

New European Perspectives. Brexit: The End of a New Beginning

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Abstract

The main objective of this paper is to find out what steps the United Kingdom takes to leave the EU, what are the consequences that the European Union imposes, what the effects of this phenomenon will be and how external relations between the two spheres will evolve. I decided to choose this issue because it is a new phenomenon that the European Union has never faced before. If so far there has been talking of European integration processes, I will bring up the processes of leaving the EU and the steps that the United Kingdom of Great Britain has taken, the new phenomenon, that of disintegration and de-Europeanisation. Research methodology: descriptive research that is a first stage of knowledge, in which I will use the description to present the terms, at the theoretical level, and explanatory research, which is a complementary approach to the descriptive one with which I will capitalize on the relationships between cause and effect. The questions on which the doctoral theme will focus are as follows: What will the European future look like? What will the European Union's sanctions on the UK impose on Brexit? Will there be changes to Article 50 TEUs? What partnerships will exist between the two spheres? Is this a new phenomenon, that of de-Europeanisation? The main research hypothesis is this: what are the effects of leaving the UK and how are European foreign policy and society affected? If the EU is left with 27 Member States, then will the future of Europe be different? The analysis of this research is to see what Europe was like before, and what it is like now, without one of the great international actors, but above all, what is Europe's power after Brexit. The purpose of this paper is to present the evolution and conditions for the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, the new perspectives, and partnerships between the two members' statements, and also, that it may be a theory of dis-Europeanisation.

Keywords

Brexit; European Union; negotiations; future; theory of disintegration.

Introduction

The European Union and the United Kingdom have an interest in establishing a transitional period or implementation of arrangements during which all the consequences of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the Union regarding the United Kingdom's participation in Union institutions, bodies, offices, and agencies, Union law, including international agreements, will be taken into account, to avoid disruption scars during the negotiation period and agreements on future relations. Even after leaving the European circle, there will be partnerships and the future will be different.

Since the establishment of the ECSC (European Coal and Steel Community in 1951) to the present day, the European Union has not faced such a situation, leaving a Member

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State in the European sphere, which is why Brexit is a new phenomenon. I can say that it is a new project, and we can see that it is a new process, that of disintegration, in which a state no longer wants to be part of the EU, on the contrary, it wants to leave the European circle. It is intended to be ordered by various separation provisions to prevent disruption and to provide legal certainty to the citizens of the European Union and the United Kingdom.

It all started on the 23rd June 2016, when British citizens voted in favor of Britain's exit from the European Union, as follows: 51.9% voted to leave the EU and 48.1% voted to keep their country in the European Community bloc. Following this result, the British Government initiated the withdrawal procedures from the European Union on 29 March 2017 in accordance with Article 50 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (European Commission, 2019).

Building on the theories of Europeanisation and following the phenomenon of Brexit, I can say that this is a possible new process of de-Europeanisation, a phenomenon new to the European level that can create negative effects on the European bloc, risking a domino effect where other EU Member States would like to leave the EU. As early as 29th March 2017, following the result of a referendum in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ('the United Kingdom') and its sovereign decision to leave the European Union, the United Kingdom wanted to withdraw from the European Union (the 'Union') and the European Atomic Energy Community in accordance with Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union. Following the invocation of Article 50 TEU, the aim was to negotiate a new agreement, which had to be finalized by 29th March 2019, an agreement that no longer appears to be finalized. Bearing in mind that on 29th April 2017 the EU 27 leaders met at the first summit since the UK's formal start-up of Article 50, they unanimously adopted the document entitled European Council Guidelines for Brexit negotiations. The first step was to formally notify the UK's intention to leave the European Union. According to Article 50 of the Treaty of the European Union (TEU), negotiations to determine the terms of withdrawal of the UK may take up to two years. Thus, on 30th March 2019 – during the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU – the UK was to become a third country vis-à-vis the EU, but the transit period was extended.

About the European Union

What is the European Union?

The EU is not a state, but a common and unique partnership between several European countries, called 'Member States', currently only 27 Member States. Citizens have the same single currency: the euro, they have a single market, a single history, but a common culture. Since the summer of 2016, one of these states, namely the United Kingdom has decided to leave the EU. Until the withdrawal process was completed, the UK was a member of the EU, with the same rights and obligations as the other Member States, and was the 28th EU Member State.

