

## Brexit Britain and migration



Picture taken in London, July 2013

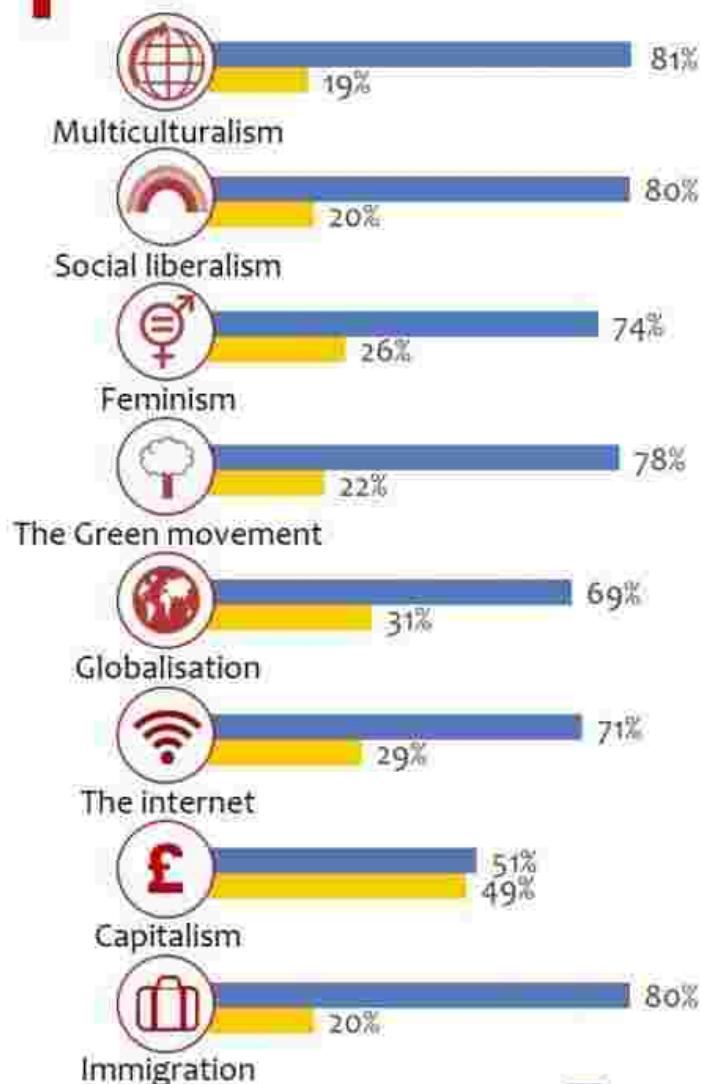
## Why Leave voters voted Leave

Overall UK

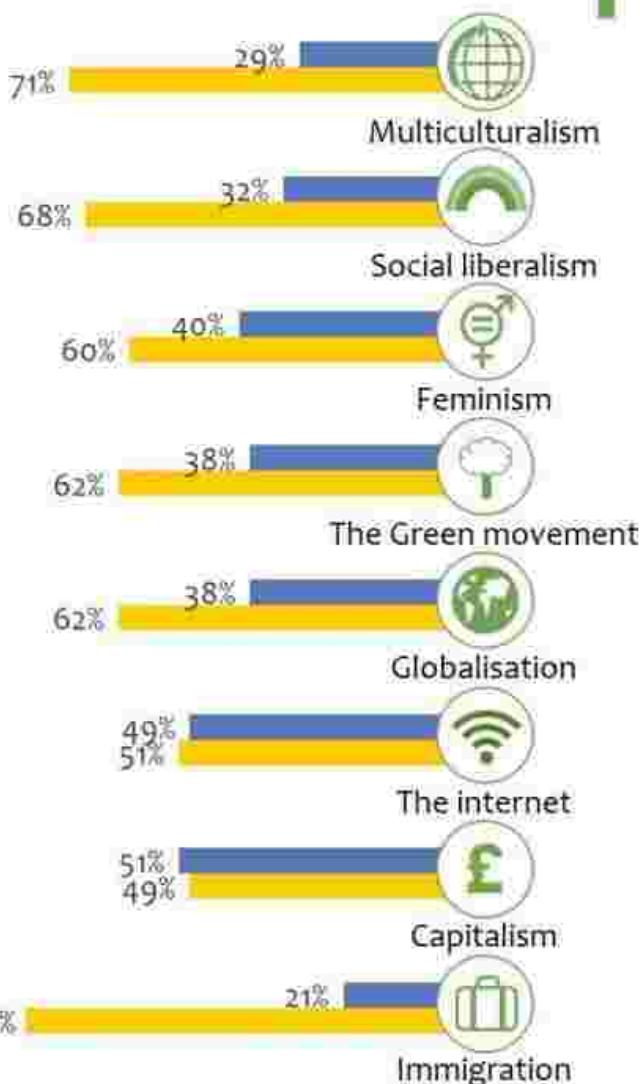


Do you think of each of the following as being a force for good, a force for ill, or a mixed-blessing?

How did the people who thought the following were a **force for ill** vote?



How did the people who thought the following were a **force for good** vote?



In October 2019, the dead bodies of 39 Vietnamese people were found in a lorry in Essex.

Eight people have been convicted for manslaughter or smuggling.

In January 2020, the UK officially left the EU.  
In February 2020, the UK government introduced its new, points-based immigration policy.

Characteristics	Tradeable	Points
Offer of job by approved sponsor	No	20
Job at appropriate skill level	No	20
Speaks English at required level	No	10
Salary of £20,480 (minimum) – £23,039	Yes	0
Salary of £23,040 – £25,599	Yes	10
Salary of £25,600 or above	Yes	20
Job in a shortage occupation (as designated by the MAC)	Yes	20
Education qualification: PhD in subject relevant to the job	Yes	10
Education qualification: PhD in a STEM subject relevant to the job	Yes	20

A total of 70 points is required to be eligible to apply; some characteristics are tradeable.

## **The Windrush scandal**

Between 1948 and 1970, people from British colonies, many of them West Indians, legally settled in Britain without documentation.

They are known as the Windrush generation, after the ship Windrush, which took the first ones across the Atlantic.

In 2018, it was revealed that many of them had been treated as illegal immigrants, and some of them had been deported.

The 2012 hostile environment policy made their situation even more complicated.



## The Rwanda asylum plan

In April 2022, the British and Rwandan governments signed an agreement to deport illegal immigrants and asylum seekers in the UK to Rwanda.

In June 2022, the European Court of Human Rights opposed the first deportation.

In November 2023, the United Kingdom's Supreme Court declared the agreement illegal.

Boris Johnson, UK PM 2019-2022



Priti Patel, UK Home Secretary  
