

British Exit from the European Union: A Foreign Policy Analysis on National Security

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Abstract: *Foreign policy is driven by the national interest of any Country. A state enters into International relations with other Countries with the primary underlying motive of boosting her national interest. The UK was not among the first six signatories that founded the European Economic Community (EEC) in 1957 that later transmuted into European Union. But, joined in 1973 and later voted in favour of her exit in 2016 which the process may likely be consummated on January 31st, 2020. This work examines Brexit as UK's foreign policy of national Security; laying emphasis that a country's national interest remains consistent while the strategies of achieving it may vary from time to time. It takes account of the basis, justification and the criticism of Brexit as Britain foreign policy which is geared towards achieving her national interest of national security.*

Keywords: *Brexit, European Union, Foreign Policy*

Introduction

Brexit refers to the process of the United Kingdom withdrawing from the European Union (EU). The United Kingdom (UK) joined in 1973 (when it was known as the European Economic Community) and confirmed membership through a Referendum in 1975. The EU is an economic and political union involving 28 European countries. It allows free trade and free movement of people, to live and work in whichever country they choose. If the UK leaves, it would be the first member state to withdraw from the EU. (BBC News, 2019).

Originally, the UK was not a signatory to the three treaties that metamorphosed into what became the European Communities, including the most outstanding of these, the 1957 Treaty of Rome, that established the European Economic Community (EEC). The United Kingdom applied to join in 1963 and 1967 but was vetoed by the President of France, Charles de Gaulle, pointing out that a number of aspects of Britain's economy, from working practices to agriculture had made Britain incompatible with Europe and that Britain harboured a deep seated hostility to any Pan European project. But, when Charles relinquished the French presidency in 1969, the UK made a third and successful application for membership. (Wikipedia: the free encyclopedia).

Consequent upon the Maastricht Treaty, the European Communities transmuted into the European Union (EU) on 1st November 1993. The new name reflected the evolution of the organization from an economic union into a political union. As a result of the Lisbon Treaty, which entered into force on 1st December 2009, the Maastricht Treaty is now known, in updated form as, the Treaty on European Union [TEU], and the Treaty of Rome is now known, as updated as the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union [TFEU], (Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia).

The agitation to leave the EU has been a long standing one by the Eurosceptics, which has always met opposition by the pro Europeans or the Europhilias. Accordingly, Eze, (2017) avers that since 1977, both pro and anti European views have had majority supports at different times, with some dramatic swings between the two camps. In the United Kingdom European Communities Membership Referendum of 1975, two thirds of British voters favoured continued European Communities membership. The highest ever rejection of membership was in 1980, the first full year of Prime Minister Margret Thatcher's term of office, with 65% opposed and 26% in favour of membership. After Thatcher had negotiated a rebate of British membership payments in 1984, those favouring the E.C maintained a lead in the opinion polls, except during 2000, as Prime Minister Tony Blair aimed for closer European Union integration, including adoption of the Euro currency, and around 2011, as immigration into the United Kingdom became increasingly noticeable.

ComRes (2015) in Eze, (2017) posits that a clear majority in favour of remaining in the E.U, albeit with a warning that voter intentions would be considerably influenced by the outcome of Prime Minister David Cameron's EU reform negotiations, especially with regards to the two issues of 'safeguards for non Euro zone member states' and immigration.

In a statistical analysis published in April 2016, Professor John Curtice of Strathclyde University defined Euroscepticism as the wish to sever or reduce the powers of the EU, and conversely Europhilia as the desire to preserve or increase the powers of the EU.

Margret Thatcher resigned as Prime Minister in November 1990, amid internal divisions within the conservative party that arose partly from her increasingly Eurosceptic views.

