

## Brexit: Great Britain's Quest for Post-Brexit Role

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### Abstract

*Dean Acheson saw during his speech at West Point in December 1962 that 'Britain has lost an empire and has not yet found a role (Brinkley, 1990). His observation remains true till today. After 75 years-long quests for stable international standing, Great Britain today is in the search of its post-Brexit global role. However, shifting power balances, disruptive behaviors exhibited by various states, and the global pandemic that is still looming over the heads is adding to the challenges for Great Britain in devising its future role. This study incorporates the study of Brexit in its entirety, historical perspectives, and contemporary challenges and opportunities for Great Britain's foreign policy and global standing. This study has been built upon the investigation of Brexit from realist perspective. This study further contends that Great Britain is yet to devise a coherent strategy for its post-Brexit role.*

**Key Words:** Brexit, Challenges, Global-standing, Great Britain, Opportunities, Power-Balance

### Introduction

The contemporary global digitalized milieu is characterized by turbulence and upheaval. New centers of power have emerged on the world stage, nationalist and populist tendencies have gained momentum, identity politics and political dissent has taken the roots, terrorism and non-state actors have up-surged, and news and views globally are distorted. Amid such a chaotic phase of time, British foreign policy stands at crossroads. Great Britain is yet to forge a post-Brexit foreign policy posture which will enable it to regain the role of an important stakeholder in a transformed international landscape outside the European Union.

After the Second world war, Great Britain's foreign policy has been at a juncture owing to its special relationship with U.S.A and its shaky relation to join and leave the European Union. However, the Brexit dispute has brought British politics to a standstill since the historic June 2016 referendum that called for Great Britain's divorce from the European Union. Former Prime Minister Theresa who was sworn as the first post-Brexit female minister in 2016 failed to pass the deal owing to paralysis and disagreements in parliament, looming political tensions, legal disagreements, and a push for another referendum. Boris Johnson's 2019 election following former Prime Minister Theresa May's failed attempts to get Brexit done seemed to be the end of the Brexit saga, however, negotiating a post-Brexit trade and deal and death and doom caused by the Covid-19 pandemic is making the future of Brexit together with Great Britain's foreign policy clouded by uncertainty.

The paper is an intensive study of Brexit in its entirety. From historical perspectives and descriptions, it is a thorough summary of the events leading to one of the most remarkable divorces between nations. It aims to study how this transition from being the champion of alliances and partnership to the proponents of independence came about and what will be its implications for the Post-Brexit foreign policy of Great Britain and its shaky great power status. Finally, this study highlights the challenges for British foreign policy contemporarily amid the global pandemic and changing international landscape.

This study has been built upon the investigation of the following questions:

1. What are the challenges for Great Britain's Post-Brexit foreign policy?
2. How Covid-19 has impacted the Brexit process?

To answer these principal questions, this study proceeds as follows: Firstly, it explains the historical background, past grandeur, and reasons for the demise of the British Empire. Then, this study expounds on the root causes of the Brexit referendum. It then explains Brexit entirely. This study further explains the challenges for a post-Brexit foreign policy of Great Britain and opportunities for Great Britain following Brexit.

### **Historical Background**

The British empire because of its colonial and technological endeavors sat on the top of the world's hierarchy from eighteen century till the early nineteenth century as the world's greatest imperial power. The British empire was the largest in terms of area. It comprised of India, Burma, Ceylon, Malaya, Cyprus, Hong Kong, the West Indies, Jordan, Palestine, Tanzania, Kenya, South Yemen, Zimbabwe, the Falkland Islands, Guyana, Botswana, Zambia, Malta, Malawi, and Gibraltar. Great Britain's massive technological power allowed it to undertake military conquests globally together with acquiring cheap labor and resources globally to enhance its economic strength. However, turbulent years of world war I and world war II, decolonization, nationalist movements in the colonies, and the ascent of the U.S and Soviet Union upended the balance of power, which strained Great Britain's ability to retain its status as a superpower. Tumultuous inter-war years tandem with the waning of the British empire's economic, religious, moral, and social clout resulted in the British empire's descent from world leadership.