The EU is an important global player, an extremely good player globally in the following areas: economy, foreign policy, negotiations, common security, conflict

resolution, trade, defense, all of which fulfill a complementary role. Why do they say that the EU is an important player? Because it is stronger globally, at the diplomatic level it promotes stability, security, democracy, the rule of law, being challenged and responding effectively to the challenges it faces. The aim is to promote peace, security, unity, fundamental freedoms, and prosperity at the world, global, international level. It has a significant role in resilience, inside and outside the EU (Tocci, 2020).

European values and principles are common to all EU citizens and Member States: inclusion, transparency, codes of conduct, language regime, equality and non-discrimination, security, environmental impact, cohesion. In addition, human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, human rights are added, all of which form the basis for the formation and formation of the EU through the Treaty of Lisbon and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. The objective was to promote peace, the well-being of citizens, which happened in 2012 as a reward, the EU received a Nobel Peace Prize, reconciliation, democracy, and human rights in Europe (European Commission, 2020).

All these EU-specific characteristics encompass and describe how pacifist this continent is, how beautifully it has evolved over time and how it has managed to maintain harmony and peace for a long time. But as time went on, there was also some discontent from some states, and the first state to decide to leave the European bloc was the United Kingdom.

Fundamental objectives of the EU

For a state to become a member of the EU, a European country must meet these conditions: respect human rights, be democratic, and have a functional market economy. The EU's main objective is to promote peace, equal prosperity, freedom, democracy, safety, citizens' well-being, economic consolidation, cultural and linguistic diversity, a euro economic and monetary union. According to the 2016 Referendum, British citizens opted to leave the European circle (European Union, 2019).

Thus, the EU aims to promote peace, well-being, to provide freedom for citizens, to provide security without borders, to ensure sustainable development with balanced economic growth, to protect the environment, to strengthen social and economic cohesion, and to promote the well-being of citizens. That is why the EU cannot resist the desire set by the United Kingdom.

Brexit

Brexit means the UK leaving from the European Union following an advisory referendum organized by David Cameron on June 23, 2016, where 51.9% of the UK's citizens expressed their opinion, opting to leave, while 48.1% opted to remain in the EU. At the time, the British Prime Minister did not want to take England out of the European sphere, having a political dispute with party members (Hayton, 2018).

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on October 17, 2019, the United Kingdom and the European Union signed an Agreement to withdraw the United Kingdom from

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the EU, which entered into force from February 1, 2020, and allowed the transit period until December 31, 2020. During this period, numerous negotiations on future relations have been started. Thus, the end of the transit period has led to numerous changes, such as the travel regime of Romanian citizens in the United Kingdom, the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement, the partnership between the EU and the United Kingdom, changes in the economy, customs, transport and authorizations, justice and home affairs, etc. (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2021).

Even if the European *acquis* has continued to be preserved or the rights and obligations specific to the EU Member States have been respected, it is the citizens who suffer from these regulations. On December 31, 2020, the transitional period for the process of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU was completed, meaning that EU law is no longer valid in the territory of that country, officially called a third country.

Both the European Union and the United Kingdom have an interest in establishing a period of transit or implementation of arrangements, during which all the consequences of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the Union regarding the United Kingdom's participation in Union institutions, bodies, offices, and agencies, union law, including international agreements, will be taken into account to avoid disturbances during the period of negotiations and agreements on future relations.

Europeanization

To begin with, it is necessary to define the terms with which I will operationalize during this work. The first term is 'Europeanisation', which is the most common term used in integration theories of recent years and is defined as a general process of European integration, in which it concerns the new Member States of the European Union, in particular, the gradual takeover of the political, economic, social, governance and *acquis Communautaire* prevailing in the European Union. Europeanisation implies the existence of a political entity, such as the European Council or the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. This process concerns how the EU institutions are understood, they are perceived differently by the new states, and there is also a discrepancy between the Western and Eastern European states. Europeanisation is the social, political, cultural economic harmonization with the political center of the Union. (Institute European Union Romania, 2005, pp. 10-12)

Olsen (2014, p.19) defines Europeanisation as a process of exporting EU forms of government and relations with global actors. On the other hand, Haas assumes that all actors belong to several national frameworks and political expectations are a new center of power. Others consider Europeanisation to be the internal impact of institutions from the European to national level. Europeanisation can mean the emergence and development of new structures at the European level, political, legal, social institutions, to solve political problems between actors and networks of new policies with the aim of binding European rules (Cowles & Caporaso, 2001, p. 3).