The UK Independence Party (UKIP), a Eurosceptic party, was formed in 1993. It achieved tremendous successes. It achieved third place in the UK during the 2004 European elections, second place in the 2009 European elections and first place in the 2014 European elections, with 27.5% of the total vote. This was the first time since the 1910 general election that any party other than the Labour or Conservative parties had taken the largest share of the vote in a nationwide election. UKIP's electoral successes in the 2014 European elections have been documented as the strongest correlate of the support for the leave campaign in the 2016 referendum. (Eze, 2017).

The European Union (EU)

The European Union (EU) is a political and economic union of 28 member states that are located primarily in Europe. The EU has developed an internal single market through a standardised system of laws that apply in all member states in those matters, and only those matters, where members have agreed to act as one. EU policies aim to ensure the free movement of people, goods, services and capital within the internal market, enact legislation in justice and home affairs and maintain common policies on trade, agriculture, fisheries and regional development. For travel within the Schengen Area, passport controls have been abolished.

The EU and European citizenship were established when the Maastricht Treaty came into force in 1993. The EU traces its origins to the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) and the European Economic Community (EEC), established, respectively, by the 1951 Treaty of Paris and 1957 Treaty of Rome. The original members of what came to be known as the European Communities were the Inner Six: Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and West Germany. The Communities and their successors have grown in size by the accession of new member states and in power by the addition of policy areas to their remit. The latest major amendment to the constitutional basis of the EU, the Treaty of Lisbon, came into force in 2009. No member state has left the EU or its antecedent organisations (Greenland, an autonomous territory within Denmark, left the Communities in 1985). The United Kingdom signified its intention to leave after a membership referendum in June 2016 and is negotiating its withdrawal. The United Kingdom and its independent territories are scheduled to leave the European Union by 31 January 2020. (en.m.wikipedia.org)

The European Union (EU) is the most outstanding of all the regional groupings. It was born by the quest of a number of war ravaged countries after the World War II in 1945, for unity based on cooperation. It was unity motivated by the need for greater security and economic recovery (Aja, 2002).

Awake (2000:4) in (Eze 2017) listed some of the historic steps leading to the formation of the European Union, which has adopted Euro as a common, convertible currency zone to challenge the Dollar and Yen of the USA and Japan respectively, thus:

1. **1948** - Hundreds of European political leaders gather in the Hague, the Netherlands, and vow: "we will never war among ourselves again"
2. **1950**-France and Germany began to cooperate in order to protect their coal and steel industries. More countries joined them, and this led to the formation of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC). The ECSC started operating in 1952 and includes Belgium, France, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands and West Germany.
3. **1957**. The six ECSC members formed two other organizations: The European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom).
4. **1967**: The EEC merged with ECSC and Euratom to form the European Community (EC).
5. **1973**-The EC admitted Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom.
6. **1981**-Greece joined the EC
7. **1986**-Portugal and Spain joined the EC
8. **1990**-The EC further enlarged when West Germany and East Germany merged, bringing the former East Germany into the organization.
9. **1993**- Efforts towards greater economic and political union of EC members led to the creation of the European Union (cited in Aja, 2002).

Objectives of the European Union

The objectives of the European Union according to Aja (2002) include:

1. Elimination of cross-border trade barriers
2. Promotion of technical cooperation, which would in time lead to political union;
3. Maintenance of tariff wall for non- members.
4. Harmonization of monetary currency union
5. Promotion of common foreign and security policy.

The most historic is the introduction of a monetary union designed to alleviate fears of investors from the US, Japan and the rest of the world on monetary instability which could wipe out profits made on an international project. A single monetary currency in Europe would constitute the largest market possible in the world with a population of 370 million.

Basis for the British Exit

The British exit can be said to be predicated on the following: Firstly and very primarily, is the believe by common Britons that their country's sovereignty has waned under the EU. They argue that they were losing as a country because everything gets decided in Brussels (capital of the EU) and that they would be more independent if they quit the EU.

