Shine Brighter Terminale

File 21 A nation apart?

Extrait p.177 – Article de Marvin READ IV, *foreignanalysis.com*

The future of the UK

Though their line of monarchs and governments dates back centuries, the United Kingdom, as it stands in its current form, technically only dates back to 1927. England and Wales officially became one in the sixteenth century. Centuries later, Scotland and Ireland would join the mix through their Acts of Union. However, the 1919 to 1921 Irish War for Independence and subsequent[1] partition shifted the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland to become the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, its current name and land coverage. […]

The United Kingdom's exit from the European Union has given more impetus[2] to separatist movements, as the majority of Scots overwhelmingly[3] voted to remain, and a hard border in Ireland adds difficulties to daily life. Politically, things remain the same in the north of Britain, but in the north of Ireland, the republican party Sinn Féin gained the most seats of any party in an election just two years ago.

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[1] following

[2] impulse

[3] massively

A once-global empire now with 14 overseas territories and less mainland territory than it had before would not shock the world if it shrank[4] even further. However, this reduction would come through the ballot box[5] and not through war, as was the case with Ireland. It would resemble the trajectories of the Commonwealth colonies and dominions gaining independence—some showmanship via the Crown and new statecraft independent from the Windsors and the Commons. For now, the Crown holds sovereignty over these four nations, and Parliament holds no interest in changing this.

Marvin Read IV, *foreignanalysis.com*, 2024

[4] diminished

[5] *urne*

Extrait p.178 – Roman, *Middle England*

Sophie and Ian, a couple on the edge of divorce, meet Lorna, a post-Brexit counsellor.

Their relationship councillor Lorna told them that many of the couples she was seeing at the moment had mentioned Brexit as a key factor in their growing estrangement[1].

“I usually start by asking each of you the same question,” she said. “Sophie, why are you so angry that Ian voted Leave? And Ian, why are you so angry that Sophie voted Remain?”

Sophie had thought for a long time before answering:

“I suppose because it made me think that, as a person, he’s not as open as I thought he was. That his basic model for relationships comes down to antagonism and competition, not cooperation.”

Lorna had nodded, and turned to Ian, who had answered:

“It makes me think that she’s very naive, that she lives in a bubble and can’t see how other people around her might have a different opinion to hers. And this gives her a certain attitude. An attitude of moral superiority.”

To which Lorna said:

“What’s interesting about both of those answers is that neither of you mentioned politics. As if the referendum wasn’t about Europe at all. Maybe something much more fundamental and personal was going on. Which is why this might be a difficult problem to resolve.”

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[1] disunity, hostility

She had suggested a course of six sessions, but it turned out that she was being optimistic. In fact they attended nine, before admitting defeat, and calling it a day[2].

Jonathan Coe, *Middle England*, 2018

[2] before ending the sessions

Extrait p.178 – Article de *theguardian.com*

Colin White, 62, from Hartlepool: Brexit played a significant role in our separation

My wife and I separated in December for the third and final time. Our differing views on Brexit encapsulated many of the reasons why we're no longer together. The morning of the result I woke up early and felt floored[1]. Next to me, and still asleep, was my wife–who had been in favour of Brexit. That morning, I was hostile towards her. I had no right to behave that way and I regret it. Not for the first time, I seemed to be saying, "You're wrong and I'm right." The subject of the referendum had become difficult over the previous weeks and now it was toxic. […] I asked myself, can two people with such divergent views live together in harmony? I'm sure many do and I wish we could have, but sadly it wasn't to be for us.

theguardian.com, 2017

[1] shocked

Extrait p.179 – Article d'Andrew SPARROW, *theguardian.com*

'Meaner and angrier': Brexit exposes growing fractures in UK society

Britons have become angrier since the referendum to leave the EU, according to a survey which suggests there is widespread unhappiness about the direction in which the country is heading.

Sixty-nine per cent of respondents said they felt their fellow citizens had become "angrier about politics and society" since the Brexit vote in 2016, according to the Edelman Trust Barometer, a long-established, annual survey of trust carried out across the globe.

Forty per cent of people think others are now more likely to take part in violent protests, the UK results from the survey show, even though violent political protest in Britain is rare. [...]

