

**Brexit – Why I voted Leave**  
**(a response to a worried American friend)**

**Jeremy Montagu**

I voted leave.

We have had our own laws and customs and more and more these, the laws especially, have been over-ridden by the unelected EU Commission – the European Parliament has never been more than a rubber-stamp. We have not been even like one of the American states, for the European court, whose jurisdiction trumps ours, works under the Code Napoleon, a legal system very different from ours, whereas, unlike the central states of the EU, he never overran us. At least the US Federal and Supreme courts work under the same legal system as their state courts (and similarly to ours), but with EU their system is quite different from the Common Law. Obama tried to influence our vote and the general reaction that resulted here was that the US would never agree to a federation where they'd be outvoted by all the other countries in North and South America, and neither would the US agree to have their laws and legal system subject to those of such a federation, and nor would we.

It's not immigration that's an issue – we always have had immigration and we always will, and foreigners have always worked here and they always will, just as British have always worked abroad. It's been noteworthy that a great many of those, who have publicly clamoured to remain, are those who've been profiting from Europe, while those speaking for Out have been emphasising independence, especially in the matters above. Cameron and his allies tried to frighten people, forgetting that we don't frighten easily, and he never spoke about the actual benefits and advantages of being in; that's why he lost.

On trade, of course we've traded with EU and no doubt we will – the Germans still want to sell their cars, the French their cheese and wine – but the EU has often prevented us from trading as much as we used to with the rest of the world, and particularly with the Commonwealth by forcing us to apply tariffs.

And finally, the EU is both hell-bent on becoming a European state and simultaneously heading for bankruptcy. Can anyone envisage a single fiscal system that includes Germany, Greece, Spain, Italy, the Balkans, etc? Things are bad enough as they are, but a European budgetary system (already so corrupt that its auditors have never once been willing to sign off the annual accounts) could never work if it were applied to all these countries as a single unit.

We're going to have problems, for example with the border between Northern Ireland and Eire, and with the Scots and perhaps, if they vote to leave the UK, with that border, though their last vote was overwhelmingly for keeping the pound and for staying in the Union, and it might be again. Spain and Gibraltar is also a problem, but these'll all sort themselves out in due course.

No, we've done the right thing.