Secondly, the ordinary Briton was concerned about immigration and the influx of foreigners into their country. This influx according to them has dislocated some of their cherished values. The influx has also brought about the citizens of the UK competing and sharing available job opportunities with foreigners. They see UK government as not doing enough to reduce immigration, much of it from recent EU accession countries from Eastern Europe and there was substantial overlap between Brexit voters and regions heavily impacted by immigration. Murray (2017), disclosed that the UK absorbed 333,000 new people mostly Eastern Europeans who have come to Britain to do a job. Nigel (2017), an anti-immigration campaigner and leader of the far-right UK Independence Party, has argued that the flood of immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe has depressed the wages of native-born British workers.

The UK's rejection of the EU marries traditional British euroscepticism with general western disillusionment with globalization, simmering since the 2008-09 financial crisis. It is the furthest step yet in the pattern of right and left wing populist insurgency against elite political and economic establishments, and probably a harbinger of political shifts in Western Countries against globalization. Brexit undoubtedly is a gradual walk away from globalization to nationalism (<https://www.controlrisks.com/en/our-thinking/analysis/the-global-implications-of-brexit>).

Brexit is the outburst of an age long opinion held by Britons which have spanned decades. There has been palpable eurosceptic sentiments against UK's continued membership of the EU even as early as 1977, just after two years of membership. Thatcher resigned as prime minister in November 1990, amid internal divisions within the conservative party that arose partly from her increasingly Eurosceptic views.

Foreign Policy

A country's foreign policy, also called foreign relations or foreign affairs policy, consists of self-interest strategies chosen by the state to safeguard its national interests and to achieve goals within its international relations milieu. The approaches are strategically employed to interact with other countries. The study of such strategies is called foreign policy analysis. In recent decades, due to the deepening level of globalization and transnational activities, states also must interact with non-state actors. These interactions evaluated and monitored in seeking the benefits of bilateral and multilateral international cooperation.

Since the national interests are paramount, governments design their foreign policies through high-level decision-making processes. National interests may be accomplished as a result of peaceful cooperation with other nations, or through exploitation. Usually, creating foreign policy is the job of the head of government and the foreign minister (or equivalent). In some countries, the legislature also has considerable effects. Foreign policies of countries have varying rates of change and scopes of intent, which can be affected by factors that change the perceived national interests or even affect the stability of the country itself. The foreign policy of a country can have a profound and lasting impact on other countries and on the course of international relations as a whole, such as the Monroe Doctrine conflicting with the mercantilism policies of 19th-century European countries and the goals of independence of newly formed Central American and South American countries. (en.m.wikipedia.org)

National Security

National Security was originally conceived as protection against military attack, but, has now been widely understood to include also non-military dimensions, including the security from terrorism, minimization of crime, economic security, energy security, environmental security, food security, cyber-security etc. Similarly, national security risks include, in addition to the actions of other nation states, action by violent non-state actors, by narcotic cartels, and by multinational corporations, and also the effects of natural disasters.

Governments rely on a range of measures, including political, economic, and military power, as well as diplomacy, to safeguard the security of a nation-state. They may also act to build the conditions of security regionally and internationally by reducing transnational causes of insecurity, such as climate change, economic inequality, political exclusion, and nuclear proliferation. (en.m.wikipedia.org).

For Lippmann (1922), the concept of national security remains ambiguous, having evolved from simpler definitions which emphasised freedom from military threat and from political coercion. Among the many definitions proposed to date are the following, which show how the concept has evolved to encompass non-military concerns: "A nation has security when it does not have to sacrifice its legitimate interests to avoid war, and is able, if challenged, to maintain them by war."

