Conservatives form a government after 13 years of Labour government 2004

Conservatives re-elected with a surprising majority 2010

UKIP win 2 seats in Parliament in general election 2013

Boris Johnson publishes his biography of Winston Churchill 2014

The largest single expansion of the EU occurs 2015

David Cameron refers to a need for a referendum on the EU in a speech 2015

EU council meeting dominated by migrant crisis 2016

Scotland votes to remain part of the UK

The UK votes to leave the EU
Conservatives form a government after 13 years of Labour government 2010

Conservatives re-elected with a surprising majority 2015

UKIP win 2 seats in Parliament in general election 2015

Boris Johnson publishes his biography of Winston Churchill 2014

The largest single expansion of the EU occurs 2004

David Cameron refers to a need for a referendum on the EU in a speech 2013

EU council meeting dominated by migrant crisis 2015

Scotland votes to remain part of the UK 2014

The UK votes to leave the EU 2016
“Britain should leave the European Union”

Sir James Dyson
Inventor and Entrepreneur

Let's take back control
Vote Leave

THE EUROPEAN UNION IS FAILING PEOPLE ACROSS EUROPE.
Each and every day, from France to Greece, people are standing up against EU austerity. We can help them by proving that there is another way.

We need change!

ON THURSDAY 23RD JUNE
VOTE FOR HOPE AND CHANGE
VOTE TO LEAVE

The Great British Fish ‘n’ Chips is under threat.

Help us save the nation’s favourite meal.
What experts are saying about the EU referendum

Martin Lewis, Leading Consumer Champion
"On balance of probability, it is more likely we'll have less money in our pockets if we vote to leave."
The Agenda, 18/04/2016

Cathy Warwick, Chief Executive, Royal College of Midwives
"Staying in (Europe) is better for the NHS, it is better for women, and it is better for midwives."
rcm.org.uk, 19/04/2016

Frances O'Grady, TUC General Secretary
"A Brexit would have massive implications for jobs, rights, and the very fabric of the UK. If you take that floor away, workers will be worse off."
Reuters, 27/01/2016

Karen Brady, Businesswoman
"UK businesses can create more jobs in Europe than out on their own."
Interview, 17/01/2016

What happens if we leave?

Voting to leave the EU would create years of uncertainty and potential economic disruption. This would reduce investment and cost jobs.

But the Government's judgement is that it would be much harder than that - less than 8% of EU exports come to the UK while 44% of UK exports go to the EU.

No other country has managed to secure significant access to the Single Market, without having to:
- follow EU rules over which they have no real say
- pay into the EU
- accept EU citizens living and working in their country

A more limited trade deal with the EU would give the UK less access to the Single Market than we have now - including for services, which make up almost 80% of the UK economy. For example, Canada's deal with the EU will give limited access for services, it has so far been seven years in the making and is still not in force.
The demographics that drove Brexit

Britain has voted to leave the EU, a decision that has left millions of Remain voters asking how this happened, and who were the 17.4m people who voted Leave. The five characteristics below were among the most strongly correlated with the share of the vote for Leave, when measured across the 382 voting areas. Every circle below represents one voting area.

- Areas with high numbers of degree-educated people tended to vote Remain.
- Unsurprisingly, areas with large numbers of people in jobs requiring a degree also leaned Remain.
- Areas where large numbers of people do not hold a passport—an indication they have not been abroad recently—leaned Leave.
- This relationship is weaker, but still notable. The highest Leave votes tended to come from low income areas.
- Age was another key factor. Younger people voted overwhelmingly for Remain, but were fewer in number, dampening the overall impact of age.

Referendum results: Press Association
Nihal Arthanayake
@TherealNihal

Our neighbour is a deputy head and she said there were Polish kids crying because they were scared that they were going to be deported.

Sarah Le Blanc
@LadyMirtazapine

My Polish taxi driver had epic road rage from having spent the day driving around people who were jubilant about him having to leave the UK.

Welcome to hell. Posted a photo of Sadiq Khan at Pride on my public Facebook page. Response:
EU Referendum Rules triggering a 2nd EU Referendum

We the undersigned call upon HM Government to implement a rule that if the remain or leave vote is less than 60% based a turnout less than 75% there should be another referendum.

