



Kaynak : REUTERS / Russell Cheyne

Will the UK

,which has not yet overcome the Brexit trauma,
face a Scottish concussion?

The Scots did not give a green light to the Scottish Independence five years ago in 2014 because of the benefits brought by the UK's EU membership. Now, there no longer is any other string that ties them to Westminster.

As it is known the United Kingdom is a country that is formed by four different regions namely England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. I'm talking about 66 million people that live on the same island with the idea of solving their problems by staying united. Scotland, which is the fatherland of the famous warrior William Wallace, has always been keen on its freedom. For this cause, no matter how much blood and eristic conflicts Scotland has had with the United Kingdom for its own independence it could not easily abandon the advantages brought by the empire on which the sun never sets.

Tolga Uslu
Euro Politika Dergisi
Araştırma Ekibi Üyesi

The best example of my argument can be seen in the Scottish Independence Referendum which was held in 2014. In this referendum, %55 of Scots wanted to continue with the UK to which they were bound for more than 300 years. One of the biggest reasons why they refused a divorce from the UK was the UK's EU membership that provided them free travel and residence rights with the EU. Of course, there were also economic reasons. According to the pro-leave-the UK parliament members, the UK was benefiting from the petroleum reserves that were discovered in the Northern Scotland and Scotland was not benefiting from this revenue. These pro-leave campaigners, who also blamed London for the economic crisis, were claiming that if Scotland broke up with the UK it would become a far richer country and they would have all the revenue from the petroleum reserves.

Though it pleased nationalist Scots greatly, it was quite obvious that a newly-declared Scotland would have hard times in having a word to say in Europe against a highly capable London. The rumors from London that in case Scotland leaves the UK it will be really hard for Scotland to be a member of the EU. These rumors overshadowed the dreams of the most Scots with a dream of spending their holidays in Italy and Spain. Most of Scots did not also believe that they had enough power to square up to the UK's economic embargo. It was also irrational to think that London would easily give up on the petroleum reserved in the north and leave it to Edinburgh. Actually bringing the petroleum reserves into question was a really risky scenario for London as well. In the event of a discussion over the petroleum reserves, it would cost London billions of dollars income. The result of this independence referendum was a victory for London and David Cameron and a disappointment for Edinburgh and Nicola Sturgeon. Sturgeon stated that "I was disappointed just like everyone who has put their hearts and souls in this campaign. Our country will never be the same after this campaign."

Two years later following the Scottish Independence Referendum in 2016, with the support of the then-prime minister David Cameron, a second referendum stormed through the island. In this referendum, the UK's leave from the EU was voted and with a shocking result the residents of the United Kingdom woke up in the morning of the 24th of June in a country that decided to leave the EU. This result cost a political career to many politicians starting with David Cameron. Cameron, who boggled this referendum, resigned and passed the helm to Theresa May who also couldn't make a leave draft to pass from the parliament and recently have left the prime minister office. May was also cursed by Brexit.

In this Brexit referendum, Scots ranked the top in the polling with %62 of them supporting the stay in the EU campaign. For, the EU membership was the only hook that was binding them to the UK. And now, this membership was dismissed over a

night. Moreover, no matter how willing Scots were for staying in the EU majority of the UK did not want to be a part of the club. Therefore, this result was a great disappointment for Scots. The Scottish first minister Nicola Sturgeon had the microphone just after the Brexit results and told that a second independence referendum for Scotland was necessary under these circumstances.

This was a political mistake made by London and handed to Nicola Sturgeon, who has for years been looking for a political weakness from Westminster, on a silver platter. Scots did not give a green light to the Scottish Independence five years ago in 2014 because of the benefits brought by the UK's EU membership. Now, there no longer is any other string that ties them to Westminster. Furthermore, a parliament that did not know how to handle this divorce strengthens Sturgeon's hand. It is very clear that Sturgeon will push for a second independence referendum for Scotland. And this time, she has a muzzy parliament against her that could not agree on a draft on how to break up with the EU. It is most likely that Sturgeon, in the event of a second independence referendum, will be going on the rampage with her campaign on the UK's leave decision from the EU. Because in the last time this was this membership advantage made her lose. Besides, Sterlin that has lost a great deal of its value since Brexit allows Sturgeon to portray an economically weak London. It is not quite logical to run an independence referendum solely based on these conditions. Perhaps, the thing Sturgeon is supposed to do is to convince London for a freer Scotland with a greater proportion on the petroleum revenue. Likewise, it is seen in Catalonia that it is not quite easy to break up with countries such as Spain and the United Kingdom with essential empirical backgrounds. Instead, nowadays, it is more rational to persuade the central governments for more compromises and rights.

On the other hand, it doesn't necessarily mean that a potentially independent Scotland will constantly be disputing with the UK. After all, not all breakups mean an absolute cut. Like in the Republic of Ireland case, it can be turned into a good vicinage.

Seemingly, Brexit did not only break the UK from the EU. It also caused a diffusion within the UK. Although Theresa May has been warned about this many times, she was incapable of keeping the UK citizens united. Because she should have listened to the demands of Scots that voted for remaining in the EU. It was quite fair for Scots to demand extended rights. Some of their demands were reasonable. Yet, May's government ignored them. Even, and with nationalistic feelings denounced some of the demanders. Admittedly, it is not very easy to work with SNP led by Nicola Surgeon on many topics due to the party's inclination on using every single issue as political leverage against London. If a second Scottish Independence is on the way, the main campaign should not be based on English against Scottish nationalist difference. Because it's clear that this nationalism is no longer viable on the island. If Surgeon wants to succeed, she must highlight the realities that more democratic rights should be given, the right of expression should be extended, the petroleum income should fairly be distributed, and how much a political mistake made by London cost them. So long as this Brexit deadlock is not solved, everyone on the island will somehow end up in obscurity. Apparently, hot summer is on the way for the empire on which the sun never sets.