"The distinctive meaning of national security means freedom from foreign dictation." (Lasswell, 1950)

"National security objectively means the absence of threats to acquired values and subjectively, the absence of fear that such values will be attacked." (Wolfer, 1960)

"National security then is the ability to preserve the nation's physical integrity and territory; to maintain its economic relations with the rest of the world on reasonable terms; to preserve its nature, institution, and governance from disruption from outside; and to control its borders." (Harold Brown, U.S. Secretary of Defense, 1977-1981)

"National security... is best described as a capacity to control those domestic and foreign conditions that the public opinion of a given community believes necessary to enjoy its own self-determination or autonomy, prosperity and wellbeing." (Maier, 1990)

"National security is an appropriate and aggressive blend of political resilience and maturity, human resources, economic structure and capacity, technological competence, industrial base and availability of natural resources and finally the military might." (National Defence College of India, 1996)

"[National security is the] measurable state of the capability of a nation to overcome the multi-dimensional threats to the apparent well-being of its people and its survival as a nation-state at any given time, by balancing all instruments of state policy through governance... and is extendable to global security by variables external to it." (Prabhakaran Paleri, 2008)

"[National and international security] may be understood as a shared freedom from fear and want, and the freedom to live in dignity. It implies social and ecological health rather than the absence of risk... [and is] a common right." (Ammerdown Group, 2016)

2016 Brexit Referendum

There was a public vote or referendum held on Thursday 23 June 2016, to decide whether the UK should leave or remain with the European Union. Those who voted in favour of the Brexit won. The referendum turnout was very high with more than 45 million people participating. The table below gives detail analysis of the referendum.

Table 1

United Kingdom European Union Membership Referendum 2016

| Choice | Votes | % |
|-----------------------------------|------------|--------|
| Leave the European Union | 17,410,742 | 51.89 |
| Remain a member of European Union | 16,141,241 | 48.11 |
| Valid votes | 33,551,983 | 99.92 |
| Invalid or blank votes | 25,359 | 0.08 |
| Total votes | 33,577,342 | 100.00 |
| Registered voters and turnout | 46,500,001 | 72.21 |
| Voting age population and turnout | 51,356,768 | 65.38 |

Source: Electoral Commission; UNDESA (UK VAP); US Census Bureau (Gilbratar VAP).

The table above shows that 51.89% voted in favour of leaving the European Union while 48.11% voted in favour of the United Kingdom's continued membership of the European Union. Valid votes were 99.92% while invalid votes were 0.08%. This shows that there was a massive participation in the voting exercise by the British citizens. This informed the reason the petition calling for a second referendum which was endorsed by more than four million signatures was rejected by the government.

Withdrawal from the European Union is governed by article 50 of the Treaty of European Union. Under article 50 invocation procedure, a member notifies the European Council and there is a negotiation period of up to two years, after which the treaties

apply. Following the referendum result Cameron resigned and said that it would be for the incoming Prime Minister to invoke article 50. The Supreme Court ruled in the Miller case in January 2017, that the government needed parliamentary approval to trigger article 50. After the House of Commons overwhelmingly voted on 1st February 2017, for the government's bill authorizing the Prime Minister to invoke article 50, the bill passed into law as the European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Act 2017.

Theresa May signed the letter invoking article 50 on 28th March 2017, which was delivered on 29 March by Tim Barrow, the UK's ambassador to the EU, to Donald Tusk (Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia).

Brexit was originally due to happen on 29 March 2019. That was two years after then Prime Minister Theresa May triggered Article 50 - the formal process to leave - and kicked off negotiations. But the Brexit date has been delayed thrice.

Mrs May agreed a deal with the EU in November 2018, but MPs rejected it three times. Theresa May resigned after her Brexit deal was rejected three times Boris Johnson took over as PM in July 2019. On 17 October, Mr Johnson announced that a revised deal had been agreed between the UK and the EU. Boris Johnson's revised Brexit deal has not yet been approved by the UK Parliament

This necessitated the third extension of the Brexit to 31 January, 2020. The European Council President, Donald Tusk, confirmed on Tuesday 29th October, 2019 that the latest Brexit extension has been approved for up to January 31 and warned, "it may be the last one". "To my British friends, The EU27 has formally adopted the extension. It may be the last one. Please make the best use of this time," he tweeted.

The confirmation followed British Prime Minister Boris Johnson last week reluctantly asking the EU to extend the Brexit deadline again for a third time from October 31 to January 31 next year, in line with a law passed by the UK parliament. (The Punch online newspapers, 2019).