2019-2022



Rishi Sunak, UK PM 2022-2024



In December 2023, the government introduced a new law to implement the Rwanda asylum scheme.

In 2024, the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Act was adopted.

In the July 4, 2024 general election, the Conservative Party lost its majority in the House of Commons to the Labour Party.

New Primer Minister Keir Starmer cancelled the Rwanda scheme.



# The United States and immigration in recent years

January 2017

Executive order 13767: ordered to build a fence at the US-Mexico border  
→ Biden interrupted construction in January 2021

Executive order 13768: disqualified sanctuary cities from federal grants  
→ canceled by Biden in January 2021

Executive order 13769: lowered the number of refugees and prevented people from some Muslim countries entering the United States ('Muslim travel ban')  
→ canceled by Biden in January 2021

February-March 2019

National emergency declared

Congress voted to upturn national emergency  
Trump vetoed the vote

In 2017-2018, caravans of migrants from Central America (Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador) entered Mexico and walked on north towards the US-Mexico border.



## Migrants at the US-Mexico border, April 2019



## January 20, 2025

ten executive orders:

- cancelling the Biden administration immigration's policies
- declaring an invasion of the US at the Mexican border, in order to enhance border control using the military
  - facilitating deportation
  - restricting immigration (work permits, asylum)
- obliging state and local authorities to enforce federal immigration policies
  - restricting American citizenship to children born of at least one American or legal-immigrant parent (potentially violating the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment to the US Constitution).

## 2025-2026

ICE and the **National Guard** are widely deployed:

- arrests and detentions
  - deportations

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**reactions:**

- many residents fear arrest and deportation
  - criticism of and opposition to ICE
    - confrontations and incidents

ICE shoots a woman (Renee Good) dead in Minneapolis.