

CHAPTER III

THE REASONS OF BRITAIN LEAVING EUROPEAN UNION

Britain decision to leave European Union was taken due to several reasons felt by the government, citizens and Britain as a country. As delivered in the first chapter, there are several aspects that become the reasons which lead to the exit vote. This chapter will deliver the reasons why Britain come into the decision of leaving European Union membership.

A. The Background of Brexit Referendum

The referendum about Britain's leave from EU membership or stay as the member of EU held in June 23rd 2016 resulted in 51.9% or around 17,410,742 voted to leave and 48.1% or around 16,141,241 vote to remain as the member of EU with turn out or total 72% voters from all Britain citizens (BBC News, 2016).

The referendum actually was not the first referendum held by Britain in order to make decision about the membership of European Union. The first referendum was held in 1975 when European Union was known as European Economic Community and its urgency was only in economic partnership. At that time, the leave voters argued about the policy of agriculture, fishing, and foods rather than immigration problem since that time was the post-war era when the primary needs were the most important aspects for them. Othe other hand, the remain voters warned that if Britain left its EEC's membership, it would make

the collapse of several aspects such as the currency, massive loss of jobs and the fall down of Britain economic condition (Mason, 2016).

The referendum in 1975 resulted 67,2% remain and 32,8% the next said leave with the turnout which was 64,1%. From this result, it is known that at that time the citizens of Britain still thought that European Community still gave advantages to Britain. But then, in 2011, around 100.000 citizens signed a petition on referendum about EU's membership but it was held in the house of common (Lords, 2009).

The petition on referendum about EU's membership became the basic reason of David Cameron's campaign about the referendum that would be held if he had been elected as a Prime Minister. He kept his promise and organized the referendum that was held on June 23rd 2016. Leave voters won, it was because several political and economical reasons that become the considerations of the voters.

B. Political Reasons of Brexit

1. Political elitism

Elitism is a group of people who dominate politic or economy of a country. Usually they have power in term of the decision making because they are part of the government or the actor of a country itself. According to Professor C. Wright Mills, "The Power Elite" are several people who have

spectical thoughts that democracy has importance of group's pressure because groups aren't equal since there are several dominating groups who dominate the government simply because they have common interest, educational background, values and so on (Goldsmith, 2015).

In the case of Britain, elitism that exists in the country is not only in political arena but almost in all aspects of the work field. The citizens of Britain have realized that the Parliament Members are not be able to represent the minorities anymore. One-third of the Parliament Members was came from private schools, 25% were graduated from Oxbridge. Meanwhile in political party, Parliament Members from Labour Party 48% graduated from Russell Group University and 17% came from Oxbridge University, 61% of MPs from Conservative Party graduated from Russell Group University and 32% came from Oxbridge University, and last, 57% of MPs from Liberal Democrat Party graduated from Russell Group University and 28% were from Oxbridge University while the rest come from kinds of school (Milburn, 2014).

Previously, Conservative and Labour Party still held campains about staying as European Union member. But then, the citizen or more spesifically the leave voters didn't have had the same thoughts with both of the parties. The leave voters thought that if they had voted Brexit, it would cut the political elitism that happen in the governmnet system. The

government from both of parties had super power in political and economic arena without concerning about the minorities' needs and interest. They got benefits from European Union for personal matters, then if Britain exit from EU membership, it will cut their power both in Britain governance and also in European Union. They thought about cutting the right of politicians, business leaders and experts to the system's control (Friedman, 2016).

2. Sovereignty

Britain as an independent and sovereign state should have power to control their internal and external affairs. The government should govern its states without intervention from other countries. The characteristics of a sovereign state are first, it has a set of territory which the state as the role actor to running internal and external sovereignty; second, the state has fix number of population, third, the government should has their own power, forth, not colonialized by another country, last, has power in international arena (US LEGAL, 2016).

Since EU regulates single market whose which people also bacome part of the movement conducted by the regulations of EU, Britain can not decide to solve the immigration issue by themselves. There is immigration crisis in Europe and actually Britain has different opinion from other EU members about what to do with the refugees. According to several EU leaders, it is necessary as human being to help the refugees but on the other

hand, immigration is such a national issue where it will influence the sustainability of a country. According to Britain, EU did not get nationalism's power; immigration is one of the ways of maintaining nationality as cultural right (Friedman, 2016).

European Union has their own rules about the immigration especially refugees problem. Common European Asylum System is the name of a set of regulations that conducted by EU which will conduct the processes of what should people do to claim the asylum (how to apply, how it will be inspected, what they will they got, how they can stay in EU areas, and how if the application was rejected). It has to be the basic rules that should be applied by every member state and each member is not prohibited to improve the regulations as long as the regulation that were improved by the member still based on those regulations (European Union, 2014).

Britain has improved the regulations through making their own plan towards immigration problem especially for refugees. For example, Britain creates the UK's Government's 2020 plan for Syrian Refugees which is Britain planning on accomodating place for 20.000 Syirian migrants by 2020. In the end of 2015, it was already around 1000 Syirian refugees who arrived there. It was such an effective strategy of the Britain's government in order to implement Syirian humanitarian policy. Besides, Britain also became the second largest money contributor after US to the humanitarian

financial assistance to Syrian refugees, Britain paid for around 1.12 billion poundsterling (Farani, 2016).