British Foreign Policy of National Security

Foreign policy of any nation as we have earlier identified in this work is driven by her national interest. Hence, the British entry to and her proposed exit from EU as her foreign policy could be said to be driven by her national interest of national Security. When the British Empire was bubbling, she felt that it had no need for the European Union.

This was rightly captured by Winston Churchill quotes: memorable words of a master orator "Yet Britain stood on the sidelines when the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) was eventually forged, in 1951. And when the six founding members of EU precursor the European Economic Community - Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands and West Germany - signed the Treaty of Rome in 1957, the UK declined an invitation to join them".

One of the architects of the ECSC, France's Jean Monnet, once said: "I never understood why the British did not join. I came to the conclusion that it must have been because it was the price of victory - the illusion that you could maintain what you had, without change."

Indeed, the U`K was "buoyed by a confidence in its own exceptionalism, by memories of a great empire and a glorious war", says The Guardian. Detached from the Continent both physically and culturally, "it did not need Europe – and showed it, by sending a mid-ranking trade official, one Russell Bretherton, to the treaty signing as a mere observer", the newspaper adds.

Another reason for the British reticence appears to be that now familiar refrain of sovereignty. Then-Prime Minister Clement Attlee told Parliament in 1950 that his Labour Party was "not prepared to accept the principle that the most vital economic forces of this country should be handed over to an authority that is utterly undemocratic and is responsible to nobody". There was also concern that such a move might make close ties with the Commonwealth and the United States more difficult. (www.theweek.co.uk).

But when the UK noticed that she had started going down, in pursuit her national interest she made a turn-around to join the EU. By the late 1950s, Britain had fallen into a despondent mood of national "declinism", and the UK's leaders began knocking on Europe's doors, "believing that joining the trade bloc would 'remedy' the country's economic failures and increase its international political influence",
says
Quartz.

The United Kingdom made its first application to join in 1961. "It was quickly apparent that there was a danger of political isolation within Western Europe, Commonwealth states were rushing to do deals with the new bloc, and it had American support," according to the Kings College London website.

This application was vetoed in 1963 by the French government. French President Charles De Gaulle “had feared British membership would weaken the French voice within Europe, and that the US-UK relationship would strengthen America’s influence”, reports The Sun.

It was only with De Gaulle’s resignation in 1969 that the green light was given for negotiations for British membership of the EEC. On 22 January 1972, the UK signed the Treaty of Accession in Brussels, and joined the EEC the following year. Then-PM Edward Heath said the ceremony marked “an end and a beginning” and spoke of a “common European heritage”. Going forward would take “clear thinking and a strong effort of the imagination”, he added. (www.theweek.co.uk).

All these twist of event that may seem as double standard are geared towards the actualization of the British national interest of national security which encompasses political, economical, social-cultural, physical security and otherwise. In line with this, Dr. Agbanyi, a University don, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria posited in one of his lecture classes that National interest is constant but the strategies of achieving it may vary from time to time.

It is worthy of note, that same pursuit of national interest which borders on her national security made the Britain to be opting for exit from the EU she joined in 1973. The majority of the UK citizens believe that their continue stay in the union is threatening her sovereignty, their cherished values dislocated and the citizens of the UK competing and sharing available job opportunities with foreigners as a result of influx of foreigners. Furthermore, that this influx has the tendency of increasing terrorism and other social vices within and around UK and this endangers her national security. Therefore, the only option available is to exit from the union as being championed by the Eurosceptics.

Critiques

British Exit has been criticized by some scholars and Europhilia on three major aspects which include: effects on the United Kingdom itself, effects on the Third World and effects on the global society.