In the post-war years, British foreign policy was in an unusual position owing to its special relationship with the U.S.(Atlanticism) and its role in the European Economic Community. The two most prominent features of Great Britain's foreign policy posture since World War II have been the reassertion of its role as a superpower and protection of its British identity. To attain these goals Great Britain established a special relationship with the U.S by working together to win world war II, setting up post-war institutions, and conducting the cold war. Following the end of the cold war, Great Britain joined hands to form international institutions that promoted liberalism and capitalism. In 1973, the British achieved the membership of the European Economic Community (EEC) after being blackballed several times by Europe who wary of its closeness with the U.S. Before the joining in 1973, United

Kingdom tried to join the club, but it was vetoed by French president Charles de Gaulle. The rejection gave a clear message of distrust of Europe towards UK. Furthermore after two years joining the EEC, Britain held a referendum and question was asked “do you think that the United Kingdom should stay in the European Community (the Common Market)?” (Referendum Act 1975, 2020) And 67.2% voted to stay. Besides referendum, Media displayed adverse effects of EEC policies, mainly characterizing them as harmful for British interests. During this period, Britain also suffered with de-industrialization which was labeled as a result of UK EEC membership. This anti-EU behavior of UK sparked even more in 2000’s when immigrants entered in London to have a better life (Sutil, 2021).

After various attempts to reassert its global role 9/11 attacks, finally, proved to be the heyday of Great Britain’s global recognition. Following the 9/11 attacks, Tommy Blair acted as George Bush’s foreign secretary and was in the favor of U.S. A’s war on terror and the Iraq war. Due to the aftereffects of the Arab spring crisis of 2011, mounting support for the United Kingdom Independence Party, and Euroscepticism David Cameron promised a referendum before 2017 about moving into deeper integration with the EU. The ‘leave’ campaign argued that if Great Britain did not leave the European Union, it will be drawn deeper into the union. The proponents of ‘leave’ included the people who never abandoned the great power ambition together with the people who considered the European Union’s policies of free trade were the grave threat to Britain’s national security. Meanwhile, the ‘Remain’ campaign tried to re-instate post-war narratives that Great Britain will be ruined if the voters will vote in the favor of a divorce from the EU. Remain also warned of the economic consequences of leaving the customs union and single market. As the result, in June 2016 ‘leave’ narrowly won the referendum (By 51.9 % to 48.1%), paving the way for Great Britain’s divorce from European Union.

### **Theoretical Framework**

This paper investigates Brexit and post-Brexit challenges through the lens of Realism. This theory of International relations is dominated by the state centric role which promotes its national interest through power in world politics (Bell, 2021). Mostly all realists believe that power is incumbent for an effective foreign policy, security and interests of a state. Realism is based upon the policy of self interest and uttermost survival of state which makes security the fundamental goal of any state (Wieclawski, 2020).

Aforementioned basic assumptions of Realism are complementary with Brexit case.

- In *The Prince* (1532), Machiavelli stressed that a leader’s primary concern is to promote national security. In order to successfully perform this task, the leader needs to be alert and cope effectively with internal as well as external threats to his rule; he needs to be a lion and a fox. Power (the Lion) and deception (the Fox) are crucial tools for the conduct of foreign policy (Sandrina Antunes, 2018).

- In order to be a lion, you make no compromises; it's you and your interests. This type of mindset is unable to adjust in setups like IO's such as EU. Because in IO's such as EU, you cooperate mutually to gain the desired goal while putting aside points of divergence such as nationalism, culture, religion etc.
- As far Britain, was not delightful about some of the EU policies and that's why it is stated that Britain is the home of the term Euroscepticism. (Robert Harmsen, 2004)
- Factors like Euroscepticism and nationalism were purely promoted by Britain which paved a road to Brexit.

