

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