Sign this petition

4,139,430 signatures

Show on a map

Parliament will debate this petition

Bad week for:

**The Irish passport office**, which fears being swamped by applications from UK citizens. Since the Brexit vote, there has been a surge in Google searches for “getting an Irish passport”, and Ireland’s foreign minister has confirmed a “spike” in applications. Charlie Flanagan warned that this risked putting undue pressure on the system, and reminded UK citizens that it will be two years or more before the rights they enjoy as EU citizens come to an end.

Brexit: We need a vote in Parliament to start Article 50, says former Attorney-General Dominic Grieve

MP says Government can't make such a big decision without parliamentary approval
"I'm suited to being the PM because I'm a mother."

"Brexit means Brexit and we're going to make a success of it."

"I'm running not as a result of calculation but for the sake of the country."

"I can hardly condemn UKIP as a bunch of boss-eyed, foam-flecked Euro hysterics, when I have been sometimes not far of boss-eyed, foam-flecked hysteria myself."

“I was absolutely clear about my belief that Britain is stronger, safer and better off inside the EU. I made clear the referendum was about this, and this alone."
A divided nation: the revolt against the elite

An archduke falls, a wall comes down, a plane flies into a building. Just occasionally, said Dominic Sandbrook in the Daily Mail, we feel history being made, the ground shifting beneath our feet. Early on Friday morning came one such moment. Even now, I can barely believe it.

"Britain has voted to leave the EU." And for once, all the clichés are justified. What happened last week was not just a political earthquake, it was a "popular revolt" against the political, financial and cultural elite. The Establishment is in shock; they wheeled out their biggest guns to make the case for Remain - and were defied. Yet they can hardly say they weren't warned. A dangerous chasm between the metropolitan ruling classes and ordinary people has been widening for years. Of course the Tories - with their Old Etonian PM and equally privileged Chancellor - were out of touch; but so too was Labour, with its fatal disdain for the concerns of working-class people in its northern heartlands. It was a revolution all right, but one that was a long time coming.

What this referendum has exposed is not so much a country divided between North and South, but one in which the rich are pitted against the poor, the old against the young, said Philip Collins in The Times. Polls suggest that the 18-24s voted overwhelmingly to remain, whereas 60% of over-55s wanted to leave. Among graduates, 70% wanted in; while 63% of unskilled workers voted Out. But even more than that, we're divided by place. Northern Ireland voted to stay in the EU, and in Scotland, Remain won in every district. But the map of England and Wales looks very different, said Tom Clark in The Guardian: vast swathes of Leave wins, interrupted only by tiny pockets of Remain clustered around university towns and metropolitan hubs - Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester in the North, Oxford and Cambridge further south. And then there is London, looking like an in capital stranded in an Out state: 28 London boroughs voted to Remain; only five bucked the trend - and all of them lie on the city's fringes, far away from its buzzing centre.

You could call this rift Hampstead vs. Hull; or the cosmopolitans vs. the "left behind", said Stephen Bush in The New Statesman. Of course, it has to do with class, income and education, but social factors can't explain the chasm between towns in Scotland and those in northern England. No, the divisions here are also about culture, nationalism - and optimism, "or lack of it". There's the rub, said Bryan Appleyard in The Sunday Times. All over England there are towns that feel abandoned, where factories have closed; wealth and life have drained away to Manchester, or London; and austerity is biting. Politicians urge them to have faith in the system - but why would they, when the "banksters" are still making billions, while their own benefits are cut, their high streets boarded up?

"Sneering Remain sophistcates bang on about how the EU means Bach and Bergman", minibreaks in Paris, and a decent Polish builder, said Janice Turner in The Times; but if they deigned to move out of their privileged worlds, they'd find communities for whom the EU means something else: the prospect of an endless supply of workers willing to work antisocial hours in miserable conditions for low pay. For them, the EU means having to accept short-term contracts packing vegetables, when what they want is a decent, secure job with predictable hours so that they can pay a mortgage and bring up their children. Immigration became the focus of the Brexit campaign, and "the unsaid was now said, often and cruelly, feeding viciousness and rancour". But "52% of Britain is not racist"; they are anxious about a door that cannot be closed. Free movement suits big business; it suits cosmopolitan types living in multicultural cities; but it looks different in "poor provincial towns", where people get no benefit from the globalised world, and may not even own a passport.