### **Road to Brexit**

On March 29, 2017, Great Britain formally notified the European Union of its intention of divorce, thus, initiating the negotiations for the withdrawal agreement. The United Kingdom had voted against the Brexit Withdrawal deal of Theresa May (Government, 2017); however, Prime Minister Boris Johnson was triumphant with his Brexit New deal in the EU as well as Westminster. The European Union found itself at a point where they had already accepted that Brexit is inevitable and only a reasonable agreement would make the divorce easy. Without a deal the Brexit would be a hard cut, damaging not only the integrity of the EU but also causing many problems in the United Kingdom. Prime Minister Johnson successfully got his agreement accepted by the majority in the Parliament.

The Brexit Withdrawal Agreement (HM Government, 2020) as a binding agreement and a Political Declaration (Government, 2019) as a non-binding settlement has been designed to make the Brexit divorce least damaging to both UK and EU and to help ease the negotiation and rearrangement of relationships.

### **Brexit Withdrawal Agreement**

The Brexit withdrawal agreement paved the way for the orderly withdrawal of Great Britain from the European Union. The withdrawal agreement established the terms for Great Britain's exit under Article 50 of The Treaty of European Union (Consolidated Version of The Treaty on European Union, 2012).

The withdrawal agreement entered into force on February 1, 2020, after having been agreed on 17 October 2019, also with the Political Declaration that set the framework of the future EU-UK partnership.

The Brexit was ratified and enforced on 31, January 2020 when the EU and Great Britain settled finally on a Withdrawal Agreement. According to the withdrawal agreement, the enforcement of Brexit shall be followed by a transition period of eleven months. The withdrawal agreement settled the matters about Irish-Northern Ireland Border, Citizen's rights, and financial settlements.

### **Transition Period**

The transition period agreed upon by Great Britain and the EU has a basic function to negotiate what the future economic relationship and the security co-operation are going to look like between the UK and EU. All the issues that could not be decided under the Withdrawal Agreement or that have not taken their final form are to be decided and ratified in the transition period.

During the Transition Period, all EU laws will be applied in the UK including their trade policy and free movement of citizens. UK will also be benefitting from EU trade during the Transition period. But it will not be allowed to enforce its own new trade agreements with third countries until the end of this period. The UK shall follow all EU laws in defense, security, foreign relations until the UK and EU finally agree upon their future shape.

The transition period will last until 31 December 2020. The transition period aims to provide ample time for EU-UK negotiations and lay a roadmap for the future of the EU and Great Britain. The transition period mainly aims to carve a free trade deal between the EU and UK to enable the UK to continue tariff and quota-free trade with the EU after the transition period.(Edgington, 2020). These talks will also decide matters related to Law enforcement, data sharing, security, aviation standards, access to fishing waters, supplies of gas and electricity, licensing, regulation of medicines, and immigration rules(Edgington, 2020).The end of the transition period will decide if Brexit will happen without the EU trade deal or with the EU trade deal.

### **Irish-Northern Ireland Border**

It was a long and hard journey for the Pro-Brexit governments. After Theresa May failed thrice in getting the Brexit Bill passed, Boris Johnson came victorious as the leader of the conservative party and successfully proposed a deal that settled the issues due to which May's deal had failed. The main issue was the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. For a long time, as an EU member state, the border was open with free movement and no customs check because it all came under one unit, the EU. After Brexit, Great Britain is going to have a hard border with the European Union to protect economic activity and trade across the countries.

However, it was feared that Brexit may end the peace or negatively impact the economic life of the people of Northern Ireland. Politically, UK's apprehensions were that keeping Northern Ireland under the EU Customs Union as proposed by EU Backstop (Insurance Policy)(Campbell, 2019) could be the first step to losing Northern Ireland for good. Only two decades ago, a peace process had settled this violent dispute between the Irish people who wanted a united Ireland and those from Northern Ireland who wished to stay as a part of the UK. The peace process culminated in The Good Friday Agreement of 1998(Northern Ireland Assembly, 2020), which made the border between Northern Ireland and The Republic of Ireland almost invisible and the EU was another reason to keep things together. Brexit was feared to bring back the dispute as the people wishing for a United Ireland could make it a reason to fight for it.



