Union membership
Further information:
United Kingdom–European Union relations, European Movement UK, Euroscepticism

Parties
The United Kingdom has a multi-party system with six major political parties. The three main parties that are classed as centre parties are Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrats. All of these parties have membership schemes that allow members of the public to actively influence the policy and direction of the party. The United Kingdom has one of the lowest rates of membership of any country in the EU. In 2016, the proportion of people in the United Kingdom who are members or affiliated to a political party was 1.9%, which is lower than in all European countries except for Poland and Latvia. Overall, membership of political parties is declining across Europe, as voters become increasingly disillusioned with the political process. In the United Kingdom, the parties need to find ways to increase their membership and engage more with the electorate.

Labour
The Labour Party is the largest political party in the United Kingdom, with over 600,000 members. It is a centre-left party that is committed to a mixed economy and nationalisation of key industries. Labour is the only political party to have held a monolithic majority in Parliament since its formation in 1900 until a 13-year period from 1979 to 1992. In the 2015 general election, Labour won 232 seats (out of 650) and its overall majority was 23. It has been led by Jeremy Corbyn since September 2015.

Conservative Party
The Conservative Party is the second largest political party in the United Kingdom, with over 180,000 members. It is a centre-right party that is committed to a free market economy and limited state intervention. The Conservative Party first joined the then European Communities in January 1973 by the then Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. In the 2015 general election, the party secured 330 seats (out of 650) and its overall majority was 12. It has been led by Mark Harper since May 2016.

Liberal Democrats
The Liberal Democrats are the third largest political party in the United Kingdom, with over 35,000 members. They are a centre party that is committed to reducing the power of the state and increasing the role of local government. The Liberal Democrats first joined the then European Communities in January 1973 by the then Liberal Prime Minister Jo Grimond. In the 2015 general election, the party secured 8 seats (out of 650) and its overall majority was 1.

UKIP
The UK Independence Party is a nationalist party that is committed to leaving the European Union and reducing the role of the state in the economy. It was founded in 1993 and is the fourth largest political party in the United Kingdom, with over 22,000 members. UKIP first joined the then European Communities in January 1973 by the then UKIP leader, Henry Rees. In the 2015 general election, the party secured 2 seats (out of 650) and its overall majority was -1.

SNP
The Scottish National Party is a nationalist party that is committed to Scottish independence. It was founded in 1944 and is the fifth largest political party in the United Kingdom, with over 12,000 members. The SNP first joined the then European Communities in January 1973 by the then SNP leader, John Wilson. In the 2015 general election, the party secured 56 seats (out of 650) and its overall majority was 17.

Green Party
The Green Party is a small party that is committed to the environment and social justice. It was founded in 1973 and is the sixth largest political party in the United Kingdom, with over 10,000 members. The Green Party first joined the then European Communities in January 1973 by the then Green Party leader, Peter Lilley. In the 2015 general election, the party secured 1 seat (out of 650) and its overall majority was 0.

Nationalist parties
The main nationalist party in Northern Ireland is Sinn Féin. Sinn Féin is a political party that is committed to the reunification of Ireland. It was founded in 1905 and is the only political party to have held a monolithic majority in Parliament since its formation in 1905. In the 2015 general election, Sinn Féin secured 7 seats (out of 650) and its overall majority was 0.

Politics of the United Kingdom
Politics in the United Kingdom is dominated by the three main political parties, Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrats. The United Kingdom is a multi-party system with six major political parties. The three main parties that are classed as centre parties are Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrats. These parties have membership schemes that allow members of the public to actively influence the policy and direction of the party. The United Kingdom has one of the lowest rates of membership of any country in the EU. In 2016, the proportion of people in the United Kingdom who are members or affiliated to a political party was 1.9%, which is lower than in all European countries except for Poland and Latvia. Overall, membership of political parties is declining across Europe, as voters become increasingly disillusioned with the political process. In the United Kingdom, the parties need to find ways to increase their membership and engage more with the electorate.

Politics of the United Kingdom, 2015 to 2019
After winning a majority of seats in the 2015 general election, the Conservative Party has led the UK government since then. The party is led by Prime Minister Theresa May. The SNP maintained its position in Scotland, the party is led by Nicola Sturgeon. The UKIP lost all its seats in the 2015 general election, the party is led by Nigel Farage (former retired UKIP leader). It initially had 14 MEPs, all of whom were elected as members of the party. After Brexit, UKIP has lost all its seats in the European Parliament, the party is led by Henry Bolton.

Politics of the United Kingdom, 2019 to 2021
After winning a majority of seats in the 2019 general election, the Conservative Party has led the UK government since then. The party is led by Prime Minister Boris Johnson. The SNP has lost its majority in Scotland, the party is led by Nicola Sturgeon. The Green Party has gained seats, the party is led by Patrick Harvie. The UKIP has lost all its seats in the European Parliament, the party is led by Henry Bolton.

Politics of the United Kingdom, 2021 to 2023
After winning a majority of seats in the 2021 general election, the Conservative Party has led the UK government since then. The party is led by Prime Minister Liz Truss. The SNP has lost its majority in Scotland, the party is led by Nicola Sturgeon. The Green Party has gained seats, the party is led by Patrick Harvie. The UKIP has lost all its seats in the European Parliament, the party is led by Henry Bolton.