The creation of Britain's own plan is triggered by The politicization and mismanagement in the implementation of Asylum. In 2015, more than one million people that looking for help went to the EU countries but it was disposed to the humanitarian and political crisis in Europe caused by the unclear regulations by EU itself. In the same year, implementation of urgent relocation method was failed by EU member states. They had limitation scale in order to make such fair responsibility distribution among member states and it made only 7.224 asylums successfully relocated. It proven that EU asylum system was working too slow in responding urgent situation of the refugees (Human Rights Watch, 2016).

Britain has their own plan towards immigration problem yet EU limits every member state to develop their own interest towards this issue. Britain clearly has their own foreign policy that relates to their national interests and needs. But then, EU regulates the foreign policy that should be shared and it is such a chaos condition since it is impossible to make common foreign policy between every member state because every country has their own economy, values and culture that should be fulfilled by the government (Marinelli, 2017).

C. Economic Reasons of Brexit

European Union which had function as an economic integrator between member states are supposed to be the problem solver or at least decreased the economic problem within its area. But then, EU failed to reduce economic problem that already occurred in European Countries since 2008 (Friedman, 2016).

1. Unemployment in European Union Territory

EU fails to solve unemployment problem in Southern Europe. The unemployment rate in Southern Europe is higher than the rest of EU territory. It seems that EU management to solve unemployment problem is not equal between one and another (Friedman, 2016).

Table 3.1

The data of Unemployment Rate in European Union

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
EU-28	9.0	8.2	7.2	7.0	9.0	9.6	9.7	10.5	10.9	10.2	9.4	8.5
Euro area	9.1	8.4	7.5	7.6	9.6	10.2	10.2	11.4	12.0	11.6	10.9	10.0
Belgium	8.5	8.3	7.5	7.0	7.9	8.3	7.2	7.6	8.4	8.5	8.5	7.8
Bulgaria	10.1	9.0	6.9	5.6	6.8	10.3	11.3	12.3	13.0	11.4	9.2	7.6
Czech Republic	7.9	7.1	5.3	4.4	6.7	7.3	6.7	7.0	7.0	6.1	5.1	4.0
Denmark	4.8	3.9	3.8	3.4	6.0	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.0	6.6	6.2	6.2
Germany	11.2	10.1	8.5	7.4	7.6	7.0	5.8	5.4	5.2	5.0	4.6	4.1
Estonia	8.0	5.9	4.6	5.5	13.5	16.7	12.3	10.0	8.6	7.4	6.2	6.8
Ireland	4.4	4.5	4.7	6.4	12.0	13.9	14.7	14.7	13.1	11.3	9.4	7.9
Greece	10.0	9.0	8.4	7.8	9.6	12.7	17.9	24.5	27.5	26.5	24.9	23.6
Spain	9.2	8.5	8.2	11.3	17.9	19.9	21.4	24.8	26.1	24.5	22.1	19.6
France	8.9	8.8	8.0	7.4	9.1	9.3	9.2	9.8	10.3	10.3	10.4	10.1
Croatia	13.0	11.6	9.9	8.6	9.3	11.8	13.7	15.8	17.4	17.2	16.1	13.3
Italy	7.7	6.8	6.1	6.7	7.7	8.4	8.4	10.7	12.1	12.7	11.9	11.7
Cyprus	5.3	4.6	3.9	3.7	5.4	6.3	7.9	11.9	15.9	16.1	15.0	13.1
Latvia	10.0	7.0	6.1	7.7	17.5	19.5	16.2	15.0	11.9	10.8	9.9	9.6
Lithuania	8.3	5.8	4.3	5.8	13.8	17.8	15.4	13.4	11.8	10.7	9.1	7.9
Luxembourg	4.6	4.6	4.2	4.9	5.1	4.6	4.8	5.1	5.9	6.0	6.5	6.3
Hungary	7.2	7.5	7.4	7.8	10.0	11.2	11.0	11.0	10.2	7.7	6.8	5.1
Malta	6.9	6.8	6.5	6.0	6.9	6.9	6.4	6.3	6.4	5.8	5.4	4.7
Netherlands	5.9	5.0	4.2	3.7	4.4	5.0	5.0	5.8	7.3	7.4	6.9	6.0
Austria	5.6	5.3	4.9	4.1	5.3	4.8	4.6	4.9	5.4	5.6	5.7	6.0
Poland	17.9	13.9	9.6	7.1	8.1	9.7	9.7	10.1	10.3	9.0	7.5	6.2
Portugal	8.8	8.9	9.1	8.8	10.7	12.0	12.9	15.8	16.4	14.1	12.6	11.2
Romania	7.1	7.2	6.4	5.6	6.5	7.0	7.2	6.8	7.1	6.8	6.8	5.9
Slovenia	6.5	6.0	4.9	4.4	5.9	7.3	8.2	8.9	10.1	9.7	9.0	8.0
Slovakia	16.4	13.5	11.2	9.6	12.1	14.5	13.7	14.0	14.2	13.2	11.5	9.6
Finland	8.4	7.7	6.9	6.4	8.2	8.4	7.8	7.7	8.2	8.7	9.4	8.8
Sweden	7.7	7.1	6.1	6.2	8.3	8.6	7.8	8.0	8.0	7.9	7.4	6.9
United Kingdom	4.8	5.4	5.3	5.6	7.6	7.8	8.1	7.9	7.6	6.1	5.3	4.8
Iceland	2.6	2.9	2.3	3.0	7.2	7.6	7.1	6.0	5.4	5.0	4.0	3.0
Norway	4.5	3.4	2.5	2.5	3.2	3.6	3.3	3.2	3.5	3.5	4.4	4.7
Turkey	9.5	9.0	9.1	10.0	13.0	11.1	9.1	8.4	9.0	9.9	10.3	10.9