More importantly, the problem faced by the government was to reach a deal and to prevent a no-deal Brexit. The concerns of the EU were to keep an insurance policy that kept Northern Ireland under the EU customs union, to prevent a hard check and economic difference on the two sides of the border. Theresa May had agreed to keep the whole of the UK under the European Customs Union for an indefinite period but that was criticized and vehemently opposed by many (Coppola, 2018). PM Johnson did not agree to EU's proposed Backstop as he considered it damaging for the sovereignty of the UK, because as the rest of the UK (England, Scotland, and Wales) left the EU customs union, Northern Ireland as a part of the UK must do the same. The real victory of Boris Johnson was in proposing a flexible policy in this backstop deadlock. In the final agreement, it was decided that:

- i) Legally Northern Ireland will leave EU Customs Union but there will still not be a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Practically, the customs checks will be carried out on the Irish Sea and certain entry points of the goods and services. The taxes will be applied to goods that are to go from Northern Ireland to the Republic of Ireland. Goods without any intention of going out of Northern Ireland shall remain free of customs.
- ii) The Value-Added Tax (VAT) (European Commission, 2016) of the EU will be applied to goods in Northern Ireland but not on the Services. The VAT of the EU will not be levied in the rest of the UK.
- iii) The Assembly of Northern Ireland will be given a **Democratic Consent**, to decide every four years whether they agree to these arrangements or not with a simple majority vote. A disagreement however could lead to a hard border (Campbell, 2019).

**Citizen's Rights**

The people of the EU living in Great Britain will continue to live there and enjoy the citizen's rights and UK nationals will continue to work and live in the EU if they are already there. If a citizen has lived for more than five years in a state of EU or Great Britain, they can apply for permanent residence. For people entering the state of the UK after the transition period, they will have to follow the laws of the UK that are for foreigners, and UK nationals will be treated the same in the EU.

Citizens will be treated as equals in the host state and they can continue to work or apply for the right of residence. This part of the deal remains the same as Theresa May's proposed deal.

The citizens traveling to the European Union during the transport will come under the EU laws and have free travel. But after the transition period, the UK nationals will have to get a new UK passport to travel to the EU. They can freely travel for 90 days every 180 days but without working or for education. The same shall be applied to EU citizens traveling to the UK.

**Financial Settlements**

According to the Office for Budget Responsibility, the UK is still obliged to pay the EU a bill of nearly 30 Billion Pounds which the media calls as a "Divorce Bill" (Office for Budget Responsibility, 2021). The UK made a financial contribution until the last day as a member state. The UK beneficiaries in the EU programs will continue to benefit if the programs last. However, the UK will not get any political say in any institution of the EU.

As for the economic relations between the EU and UK, after the transition period ends, the UK and EU shall treat each other according to the International Law and International Economic relations but with good faith. The EU and the UK plan to reach a Free Trade Agreement and continue to support each other. But the UK is looking for a better deal during the transition period.

**Brexit Political Declaration**

Along with the binding Withdrawal Agreement, a non-binding political declaration was also reached upon by the UK and EU (Northern Ireland Assembly, 2020). This can be taken as a sketch of the wishes of the UK and EU according to which they vow to negotiate and strive for a better future relationship. The Political Declaration encourages committing to an "ambitious" trading relationship reaching a Free Trade Agreement between the UK and EU. However, this highlights that the UK shall now be treated as a third country and the trade shall be regulated strictly.

The declaration commits to settling peacefully and cooperatively in all economic sectors and also promises certain areas to remain as they are found at the end of the transition period i.e. State aid, competition, social and environmental standards, climate change, and tax.

The declaration focuses on all areas of security, economy, and governance giving an aura of goodwill between the EU and the United Kingdom while holding on to the fact that the UK is no longer a member state and shall be treated in most cases under the International Law, treaties, conventions, and policies.

