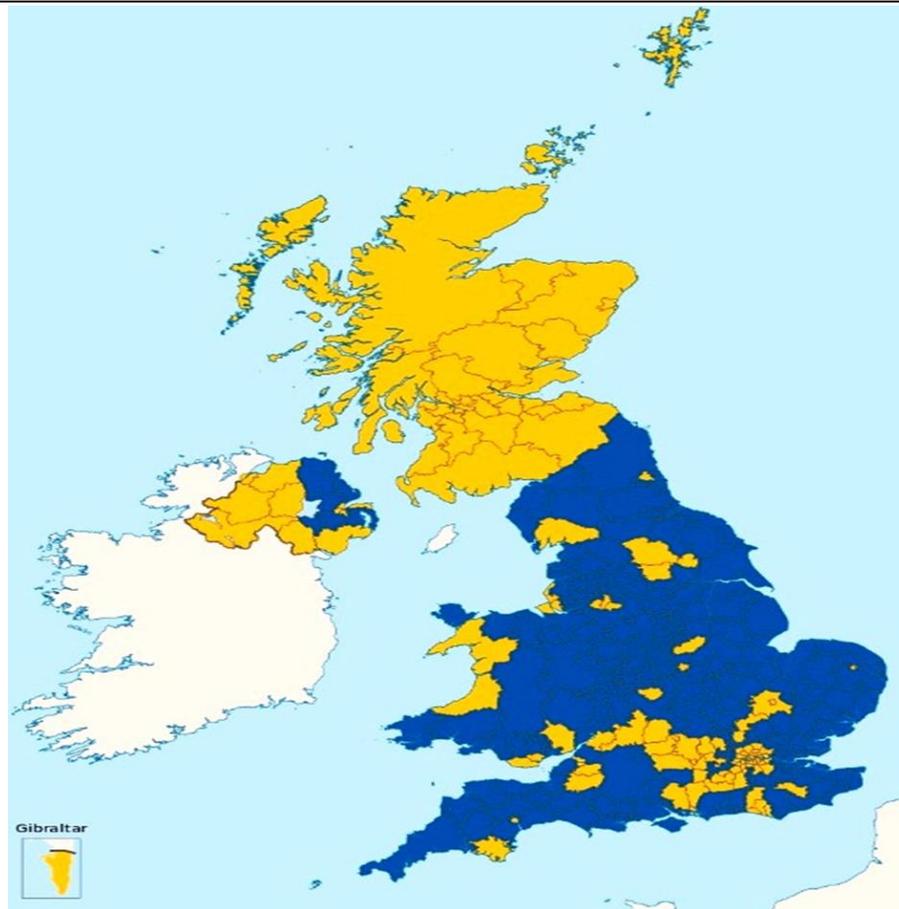


Tsuda College	BREXIT: BR itain's EXIT from the European Economic Community A. The personalities B. Their arguments C. What it means for Britain
Week 11: Spring term	
科目目：現代イギリス社会 Contemporary British Society Spring	

CHANGE TO ADVERTISED PROGRAMME + CHANGE TO ADVERTISED PROGRAMME + CHANGE TO



A map showing the results of the United Kingdom European Union membership referendum on 23 June 2016. Areas in yellow indicate districts that voted in favour of remaining within the Union; those in blue voted to leave. The decision to leave was quite unexpected. Although the opinion polls indicated a close result, they failed to anticipate a victory for the Leave campaign. In the end, 52% of the British people voted to

leave the EU, while 48% voted to Remain.

The opinions of individuals are not necessarily direct functions of the information they receive.

- Ernest May, 1973

People vote with their hearts: they don't like facts that do not support their feelings

The result showed how out-of-touch London politicians, journalists and voters were with the ordinary people of Britain.

The key issue was immigration. The British people showed that they did not want any more immigration to the United Kingdom. The reason: because of the 2008 world financial crisis, the Conservative government of David Cameron and George Osborne had been trying to balance the British economy and pay off Britain's huge debts. This meant cutting budgets for hospitals, schools, housing and so on. At the same time, huge numbers of immigrants were coming to Britain, attracted by the benefits for new arrivals, especially families with children.

