

LSE European Institute report launch

The Future of Britain in Europe

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Hashtag for Twitter users: **#LSEBrexitVote**



Politics and sovereignty: The UK in Europe and the World

Sara Hagemann



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■

What 'Brexit' would mean for Europe (I)

- Systemic shock at a time of refugee crisis, continued crisis of Eurozone, and crisis of 'legitimacy'.
 - Short- and medium-term implications in domestic politics in 7-8 countries (domino effects; general elections).
 - Implications for the EU collectively =how to govern?

A moment where the EU proves to be 'sum of its parts'.

What 'Brexit' would mean for Europe (II)

- Can EU do better without UK?
 - Key voice of liberal economic policies, progressive politics, non-Eurozone => would be missed.
- Brexit would be a blow to EU's global role:
 - Largest military and diplomatic capabilities; main advocate of interventionism, and strongest links with Washington.

=> Weakness vis-à-vis Russia; in fight against international terrorism and jihadism; limit EU's standing with emerging economies in Asia.

What 'Brexit' would mean for Europe (III)

- First challenge is how to manage 'Brexit'.
 - Best strategy: Wait for London to present proposal!
 - But this involves new government and process is not clear.
 - Yet, both sides have interest in reassuring the markets...
 - ... and limit contagion effect to other member states.

Implications for Britain

- Europe would still matter to Britain.
 - Risk that EU becomes more inward-looking. Cannot influence partners to pursue freer trade and liberal economic policies if it leaves. Same goes for other areas.
 - Crucial time for EU governance going forward. UK to stay out???
 - Alternative models to EU membership are all controversial.
 - Norwegian & Swiss model: substantial 'fee' for access to single market, but no influence on rules.
 - Canada-model: tariff-free access, but still has to comply with standards.
 - Break from 'One-size fits all' in Foreign Policy
 - not always functional, but also not always desirable -> UK could go its own way, collaborating with EU partners but without having to conform.
- ⇒ **'Rule-taker rather than rule-maker'**
- ⇒ **Still influential voice, especially on matters of financial regulation and security, but bargaining power will be weakened.**

'Sovereignty' (a boost for democracy?)

- De jure and de facto sovereignty
 - We may decide our own laws, but are they sufficient?
- Role of Parliament
 - UK Parliament limited in comparison to EU partners.
 - 'Red card system' will have few implications, but national parliaments may increase their role.
 - Brexit would likely sideline Parliament in negotiations with Brussels.

'Sovereignty' debate should consider strength and weaknesses of EU membership as well as post-Brexit devolution pressures.

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