With this referendum, a disparate band of alienated voters found a cause to unite behind, said The Observer - and they seized their chance to put the boot into the Establishment. They felt they had nothing to lose, and perhaps it was cathartic. But the EU is not the source of all their problems: it's not the EU's fault that unions are weak, or that public services have been cut. And Brexit won't make anything better. We still live in a globalised, late-capitalist economy, and exchanging one Old Etonian PM for (probably) another isn't much of a rebuke to the elite. The new challenge is to restore unity, after a vote that not only exposed bitter divisions but deepened them, said David Olusoga in the same paper. A society that once seemed integrated and at ease with itself appears riven with anger and xenophobic hatred. The Ukippers fantasise about getting their country back. Now I want mine back too.
Good riddance? Is Europe better off without Britain?

Bravo for the British, said Giorgos P. Malouchos in *To Vima* (Athens). They've seized back control of their affairs from an Europe "dominated by Germany". They've shown the world they won't be blackmailed into submission. What a victory for democracy - the cornerstone of our Western civilisation. What you fail to grasp, said Ignacio Molina in *El País* (Madrid), is that Leave voters were not motivated by "lofty democratic ideals", let alone rational objections to the EU's manifold shortcomings. On the contrary, they rejected precisely what's best about the EU: free movement of people, cultural pluralism and a preference for consensus over bickering between rival parliaments. Rather than pile on the attacks against the "miraculous, fragile artifice" we call Brussels, we should close ranks against those who want to import the UK's "toxic xenophobia and provincialism".

That xenophobia was most clearly expressed, said Calin Niculescu in *Adevărul* (Bucharest), in the way Brexeters mercilessly targeted the poor of Eastern Europe, accusing them of living off British welfare. Not a word about the contribution they make to Britain's economic growth. And now that the UK is quitting the EU, be warned: Britain will seek to pick and choose from would-be immigrants willing to "enslave" themselves. But they're not the only ones who can be selective, said Philippine Robert in *Capital* (France). Brexit offers rich pickings to EU member states. France will "roll out the red carpet" for businesses fleeing London (which pre-Brexit hosted 40% of the European headquarters of the 250 largest multinationals); Paris is well-positioned to take over as the EU's financial centre, a prize that Frankfurt too is eyeing; Spain, and eastern countries such as Poland and Slovakia with cheaper labour costs, will pull out the welcome mat for car manufacturers seeking to relocate.

There may be big cultural benefits as well, said Jean Quatremer in *Libération* (Paris). Official EU business - once conducted equally in English, German and French - has of late become a predominantly English affair, especially on EU websites. But now that's all likely to change - it makes no sense for member states to communicate with each other in the language of a country that isn't even a member. The days when Britain exerted a disproportionate influence on Europe may be over.

It will certainly be a lot easier to reshape the union with the British out of the way, said Christoph Prantner in *Der Standard* (Vienna). They've always been obstructive. Remember Margaret Thatcher? "That housewife" won't be satisfied, Jacques Chirac famously remarked, until she has "my balls on a plate". And her successors have been little better. Well, now the Brits have won the ultimate opt-out, one that leaves them free to build a new "empire" based on "superpower nostalgia" and "fantasies of national autonomy in a globalised world". But it's not just Britain that poses a challenge to the EU, said Werner Mussler in *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. In every member state, Euro sceptic voices are clamouring for change. Yet even after the shock of Brexit, many EU bigwigs remain hopelessly out of touch with the mood across Europe. The president of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, even sees Brexit as a pretext to deepen monetary union: so strong is his "anti-British bias", whatever the Brits decide, he wants the opposite.

One can celebrate Brexit as a much-needed "slap in the face for the EU apparatchiks", said Alexandra Lucas Coelho in *Público* (Lisbon). But I'm still sad the British are leaving. My generation assumed that even more open borders, with everyone coming and going as they pleased, was the way the world was headed. Brexit has reversed the direction of travel. It seems Europe has "become old before its time". But let's face it, the "old Europe is dying", said Jakob Augstein in *Der Spiegel* (Hamburg). We need a new vision. The EU was founded on the ruins of fascism - on the cry of "Never again war". The task now is to rebuild the EU and its institutions on the ruins of capitalism, this time with the cry of "No more injustice". In sum, we can view Brexit as a "historic" moment, as the start of something new.