

Scexit or not Scexit? The latest Scottish Referendum for an Independent Scotland

In late summer of 2014, at which time England was undergoing a general election, several influential ministers of Scotland, side-lined by the Scottish National Party and their head, Nicola Sturgeon, asked the question: 'Should Scotland be a fully independent country?'- the eventual result of the election was incredibly close, and what many considered to be surprising – 55% to the 'no' voters (who wanted Scotland to stay within the 'United Kingdom' and remain within the power of the British government) and 45% to the 'yes' voters (who wanted Scotland to become independent). It was the victory of the Conservative Party and the history – making Brexit Vote that followed and resulted in 51.7% voting to leave the EU, along with the consequent resignation of David Cameron and the rise of Theresa May (who refused to grant Scotland a separate access to The European Single Market), that triggered Nicola Sturgeon's decision to ask permission for, what has become known as The Second Scottish Referendum (despite the fact that they, strictly speaking, had already held several, the first of which being in 1979).

Will Scotland leave? and if so, what current features of the 'United Kingdom' will they retain, and what benefits and drawbacks will Scotland experience?

Despite the media's strong reaction to the possibility of a second Scottish referendum, many Politicians, particularly those of the Conservative Party in Southern England, do not believe that the latter could and/or will ever take place at all – this is mostly due to Theresa May and her government in Westminster being in a position where she is extremely likely to attempt to 'unconditionally block the 'tantalisingly' close possibility of a vote for independence – earlier today (the 14th March), she accused the Scottish of 'playing silly games' that will never come to anything. Even if she fails to legally barricade this, the vote for independence can't legally take place if it is not authorised democratically by parliament, who, like the prime minister, are currently predominantly against the prospect of an independent Scotland.

Many, including Ms McKusker, believe that in the event of a vote, caused by a somewhat currently unlikely twist of fate, Scottish voters would decisively vote to leave; Britain's general decision to leave the European Union will undoubtedly significantly 'tip the balance of the vote' towards the 'leave UK' side (over 65% of Scottish voters voted against Brexit in the 2016 vote, many of whom are strongly angered that Scotland did not get treated separately and get, even partial, access to the single market and other marketing/financial advantages of the European Union); this, coupled with extremely close result of the last Scottish Independence Referendum, leads me to believe that, if the poll commences, Scotland will eventually become politically and lawfully comprehensively separate from the UK. For the reasons concerning the Brexit vote mentioned earlier in this article, it is also almost certain that in the latter case, Scotland will swiftly opt to re-join the EU, however whether they will be wholeheartedly welcomed is another matter.

If they were to leave, the Scottish would likely neglect many fundamental, unique aspects of the current UK, including the currency and the monarchy; Ms. McKusker believes that in conjunction with (re? ?) joining the EU, the Euro, the official currency of the so called 'Eurozone' would be adopted, and Nicola Sturgeon and The SNP would rise to power, primarily because they announced the referendum in the first place and there are currently no other significant/plausible/influential other contenders for the title.

Nicholas Soames, the local member of parliament for the constituency of mid Sussex seriously questioned the benefits of Scotland's momentous decision to leave the UK –he explained that there was a 'heavy element of bluffing' and 'in Scotland's current financial/economical state I can't realistically see Scotland voting for independence- it clearly doesn't want the vote'. As well as this, he labelled the vote 'a corrosive and divisive act' on the part of Nicola Sturgeon' and made it very clear that it wasn't a suitable time and he 'wasn't in favour' of Scotland leaving the United Kingdom and attempting to re-join the EU.

Reported By Cameron Cove, Charles Bantock, Quinlan Prendergast, Louis Kinsella, Oliver Holmwood.