In good times with a properly funded National Health Service, education system and housing, Britain could have looked after the new arrivals and the immigrants would not have strained the housing, education and health services.

London was protected from the new immigrants by the price of housing. The politicians and journalists did not really understand the feelings of ordinary British voters outside London, especially in the North of England.

The people in UKIP and in the Leave campaign did understand the feelings of the middle and working classes outside London and the South-east, and they ran a strong campaign based on fear of immigration.

The politicians and journalists supporting Remain ran a campaign showing the huge financial losses Britain would suffer by leaving the EU. Almost all company presidents and CEOs agreed. Even President Obama said he wanted Britain to stay in the EEC. Day after day the Remain campaign told the British people that they should vote to stay in the EEC because Britain would become weak financially.

But the British people were not listening. They and the Leave campaigners called the Remain campaign 'Project Fear'. Leave voters voted with their hearts against more immigration, voted for greater control of Britain (away from the EEC council in Brussels, Belgium) and they voted for greater 'sovereignty'.

The sad truth is, those who voted Leave, did not act on the information provided to them. They voted with their hearts, and their prejudices, and now their financial future looks very dark and difficult indeed.

Ernest May believed that people do not always act according to the information they receive. But rather on what they think they know. In other words, people are moved by their instinct, prejudice, and by what is in their hearts.

Why is that? And does it apply just to the British people?

Londoners voted overwhelmingly in favour of leaving the EEC. How do they feel (video). Can London remain in the EEC?

A. Campaign personalities: 1. Prime Minister David Cameron



DAVID CAMERON was probably the most surprised by the decision to leave the EEC. He and George Osborne, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, had campaigned very hard for Remain. Cameron and George Osborne were old Etonians, educated at Oxford University, Members of the Bullingdon Club (see previous class material). Their

fellow student, reading Classics at Balliol College, Oxford, was Boris Johnson. (▼)

After defeat in the EU referendum, UK prime minister David Cameron resigned, saying he would leave Downing Street in October 2016.

Cameron's legacy includes legislation on gay marriage, ideals of the 'big society' and post-2008 austerity and cuts.

2. Boris Johnson: the popular, slightly dodgy, Conservative



Boris Johnson was Lor Mayor of London. A product of public schools, Oxford, journalism. An old friend of David Cameron, Michael Gove, George Osborne. A man with a colourful past. A nimble, capable, ambitious, ruthless politician.

At the end of the BREXIT campaign, Boris Johnson He had helped persuade 52% of British

voters to choose to leave the Common Market..David Cameron resigned as Prime Minister. Boris was expected to campaign for the leadership of the Conservative Party and to become Prime Minister of the UK. Then it all went wrong.

Boris Johnson's fellow campaigner Michael Gove said he could not support Boris Johnson. Boris then decided not to campaign. Michael Gove will go ahead, but he is not popular. Boris Johnson has become a sort of hero of British Conservative politics, while Michael Gove has become the villain.



3. Nigel Farage: the one who tells it like it is

Nigel Farage founded UKIP: the United Kingdom Independence Party. For 17 years he campaigned to get Europe out of the EEC. With BREXIT he succeeded. Then he resigned from the leadership of UKIP.



Does Nigel Farage represent Contemporary British Society? If we go by the 52% who voted for BREXIT, he does. On the evidence, more of the British people (52% of a 72% turnout) agree with Nigel Farage than people who want to Remain in Europe (48%).

What does BREXIT means for the future of the UK? There will be consequences for Ireland, where the people are solidly pro-European but depend heavily on the UK market, and for semi-independent ('devolved') Scotland, whose people voted to stay in the EEC, and for Wales, where the EEC has invested a great deal of money, but which voted for BREXIT.

The results for the European project cannot be foretold, but with the departure of their second largest economy, the future of the EEC is far from assured. Some in the EEC are in favour of a pragmatic approach to the UK. But the UK cannot have access to the single market of the EEC without agreeing to the free movement of European citizens within the UK.

To be continued...