The term "Europeanization" was explained from the perspective of neo-functionalism in the 1980s, and ten years later researchers talked about this concept from the

perspective of intergovernmental, but after the 2000s this concept is increasingly common in political science and communication. Papathanassopoulos & Negrine (2011) proposed the concept of "EU-isation". Europeanisation means the unification and construction of the European Union, the harmonization of the institutions, and the creation of a common European culture (Pana, 2014, p. 19). Moreover, Europeanisation is seen as an institutionalization at the European level of national governance systems, allowing them to jointly adopt and implement decisions. Thus, Europeanisation is a phenomenon of including organizational capacity for joint action and developing a common idea, in terms of nationality and quality of a Member State. By this term we mean the development of the EU institutions, in particular, the European Parliament and the construction of a collective leadership center, just as it is now when the EP developed an online platform at the European level and distributed it in each Member State so that all European citizens are informed and participate in the vote during the European elections of May 23-26th 2019 (Jumara, 2019).

Europeanisation is developed in political science, based on the theory of international relations, later becoming a concept with a wide range encompassing areas such as: economic, political, institutional, symbolic. This concept, that of Europeanisation, is used in the context of society, but also the political system, being a phenomenon of enlargement and political integration of the EU. According to Bărbulescu, Europeanisation means the edification and spread of rules, principles, and beliefs related to the impact of the European political system (Bărbulescu, 2015, p. 547). Europeanisation means the unification and construction of the European bloc. In other words, it is Europeanisation that takes the multilateral decisions of some states, based on principles and rules of public and private, domestic, and international law. Europeanisation involves the division of power at different stages of the governance of European states. Another form of Europeanisation is that of political development, with the aim of a united and strong Europe from a political, economic, and social point of view. The process of Europeanisation is also seen as a political and distinct entity. Sovereign states are united under one and only political space, with a functioning system of government: the European Union. As can be seen, there are many opinions and definitions on the Europeanisation process, being irreversible, with Europe becoming stronger; more united, more united (Jumara, 2019).

The idealistic theory refers to internationalist liberalism (Miroiu & Ungureanu, 2006, p. 145), in which one of the liberal principles is: the interest of the rule of law prevails. In this case, the interest of the United Kingdom is determined by certain internal factors. The international society must, however, reorganize and restructure itself for anarchy to be eliminated. International liberals believe that peace, well-being, and justice are acquired through international cooperation, namely, accepting new moral norms, respecting international laws, and collaborating through international organizations. From a liberal point of view, the interests of states can be changing and multiple, which tend to meet their own needs.

Therefore, this possible new concept in the international field, that of Europeanisation, is being used in the context of society, but also in the political system, being a phenomenon of enlargement and political integration of the EU. According to Bărbulescu (2015, p. 547), Europeanisation means the edification and spread of rules,

principles, and beliefs related to the impact of the European political system. Europeanisation means the unification and construction of the European bloc. Based on the theories of Europeanisation, I can say that one of the European members no longer wanted to respect these European principles. A Brexit-style process can drive states away from the values of European democracy, affecting interaction with other state actors, risking a domino or snowball effect, in which other states will want to leave the EU, especially since the EU has never faced such an event before, being something new. The potential contributions to the development of this research are to monitor and monitor the decisions of the European Commission and the European Council on the Brexit case, the consequences to come, but especially the negotiations, new partnerships, and how the future of the EU is affected, and what are the new threats at European level. The Commission reminds us that it is the responsibility of all stakeholders to prepare for all possible scenarios.

So, the concept of Europeanisation is a broadly defined one, having multiple meanings, being used in various contexts such as the Europeanisation of domestic policy through the influence of Brussels, the Europeanisation of society, the political system, Community policies, the process of enlargement, institutionalization, the dissemination of rules, values, and principles related to the Community political system (Bărbulescu, 2009, p. 345). This concept, that of Europeanisation, is used in the context of society, but also the political system, being a phenomenon of enlargement and political integration of the EU. According to Bărbulescu (2015, p. 548), Europeanisation means the edification and spread of rules, principles, and beliefs related to the impact of the European political system. Brexit also has had an impact on this concept (Troncota & Loy, 2018).

Comparing the period now and before Brexit, we can see some changes and effects at the European level. "The accession of a State to the European Union shall be accompanied by the process of Europeanisation of the whole area of the new territorial entity." In other words, the new EU Member State is changing national policy, but also in the internal institutional framework, stating that it may be a theory of de-Europeanisation, triggering a domino effect. Even after leaving the European circle, there will be partnerships and the future will be different. If so far there has been talking of European integration processes, I will bring up the processes of leaving the EU and the steps that the United Kingdom of Great Britain has taken, the new phenomenon, that of disintegration and de-Europeanisation. This phenomenon is a first that may or may not set a precedent, depending on the final result and the effects felt by the two parties following the separation (Pana, 2014, p. 11).