### **Brexit and Covid-19**

The Brexit process today is going through its 11-month transition period that will expire on December 31, 2020. Talks between the EU and Great Britain about their future relationship and a trade deal started from March 2020. The end of the transition period would result in two scenarios: Either, a deal, starting a new EU-UK relationship, or Brexit without a deal. The Brexit process was going smoothly till the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic, that in months engulfed the whole world. Death and doom unleashed by Covid-19 have clouded positions of EU and Great Britain with uncertainty. The transition period aimed to decide the future course of the relation of EU and The European Union, however, Covid-19 and the subsequent lockdown did not allow any trade decision and business adjustments to take place. Covid-19 disruptions have resulted in a lack of attention to future agreements is creating problems for the future of Brexit whereas The UK government is on a tight schedule to prepare for Brexit. As EU Chief Negotiator, Michael Bernier said, 'no progress' made on key issues in Brexit talks (George Parker, 2020).

Also, Boris Johnson announced that "He is drawing up legislation that will override the Brexit withdrawal agreement on Northern Ireland" (Jessica Elgot, 2020). He further warned of no-deal Brexit and walking away from Great Britain if no post-Brexit trade agreement could be finalized between EU and Great Britain by October 15<sup>th</sup> (Jessica Elgot, 2020).

As the end of the transition period approaches and prospects of a second wave of Covid-19 together with the global recession that it brought, the outcome of Brexit is still mired with uncertainty. Owing to the lack of plans and approaches, difficulties remain (The Statesmen, 2020).

### **Challenges for Great Britain's Post-Brexit Foreign Policy**

Global crises expose the real aspirations of any state. Covid-19 although a health emergency, will have profound socio-economic implications. Great Britain, today, stands at crossroads because of the transformation of its status in the world due to Brexit. The foreign policy of Great Britain has rested on three pillars: Transatlantic alliance, European integration, and the preservation of rule-based international order. Brexit already brought the second objective to halt and is threatening others too as well. Mayhem wreaked by Covid-19 and prospects of a second wave is also increasing the problems for the smooth Brexit process. To preserve its national interest, and to carve its global role Great Britain will need to devise a balanced post-Brexit foreign policy and make choices with sagacity. Some of the post-Brexit policy foreign policy challenges for Great Britain would be:



### **Devising a Balanced Global Strategy amidst Changing Global Order**

Great Britain has hand in hand nurtured and fortified U.S.A dominant liberal order by their special relationship. Multilateralism was at the heart of this special relationship. However, today both Brexit and U.S. A's backing off from its role as global hegemon are undermining liberalism. Great Britain needs to devise a balanced strategy that does not makes it subservient to the U.S nor distance itself from European neighbors. World order today is transforming as two blocs are emerging. i.e. U.S sphere of influence and China's sphere of influence. China has emerged as an important stakeholder in world affairs at a point where the U.S is shrugging off its great power status. Great Britain needs to balance its relationship with both states. Managing its trade and economic ties with China amid the U.S China trade war creates an uncomfortable situation for Great Britain. The recent removal of Huawei kit from the UK by 2027 signaled Great Britain's leaning towards the U.S sphere of influence. This move, however, created an uproar in China (Kelion, 2020) & (Muzaffar, et. al. 2017)

### **Defining Post-Brexit and out of EU a Global Role for Great Britain**

The world today is at crossroads with U.S and China maintaining and influencing their distinct sphere of influence. West's multilateralism is now in tatters with Brexit one of its reason, it is a need of the hour for Great Britain to define the new global role that makes it a relevant stakeholder in world affairs. The greatest challenge for the new government is to establish some guiding principles for a new global strategy. This will be particularly difficult, as so much of its time and energy will be exerted on Brexit negotiations. Nonetheless, the more these efforts are synchronized with a broader recalibration of the UK's place in the world, the better the result is likely to be. For Great Britain, defining a post-Brexit global role is imperative and a daunting task as well.