(a). **Effects on the United Kingdom:** The Institute for Fiscal Studies published a report funded by the Economic and Social Research Council warning that Britain would loose up to £70 billion in reduced economic growth if it didn’t retain single market membership, with new trade deals unable to make up the difference. One of these areas is financial services, which are helped by the EU-wide “pass porting” for financial products, which the Financial Times estimates indirectly accounts for up to 71,000 jobs and £10 billion of tax annually and there are concerns that banks may relocate outside UK. Brexit requires relocating the offices and staff of the European Medicines Agency and European Authority currently based in London. The EU is also investigating the feasibility of restricting the clearing of euro-denominated trades to Euro zone jurisdictions, attempting to end London’s dominance in this sector.

The UK received more from the EU for research than it contributed with universities getting a large proportion of their research income from the EU. All funding for net beneficiaries from the EU, including universities, was guaranteed by the government in August 2016, before a newspaper investigation reported that research projects were reluctant to employ British researchers due to uncertainties over funding.

As predicted before the referendum, the Scottish Government announced that officials were planning a second independence referendum on the day the UK voted to leave and Scotland voted to stay. In March 2017, the SNP leader and first Minister Nicola Sturgeon requested a second Scottish independence referendum for 2018 to 2019 (before Brexit is to take effect).

Brexit is likely to generate stricter immigration policies between the UK and its European neighbours. For instance on 23 March 2017, it was confirmed that British immigration officials would not be allowed to use Irish ports and airports in order to combat immigration concerns following Brexit. In the same vein, the president of the regional council of Hauts de-France, Xavier Bertrand, stated in February 2016 that if Britain leaves Europe, right away the border will leave Calais and go to Dover. “We will not continue to guard the border for Britain if it’s no longer in the European Union”. (Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia).

It is likely to worsen terrorism as Islamic State (IS) is celebrating the Brexit vote, which it described as a motivation to conduct further terrorist attacks in Europe. IS has always been opportunistic and the referendum result predictably prompted calls for further attacks in Europe, specifically the UK, Belgium and Germany. The run up to the vote was marked by the apparent political killing of pro EU labour member of parliament Jo Cox by an assailant with links to some far-right organizations(<https://www.controlrisks.com/en/our-thinking/analysis/the-global-implications-of-brexit>).

(b). **Effects on the Third World:** The effect of Brexit on developing countries depends on the shock and transmission channels of that shock. Third World Countries (TWCs) as a group will see their exports decline by 0.6% (or \$ 500 million). The Most acutely affected countries will be those that export in relative terms a lot to the UK such as Bangladesh, Kenya, Mauritius and Fiji.

There have already been weaknesses in currencies and stock markets of affected countries. For instance, India woke up to the Brexit shock on Friday 24 June, 2016 with the United Kingdom deciding in a referendum to move out of the European Union. The Stock Markets crashed, and the Rupee fell. Even as panic was slowly setting in, finance ministry officials stepped in with words of assurance. The Bombay State exchange Sensex, which had crashed 1000 points in the morning recovered enough to close reasonably well.

Immigration and remittances appear bleak as lower immigration into the UK will mean less UK growth which will affect development negatively. In addition the development effects through UK remittances are undoubtedly negative because of the 10% devaluation of the pound. The countries most dependent on UK remittances include least developed countries such as Uganda; Kenya, Mauritius, South Africa, Nigeria, India etc (Mendez-para *et al*, 2016).

Brexit will have short term negative impact on sub-Saharan Africa, mainly through general volatility and increased political risk aversion to emerging and developing markets. Countries with dense UK relations could see a more significant impact. Brexit could have an impact on the UK's development assistance commitments in sub-Sahara Africa.