Building on the theories of Europeanisation and following the phenomenon of Brexit, I can say that this is a possible new process of des-Europeanisation, a phenomenon new to the European level that can create negative effects on the European bloc, risking a domino effect where other EU Member States would like to leave the EU.

Changes after Brexit

How do we conceive of the EU after Brexit?

After Brexit, an increasingly common problem is the one related to change. How will relations between the two sides change? How are things going to turn out? What will be the consequences? What are the effects and causes? How will they get along? Which areas will be affected? What will the European future look like? An efficient European construction can only be built if it is well built in the context of new European realities. Federalism gives the EU greater capacity to act in the face of future issues, diversity, and interests. Europe with more speeds is no longer working after Brexit is completed.

Until now, the EU has relied on the fundamental principle of state sovereignty and the self-establishment of the peoples of national states, because Europe is made up of different peoples, different cults, different traditions. However, people of different cultures can live under the same "economic umbrella", having a common history. In these times of crisis, all over the European Union, countries, regions, and cities are helping European fellow citizens. Assistance shall be provided to those most in need of help.

Negotiations and future relations between the EU and the United Kingdom

Almost four years after the referendum and negotiations, from 1st February 2020, the UK has left the EU and the transition period is until the end of 2020, until 31st December 2020, during which time the EU rights will apply and respect the UK. Thus, from 1st January 2021, the United Kingdom will be treated as a Third Country. During the transitional period, the UK entitles them to the free work, movement, and residence of European citizens, professional diplomas and qualifications are recognized, principles of coordination of the social security system are regulated and no customs duties will be levied on trade.

Changes after Brexit - developing a new partnership

A first change is that there are only 27 EU Member States left, and automatically, the number of MEPs has fallen from 751 to 705, with Britons removed from the European legislative process. There are also 27 European Commissioners. Can European citizens still travel for free, study, work, or work in the UK? How will they be affected by the new European changes? What consequences will there be at the European level? What are the factors? How will external relations between the EU and the UK evolve?

Another regulation is that, as of 1st January 2021, the United Kingdom assumes third state status in relation to the Member States of the European Union, meaning that the visa regime for European citizens will change. Citizens who wish to work for less than 6 months must obtain an entry visa. Note that until 30th September 2021 entry into the United Kingdom will be allowed based on your passport or ID card. Those who enter the EU Settlement Scheme will be able to travel to the UK using this identity document, valid until 31st December 2025. With these new conditions, a new system of immigrants will be implemented (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2020).

Currently, the UK is treated like any other non-EU country, where trade is done according to customs procedures and formalities. Consequences for those who sell products or provide services to the United Kingdom, who purchase products, transport goods will be affected: they need opinions, they pay different VAT, they have to complete the additional formalities in case of import or export, comply with the rules and procedures that come into force (European Commission, 2021).

Conclusions

Even if an agreement has been reached between the two powers, there are some outstanding issues to be finalized. The British will realize that their economy will shrink. Even though Britain aspires to become a great power in the 21st century, the European Union has shown over the four years of negotiations that the other 27 Member States have not been divided, separated from the common European objective, remaining one voice. One of the characteristics of the EU is that it is based on internal European negotiation, with common principles. This Brexit phenomenon will have consequences felt on both sides for a long time to come. Perhaps in the future, the EU and England will be able to cooperate effectively and face the global challenges that will follow, not only to their political interests, also to take into account the environment, citizens, and the common good, to maintain peace in the world, without wars or conflicts. The fact is that a new concept is born: that of Des-Europeanisation and the process of des-integrations already being finalized. This process is a first that may or may not set a precedent, depending on the final outcome and the effects felt by the two parties following the separation. I can say that it is a new phenomenon, and we can see that it is a new process, that of disintegration, in which a state no longer wants to be part of the EU, on the contrary, it wants to leave the European circle.

Thus, both the European Union and the United Kingdom have an interest in establishing a transitional period or implementation of arrangements during which all the consequences of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the Union with regard to the participation of the United Kingdom in Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies, Union law, including international agreements, will be taken into account to avoid disturbances during the period of negotiations and agreements on future relations. Even after leaving the European circle, there will be partnerships and the future will be different, as has been noted.

"We will have to rebuild a partnership with the UK, which will remain a great country that is friends, ally, and neighbor." (Michel Barnier, Stockholm, 9 January 2020)

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