### **Security and Economic Policies vis-à-vis the European Union.**

In 2019, UK exports to the EU were £300 billion (43% of all UK exports). UK imports from the EU were £372 billion (51% of all UK imports)(Ward, 2020). Maintaining an economic relationship with the European Union is necessary for the economic life of Great Britain. Although Britain has a strong military, as it has been ranked 8<sup>th</sup> Global Fire Power Index 2020(Global Fire Power, 2020), still, the effective NATO alliance is necessary to ensure its security. But U.S disdain for NATO is raising doubts regarding the future of the alliance. There might be a boost to French diplomatic influence, especially at the UN where it will now be the only EU member among top (nuclear) powers with a veto. Overall, from economic growth perspective Brexit hampered the UK's growth from 2.4% in 2015 to 1.0% in 2019. According to UK government Brexit would lower the UK's growth by up to 6.7% over 15 years(Amadeo, 2021).

### **Anglo-American Special Relationship**

It seems to affect the Anglo-American "special relationship" as the US now must switch to Germany as the primary interface with the EU (though the US-German relationship is limited by the nature of their intelligence sharing and military

relationship.) Furthermore, the US-EU geopolitical “competition” (especially as seen by many in EU27) will become more evident. There is a risk that Brexit might be seen by the Americans, first of all as weakening NATO and a sign of UK introspection.

### **Travelling and Shipping**

Brexit designs a framework creating a challenge for traveling and shipping. Both the EU and U.K. have allowed a six-month ‘grace’ period for flights between and within the two areas under present licensing and safety qualifications. But future flights within the EU, across and within member states borders, will be restricted (Scott, 2021). And after that the real question comes in mind, whether this framework will be beneficial for UK or not.

### **Immigration Policy**

Britain as a member of EU- allowed the free movement of people but now after Brexit, UK’s new immigration system is not as much appealing, especially towards labor. This new system minimizes the number of unskilled workers coming to UK. Since 2016, number of EU workers coming to UK has fallen sharply (Horowitz, 2020).

### **Teething Problem**

Pro-Brexit consequences were not sweet as honey, as 60% of manufacturing companies have experienced “significant disruption” since Jan,1 2021. But UK government is very much positive about the obstacles and characterizing these troubles are “Teething problems”. Teething problems with respect to Brexit means that these problems are not long lasting. Trade expert David Henig of the European Centre for International Political Economy said “They are saying ‘teething problems’ when it is actually a permanent economic shift....Certain things are just going to become a lot harder”.

### **Food and Agriculture**

Another sector which negatively affected is Food and Agriculture. New laws are affecting agricultural exports and imports which is creating issue for whole Europe; Farmers, distributors, grocery store chains, restaurants and consumers. Another outcome of Brexit is logistical challenge which is affecting manufacturing. Due to this challenge, some noteworthy companies in automobiles, aerospace and industrial supplies, including Honda, Nissan, BMW, Toyota, and Jaguar Land Rover, had to cut jobs and close plants in the U.K.,. Panasonic and Sony planned to move their European headquarters from London to Amsterdam. Almost two years earlier, the Dutch conglomerate, Phillips, closed its only U.K. factory.

### **Opportunities for Great Britain**

Together with the challenges, Brexit creates some optimistic prospects for Great Britain as well:

1. Brexit could be Great Britain's chance to answer the long-time question at the heart of Britain's strategic thinking: "what is Britain's role in the world?" The essential contradiction/tension in British foreign policy (torn between a future in Europe and a focus on America and the rest of the world) is now arguably being solved by force of circumstance.
2. Brexit may also push for a stronger UK role in NATO by removing a layer of EU-related political complications (obligations, competing interests, etc.). Brexit could also serve as a "revival" of NATO.
3. Brexit could allow Great Britain to pursue a more activist foreign policy that demonstrates the continued relevance of Great Britain in international security and governance.
4. Brexit could also help the European Union to reform its structures in a way that is more compatible with UK interests.
5. Brexit would allow Great Britain to forge new but more flexible bilateral relationships with several key allies.
6. Great Britain after Brexit could craft a more coherent overall strategy for trade, foreign aid, and defense.
7. Brexit would allow Great Britain to re-draw relations with Asian countries. Expand remit of engagement from economics/trade to Asian security and political questions.

