

Brexit: A European Perspective

Written by Patrick Bijsmans and Russell Foster

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PATRICK BIJSMANS AND RUSSELL FOSTER, NOV 16 2016

A very warm welcome to the E-International Relations blog 'Brexit: A European Perspective'.

Since the February 2016 announcement of a Brexit referendum, the issue of Britain's membership in the European Union has been highly divisive. Not only within Great Britain, but more broadly throughout Europe and the world. The Brexit referendum was announced at a time of growing challenges to the EU. The impact of austerity, a migration crisis, and the growth of Eurosceptic populism on the left and right wings raised questions about the EU's viability. When Great Britain voted to leave the EU in June 2016, existing debates took on a new dimension. Brexit has reignited old debates about the European project and poses new challenges for the UK, the EU, and non-EU European nations.

This blog offers a forum for analysis and discussion of Europe-wide issues and perspectives on Brexit, and provides our readers with insights into ongoing debates related to these challenges. We believe that to gain a better understanding of Brexit's implications for the EU and the UK, we need to approach the issue from different perspectives. This blog will employ insights from a range of disciplines. In addition to publishing regular blog posts from the Editors, this blog invites regular guest contributions from scholars, commentators, and policy practitioners, as well as from students, to broaden analysis of a Europe-wide issue.

Contributions should be between 500 and 1,000 words long and can deal with all aspects of 'Brexit', from cultural to political challenges and from the ongoing negotiations to the general Eurosceptic challenges facing the EU. They should, however, be limited to intra-European aspects. For submissions, please see here.

About the author:

Dr. Patrick Bijsmans is Assistant Professor in European Studies at Maastricht University. His research interests include Euroscepticism, media coverage of EU affairs and the European public sphere, as well as issues related to teaching and learning in European Studies. He teaches BA and MA courses in in European Studies, covering topics such as EU politics and academic research and writing skills. He also coordinates the teacher training trajectory of the university's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Dr. Russell Foster is Leverhulme Early Career Fellow in European Studies at King's College London. Prior to this he was a Marie-Curie International Fellow in European Studies at the University of Amsterdam. Russell studied History at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge; International Relations and Human Geography at Newcastle University, UK; and he was a Visting Scholar in European Studies at Virginia Tech, USA. His research interests include nationalism, identity, the EU as empire, and the history of European integration. Russell teaches BA and MA courses in European Studies at King's. His first book, *Mapping European Empire*, was published in 2015. He is currently writing his second book, *Feeling EU-ropean? Europhilia and Euroscepticism in the Twenty-First Century*.

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