There are equally fears that Brexit may resonate self-determination agitations across the globe, Africa inclusive. This is premised on the assumption that whatever is good for the geese should equally be good for the gander. The Africa-wide development agenda, as championed by the African Union (AU) is based on regional integration and the formation of an African Economic Community (AEC) using its Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as building blocks. It aims at creating free trade areas, customs unions, a single market, a central bank and a common currency. Oyewole (2017), contended that the current continental agenda, Agenda 2063, sets a vision for the creation of an integrated, developed and peaceful Africa by 2063. He however warned that Africa's current leadership must learn from the British experience that the "marginalized" in society will not always stay pliant, complacent or silent. It is only a matter of time before "Africa's excluded" push back and demand to be seen, heard and included in shaping their own destinies and in sharing in the wealth of their nations. With the current restlessness and frustration of large numbers of poor, unemployed and disempowered Africa youth, nothing tells us that an "Africa Spiral" will not follow the "Arab Spring" .

(c). **Effects on the Global Society:** Brexit is a crisis of globalization and yet another indication of resurgent nationalism in global affairs. Brexit will strengthen nationalist political movement across Europe, and sharpen lines of international confrontation and competition. The Obama administration came out forcefully against Brexit, as did Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. It is primarily concerned that Brexit damages Western solidarity and undermines the Liberal democratic order promoted by the US since the end of the second World War. The US is also concerned that Brexit will increase the drift in US-UK military and strategic relations since the end of the Iraq war (2003-09).

The UK is one of the major supporters of both free trade and multilateralism, alongside the US, even in the face of mounting popular opposition to both. The UK In particular was a major supporter of the stalled US-EU Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). Brexit, however, will eject the UK from the TTIP negotiation. Brexit will force the UK out of many pending trade deals involving the EU. Similarly, Brexit will no doubt force the UK out of the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) which was concluded in 2014 but still requires ratification. The Brexit shock increases the likelihood of a global economic down turn. Brexit could stimulate global slowdown, or even recession. It would force a reappraisal of political risk across Europe and in many emerging markets, and potentially cause financial and currency volatility, effect increase in financing costs for emerging market sovereigns and companies. However, the group of seven most industrialized countries of the world (G7), which includes the UK, stated that it is prepared to respond to market volatility in the wake of the vote.

The withdrawal of the UK from European union may salivate the quest for a referendum to quit the EU by other countries. In Netherlands for instance, an EU referendum remains unlikely, but is likely to dominate the political agenda until the 2017 elections. Geert Wilders, leader of the controversial right-wing Freedom Party (PVU, the largest party based on intension to vote figures), has called for a similar in-or-out vote. Brexit will strengthen the populist surge across Europe. Both right and left -wing populist parties will call for increased autonomy and to varying degree, for powers to be transferred back to member states (Oitermann, 2016).

The UK, however, will further strengthen its relationship with China. The UK has assiduously courted Chinese investment and will continue in that drive. It is likely to retain strong bilateral relations with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states, but these states will be concerned about the UK becoming a weaker and more distracted partner. However, the country stands to become even less relevant

to North Africa and the Sahel region, where the EU and France are the main Players. Brexit could provide a platform for more independent UK engagement with Iran, but that depends heavily on the direction of government.

Brexit benefits Russia's confrontation with Europe and the US. Russia's position is strengthened by anything that undermines EU political cohesion and NATO security cohesion. European disarray in the post-referendum period could provide Russia with an opportune moment to strengthen its position in the Baltic region and Mediterranean Sea (<https://www.controlrisks.com/en/our-thinking/analysis/the-global-implications-of-brexit>).

Conclusion

Actualization of national interest requires rational and sometimes radical decisions. The UK decided to quit the European Union because its national interest can no longer be guaranteed. The UK before now is one of the champions of globalization. Globalization in a nutshell according to Eze, (2017), refers to openness and world without boundaries. The champions of globalization today all emerged from economic nationalism and protectionism.

The UK realizing that it can no longer regulate immigration into its shores and this has exposed it to countless security risks. Some of its cherished values have equally been eroded. Original citizens have been displaced of job opportunities. They have to come up with Brixit to safeguard their interest. This should be a wake-up call for other nations especially the Third World countries, who accepted globalization and anything Western, hook, line and sinker. Nigeria and other Third World countries should therefore, take rational and radical decision for purposes of achieving national interest, the wind of globalization notwithstanding.

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