

Chapter 4: The Disenchanted United Kingdom

Step 3: Brexit

Brexit, the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union (EU), which formally occurred on January 31, 2020. The term *Brexit* is a portmanteau coined as shorthand for _____ . In a _____ held on June 23, 2016, some 52 percent of those British voters who participated opted to leave the EU, setting the stage for the U.K. to become the first country ever to do so. The details of the separation were negotiated for more than two years following the submission of Britain's formal request to leave in March 2017, and British Prime Minister _____ , whose legacy is inextricably bound to Brexit, was forced to resign in July 2019 after she repeatedly failed to win approval from Parliament for the separation agreement that she had negotiated with the EU. Ultimately, Brexit was accomplished under her successor, _____ .



(Encyclopaedia Britannica)



Describe the three pictures:

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1. THE CAMPAIGN

In 2013, responding to growing [Euroskepticism](#) within his [Conservative Party](#), British Prime Minister _____ first pledged to conduct a referendum on whether the U.K. should remain in the EU.

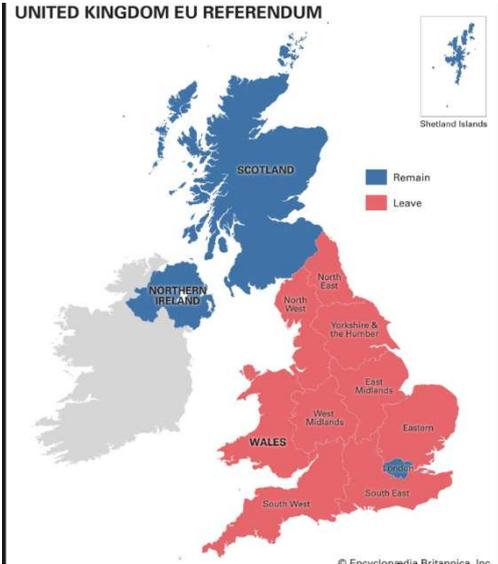
The Arguments

On the Leave side	On the Remain side

2. THE REFERENDUM and its aftermath

THE RESULTS: 48% REMAIN, 52% LEAVE

But new problems emerged:



Write a caption :

3. NEGOTIATING BREXIT

Why did it take over three years for Brexit to happen? (at least TWO reasons)

Brexit officially happened on 31 January 2020 under the premiership of Boris Johnson.

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It took so long because the United Kingdom and the European Union had to negotiate many complex issues. These included **trade rules, citizens' rights, financial obligations, and the border between Northern Ireland and Ireland**. There were also strong political disagreements within the UK, especially in the Parliament of the United Kingdom, which rejected several proposed deals before one was finally approved.

a) Customs Union

The Single Market: The EU single market ensures free movement of goods, services, capital and persons within the EU. By leaving the EU, the UK has to leave the Single Market.

b) The Irish Border

There is a physical (a land) border between the UK (Northern Ireland) and the EU (RoI). With the EU, people could move freely without any checks.

What type of border should there be? A hard border? What about people crossing the border every day? What about citizenship? Should Ireland get a separate treatment?

BEFORE Brexit: Good Friday agreement (1998) resolved the opposition between the **Unionists** and the **Republicans** => the EU guaranteed open border between NI and the RoI

4. FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS and the post-BREXIT era

Although Britain's formal departure from the EU was completed, final details relating to a new trade deal between the U.K. and the EU remained to be resolved. Eventually, the UK negotiated a free trade deal with the EU

A unique arrangement was found for Northern Ireland: it's called the **Northern Ireland Protocol**. There is an **open border** between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland

🗨️ What has been the impact of Brexit on the UK?

Five key impacts of Brexit five years on

Ben Chu and Tamara Kovacevic, BBC Verify, 31 January 2025

Five years ago, on 31 January 2020, the UK left the European Union. On that day, Great Britain severed the political ties it had held for 47 years, but stayed inside the EU single market and customs union for a further 11 months to keep trade flowing. Northern Ireland had a separate arrangement.

Brexit was hugely divisive, both politically and socially, dominating political debate and with arguments about its impacts raging for years.

Five years on from the day Britain formally left the EU, BBC Verify has examined five important ways Brexit has affected Britain.