## Conclusion

The most discernible cost of Brexit is vagueness and uncertainty to which it is hard to attach a quantifiable price tag. Brexit is a moving and progressing target with tortuous new developments. It is difficult to decipher the nature of future relations until the definitive deal is disclosed to the masses. The clash of interests and patchy distribution of reparations after Brexit could boost dissension within European countries. Another corollary is the potential rise of far-right politicians like Salvini, LePen, and Kaczynski that could strongly undermine the spirit of democracy, liberalism, and free-market within the EU. The structural problems instigated by Brexit would be made it ever trickier and tougher to bridge the disparities and cracks within individual states - a vivid display of divide and friction within the EU. Moreover, the discontent of South States over EU neo-liberal slant and sovereignty concerns are signaling a much graver rift within the union. The concept of collective security and solidarity within NATO is also dwindling. Macron proclaimed NATO braindead and elicited questions over Washington consensus. The skepticism and xenophobia could take lead to greater inwardness within individual states, a very unpleasant omen for EU future relations with the UK. The policies of a single market and eurozone will face a major blow in the post Brexit period as now the London stock market is out of the league. The prospects of future cooperation are tapering down due to slow and dim headway on the outlooks of a future deal under article 48 of the EU Treaty. Despite all these challenges the notion of full corrosion and wearing down of relations would be a mere sweeping statement in the prevailing ground

realities. Brexit could be an opportunity to renovate the antiquated principle of one size fits all policy. It could concrete the path for new EU cohesion programs and economic agendas under article 50 of the EU treaty. Brexit offered a chance of greater diversification for the UK. The real challenge for the UK is to sustain equilibrium in relations with China, the US, and the EU.

### **Recommendations**

1. UK should retain a special relationship with the EU in the post Brexit phase through confidence-building gestures, coherent strategy, and active participation in NATO.
2. Britain should appoint a special team of envoys and experts to focus on the matters of bilateral benefit and pursuits with EU and other parties with a proactive approach to evade retribution.
3. UK should consider immediate diversification in its foreign and trade policy chiefly due to the mounting economic relevance of ASEAN, BRI, and US pivot to Asia policy. This diversification will heighten the maneuvering space and leverage of the UK in global Affairs.
4. The balanced approach towards dealings with the US and China is the need of the hour for the UK to attain maximum benefit in the post Brexit period. The UK should avert getting entangled in any military and economic altercation in the immediate future. The shuffles like outlawing Huawei 5G structure could raise friction with China.
5. To renovate UK's tech and aerospace industries the new investment from Israel could provide gasping space to the London stock market but structural reforms will be crucial for long-term sustainability.
6. The internal mayhem, the rise of xenophobia, and far-right politics could potentially dent the global stature of Britain. It is imperative and crucial to address this menace before its too late to rectify.
7. The UK should preserve a closer relationship with Germany for eschewing a drastic fall from its sway in Brussels. Moreover, better relations with Germany will overlay or pave the way for economic permanence and stability of the UK as German financiers are apprehensive about their stakes and shares in the London stock market as the UK is the second-largest export market for German business in Europe.
8. Britain should shun sandwiching or encapsulation between the geopolitical competition of the US and the EU. Britain should shrewdly restrain and resist steps like a negation of the role of NATO through the EU army that could undercut the notion of shared security and mutual defense within the NATO allies.
9. In the post Brexit period, UK's hard postering could boomerang so an apposite blend of soft power and diplomatic means is indispensable for achieving a free trade agreement between the EU and UK.
10. The growing concerns of France over the dearth of Pre-rudiments required for technical collaboration, health, and security guidelines could pose a serious challenge for post Brexit negotiations between EU and UK. Therefore, Britain should actively engage with its allies to restate its full commitment to the process.

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