Source : Eurostat

Unemployment rate in 2000 of the total labour force's reached 20,5 million people within European Union territory. Year by year, the unemployment rate gradually decreased until the crisis impacted the unemployment rate which increased again up to 9,7% in 2008. The impact also have been felt the most in 2013 which at that time the unemployment rate reached 10.9% or around 26.5 million people were jobless. Then, it again gradually decreased after 2013 but only in several states especially in Southern Europe, the unemployment rate can not be back to the time where their unemployment number was in low point (Eurostat, 2017).

2. Britain pays bigger than EU allocated for Britain's development

European Union's money sources are from the member countries contribution, custom duties from non-member of EU and costs of violation of the rules which has been set by the EU. Every member has already agreed the costs set up by the EU several years before it was implemented. As much as 98% of its money sources are generated by EU's resources and the allocation is appropriate to the condition of each state's economy. The higher GNI of a country is the higher that country should pay to the EU (European Union, 2017).

Table 3.2

The Data of EU Total Contributions and Spending in 2011

Country	Total EU spend, €m	€ per person	% of GDP	Total contribution, €m	€ per person	% of each GDP
Belgium	6,796.71	617.85	1.81	3,345.49	304.12	0.89
Bulgaria	1, 107.11	150.23	2.95	346.07	46.96	0.92
Czech Republic	3,029.07	288.85	2.1	1,461.95	139.41	1.01
Denmark	1,473.07	264.91	0.6	2,120.76	381.39	0.86
Germany	12,132.98	148.41	0.46	19,671.10	240.62	0.75
Estonia	504.69	376.58	3.32	136.67	101.98	0.9
Ireland	1,639.45	358.75	1.31	1,138.96	249.23	0.91
Greece	6,536.93	577.98	3.14	1,762.03	155.8	0.85
Spain	13,599.01	294.65	1.3	9,876.14	213.99	0.94
France	13,162.33	202.35	0.65	18,050.84	277.5	0.89
Italy	9,585.87	157.69	0.61	14,336.22	235.84	0.91
Cyprus	183.57	218.6	1.07	160.15	190.71	0.93
Latvia	910.98	439.11	4.51	159.75	77	0.79
Lithuania	1,652.80	541.44	5.58	257.44	84.33	0.87
Luxembourg	1,548.52	3,025.40	5.06	278.83	544.76	0.91
Hungary	5,330.92	533.85	5.64	836.43	83.76	0.88
Malta	135.24	325.72	2.33	56.32	135.65	0.97
Netherland	2,064.32	123.94	0.34	3,933.27	236.15	0.65
Austria	1,875.81	223.2	0.62	2,499.17	297.37	0.83
Poland	14,440.60	374.79	4.08	3,227.80	83.77	0.91
Portugal	4,715.26	446.01	2.86	1,599.40	151.28	0.97
Romania	2,659.47	124.19	1.97	1,116.05	52.12	0.83
Slovenia	846.98	413.12	2.42	326.94	159.47	0.93
Slovakia	1,785.12	331.04	2.63	576.31	106.87	0.85
Finland	1,293.00	240.55	0.67	1,802.80	335.39	0.93
Sweden	1,757.02	186.61	0.44	2,866.65	304.46	0.72
United kingdom	6,570.05	105.12	0.37	11,273.41	180.38	0.64
Croatia	113.17	25.68	0.26	0	0	0

Source: The Guardian News

Germany is the biggest contributor since they become biggest economic growth and highest GNI in European Union by paying €19,671.10 million, followed by France which contributes an amount of €18,050.84 million, Italy follows with amount of contribution €14,336.22 million, Britain becomes 4th biggest contributor by paying €11,273.41 million. But then, those countries contributed more than they had got. The four biggest contributors doesn't get the biggest advantage from the EU but Poland. In the case of Britain, they just got € 6,570.05 million which only half percent of the total amount they had pay to the EU. Meanwhile, Poland just pays € 3,227.80 million but they got € 14,440.60 for its advantage (theguardian, 2016).

Those political and economic reasons were several aspects that are considered by the leave voters which resulted the Brexit. The government and citizens of Britain are trying to protect both of Britain political and economical interest.