Commenting on the findings, Edelman's UK and Ireland chief executive, Ed Williams, said: "We are a disunited kingdom–a country that is seen as increasingly unfair, less tolerant and headed in the wrong direction. Brexit has exposed fractures that have split families and divided friends, made us meaner and angrier as a society, and stoked[1] fears of violent protest and civil disorder."

Andrew Sparrow, *Theguardian.com*, 2019

[1] generated

Extrait p.180 – Article d'Estelle NILSSON-JULIEN, *euronews.com*

Seven years on: what do young Brits think of Brexit vote?

Liv's story

It's 23 June 2016 and Liv Stobart is 15 years old. She has just finished her summer exams but is awaiting a much bigger result.

As her sister scuttles[1] into her room crying, her heart sinks. 52% out, 48% in. The UK has voted to leave the European Union.

A moment which Liv has never forgotten.

"I felt shocked and disheartened. I had no say in my future. It was a bewildering[2] day. I still feel angry but I don't think holding another referendum is the answer because you have to respect the will of the majority". [...]

Liv grew up in Scotland, where 62% of people voted to remain. [...]

Seven years on, Liv is still vocal about Brexit. "I had a big debate with my boss a few months ago. He voted Leave and has two young teenagers. I know we've led different lives, but I turned to him and was like don't you realise that they may want to move to Europe one day?"

Estelle Nilsson-Julien, *euronews.com*, 2023.

[1] runs quickly

[2] confusing

Extrait p.180 – Article d'Estelle NILSSON-JULIEN, *euronews.com*, 2023

Seven years on: what do young Brits think of Brexit vote?

Zak's story

"I was in my last year of school when Brexit happened and I voted to leave the European Union", says Zak Butler down the crackly line on his drive to work as a primary school teacher.

"I remember being so happy with the result. When you vote on something and it goes through you get an initial sense of shared pride and satisfaction with all the people."

Many of Zak's friends and family voted Leave–as did the majority of his Conservative constituency[1]. [...]

Over the years, debating Brexit has got Zak into some heated discussions. [...] "Younger friends who weren't able to vote also get upset. Usually if I am going out with a new group of people I tend to try and find out their opinions beforehand to avoid things getting too heated."

Despite his doubts, Zak still believes Brexit could bring some positive changes.

"I don't like to be proven wrong", he says with a giggle[2].

Estelle Nilsson-Julien, *euronews.com*, 2023.

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[1]group of voters in a specific area

[2] laughter

Évaluation de la compréhension de l'écrit – Guide pédagogique

Extrait – Article de Ben Quinn, *The Guardian*

EU offers UK 'emergency brake' on youth mobility scheme numbers

Britain wants limits on young people entering country but Europe opposes this as scheme[1] aims to celebrate links.

An "emergency brake" could be put on the number of people coming to the UK from Europe as part of a new youth experience scheme, under terms being offered to Britain by EU negotiators Britain wants an outright cap[2], but the EU opposes this on the basis that the scheme is supposed to be a positive one aimed at celebrating and preserving links with the EU.

Keir Starmer's government agreed to work towards a "youth experience scheme" with the EU in May last year, but the specifics are still being negotiated.

The scheme is part of talks in which the EU hopes to "reset" relations with the UK amid fears negotiations have been foundering[3] before a planned July summit.

(…)

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[1] plan

[2] limit

[3] *s'enliser*

A UK government spokesperson said: “Any final scheme must be time-limited, capped and will be based on our existing youth mobility schemes, which do not include access to home tuition fee[4] status.”

The scheme is seen by the EU as a “strategic endeavour” that has become increasingly important amid recent transatlantic ruptures and global instability.

A senior EU official said: “The strategy is about ensuring that our societies keep linked, understand each other and see each other as part of the same family of nations. This is something that is really needed in these troubled times.

“If Europe has to stand together, it has to feel a common sense of purpose when it comes to international relations and democracy. Ensuring that our young people can travel to each other’s countries, work, study in each other’s countries is an important part of that.”

Ben Quinn, *The Guardian*, 2026.

[4] *frais de scolarité*