Brexit and the European Union

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Brexit is the short form of a. British exit. It refers to the decision made by the United Kingdom through a referendum to exit from the European Union. The decision by voters went against the expectations of many who expected they would vote against the bill. It agitated the global market, making the British pound's rate against the US dollar the lowest in the last 30 years. David Cameron, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, called the referendum, and he campaigned against the bill (Kalcik and Guntram 7). He wanted the UK to remain in the European Union, and when things did not go his way, he decided to voluntarily resign the following month. Theresa, the Home Secretary, probably replaced him as the leader of the Conservative party and, at the same time, served as the prime minister. Following the snap balloting, she was elected to remain the serving Prime Minister.

Regional Voting Patterns in the Referendum

The "Leaves" won the referendum in June with a majority vote of 51.9%, which was equivalent to 17.4 million of the total votes cast. The opponents of the bill got 48.1% of the total votes cast. The turnout of the election was not as high as in the general elections; it was 72.2% of the registered voters in the United Kingdom. Most of the English voters supported Brexit. 53.4% of the Scottish voted in support of Brexit, compared to the mere 38.0% of the Scottish who voted in support of Brexit. Considering the fact that England forms the majority of the total votes in the entire United Kingdom, the Brexit bill went in their favour. If the referendum had only been done in the other parts of the United Kingdom, excluding England, Brexit would not have achieved the majority and might have failed since they got fewer votes in. Northern Ireland and Scotland, though they won in Wales (Oliver 12). From the statistics, it is evident that with the exception of Wales, other parts of the United Kingdom were not happy with the move to leave the European Union.

Article 50 and the Withdrawal Timetable

The debate about Brexit began around March 2017 when Article 50 of the Great Lisbon Treaty was triggered by May. Since the referendum, the UK has been given an ultimatum of two years to transact all its pending business with the European Union before it completely leaves the organization (Foster 8). Talks on the negotiation of the conditions of leaving began on June 19th 2017. Many questions from diplomats have whirled around the process since the constitution of Britain has been unwritten and bare in part since no nation has ever in history left the European Union using Article 50, which was used by the United Kingdom. The two countries that has left in the past include Algeria and

Greenland. Algeria left after attaining its self-governance from France back in 1962, and Greenland left the Union through a special treaty in 1985. On the 8th of December, the European Union negotiators, alongside the British negotiators, proclaimed the divorce of the United Kingdom from the Bloc and the settlement of the pending businesses between them.

The Financial Settlement and Citizens' Rights

Britain is susceptible to an exit bill amounting to between 35 and 39 billion Euros. The settlement agreements also ascertained that no hard border was to be created between Northern Ireland, which is part of the United Kingdom, and the Republic of Ireland, which is currently still a European Union member, and that the rights of European Union citizens in Britain would be protected. The same also applies to British citizens in other EU nations. The UK citizens will retain most of the rights they had before Brexit (Oliver 6). The ongoing agreements are trying to soften the deal, considering the UK and European Union relations, which have been delayed in the past due to the jam on the issues involved in the British exit.

Deadlock and the Search for a Smooth Transition

Talks on Brexit have been a tussle since both sides have not come to a consensus on the terms and conditions of Brexit. Britain is pushing for a better relationship between itself and the other European nations both before and after Brexit from the European Union. Britain needs a smooth transition where all issues are clearly ironed out in a perfect manner, even though individuals involved in the negotiations claim a state of deadlock where both sides are not comfortable with terms laid out by either side (Cadman 5). However, the negotiations have to proceed and end within the next year since that is the deadline, and if not met, the members of the Union will have to hold a meeting to extend the deadline for Brexit.

Cross-Border Residency After Brexit

One of the key issues that has been delaying the negotiations is the status of United Kingdom citizens in the EU nations and EU citizens living in the UK. Approximately 3.3 million EU-born individuals are believed to be staying in the United Kingdom, and 1.2 million UK-born immigrants are probably living in the EU nations (Foster 8). The United Kingdom parliament had already fought for the rights of EU citizens living in the United Kingdom, and they have been constitutionally granted the opportunity to stay after Brexit.

Economic and Diplomatic Consequences

In summary, the Brexit of the United Kingdom has raised diplomatic questions whose answers are yet to be found. The transition is going to be tough, though it has to happen. Negotiators from both sides have been working day and night to ensure the transition is not worse than expected. It is going to have a major impact on the economy of both the United Kingdom and the remaining European Union countries. However, the expected effects are going to be both negative and positive.

Work Cited

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