

Brexit: What The Hell Happens Now

Ian Dunt

What Now? In 2025, he was appointed editorial board chair for the 140-year-old rationalist magazine, New Humanist. Brexit: What the Hell Happens Now?

Ian Dunt (born 4 February 1982) is a British author, political journalist, and broadcaster. He currently writes as a columnist for the *The i Paper*. He previously served for many years as the Editor of politics.co.uk. He was also a host on the *Remainiacs* podcast. He currently hosts the *Origin Story* podcast with Dorian Lynskey and is a regular contributor to *Late Night Live* on ABC Radio National.

Politics.co.uk

that it is politically independent. In 2017, Dunt wrote the book Brexit: What The Hell Happens Now? "Political News Headlines, political reference, political

Politics.co.uk is a news and feature website focusing on British politics. For almost a decade up until the summer of 2021, the site was edited by the political journalist Ian Dunt. The current editor of the publication is Josh Self. Adam Bienkov, the political editor at *Byline Times*, was previously the deputy editor of Politics.co.uk.

2019 United Kingdom general election

repeatedly failing to pass her Brexit withdrawal agreement in parliament. Johnson succeeded her as the leader of the Conservative Party and as prime

The 2019 United Kingdom general election was held on Thursday 12 December 2019, with 47,074,800 registered voters entitled to vote to elect 650 Members of Parliament (MPs) to the House of Commons. The governing Conservative Party, led by Prime Minister Boris Johnson, won a landslide victory with a majority of 80 seats, a net gain of 48, on 43.6 per cent of the popular vote, the highest percentage for any party since the 1979 general election, though with a narrower popular vote margin than that achieved by the Labour Party over the Conservatives at the 1997 general election. This was the second national election to be held in 2019 in the United Kingdom, the first being the 2019 European Parliament election.

After it lost its parliamentary majority at the 2017 general election, the Conservative Party governed in minority with the support of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP). The prime minister, Theresa May, resigned in July 2019 after repeatedly failing to pass her Brexit withdrawal agreement in parliament. Johnson succeeded her as the leader of the Conservative Party and as prime minister in July 2019. Johnson could not persuade Parliament to approve a revised withdrawal agreement by the end of October, and chose to call a snap election, which the House of Commons supported under the Early Parliamentary General Election Act 2019. Opinion polls showed a firm lead for the Conservatives against the opposition Labour Party throughout the campaign.

The Conservatives won 365 seats, their highest number and proportion since the 1987 general election, and recorded their highest share of the popular vote since 1979; many of their gains were made in seats once considered previously safe for Labour, dubbed the red wall, which had voted strongly in favour of British withdrawal from the EU in the 2016 European Union (EU) membership referendum. Labour won 202 seats, its fewest since the 1935 general election. The Scottish National Party (SNP) made a net gain of 13 seats with 45 per cent of the vote in Scotland, winning 48 of the 59 seats there. The Liberal Democrats increased their vote share to 11.6 per cent, but won only 11 seats, a net loss of one since the last election. The party's leader,

Jo Swinson, lost her seat to the SNP, thus triggering the 2020 party leadership election, which was won by Ed Davey. The DUP won a plurality of seats in Northern Ireland. The Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) and the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland (APNI) regained parliamentary representation as the DUP lost seats.

The election result gave Johnson the mandate he sought from the electorate to formally implement the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, and to complete the repeal of the European Communities Act 1972 on 31 January 2020. Jeremy Corbyn, Labour's leader at the election, resigned, triggering the 2020 party leadership election, which was won by his shadow Brexit secretary, Keir Starmer. Jane Dodds, the Liberal Democrats' leader in Wales, was also unseated in Brecon and Radnorshire. In Northern Ireland, Irish nationalist MPs outnumbered unionists for the first time, although the unionist popular vote remained higher at 43.1 per cent, and the seven Sinn Féin MPs did not take their seats due to their tradition of abstentionism.

Despite being elected with a large majority, Johnson went on to resign amid a government crisis in 2022, being followed by Liz Truss for fifty days and then by Rishi Sunak, who went on to lead the Conservatives to a landslide defeat in the subsequent election. This was the last election to be held under the reign of Elizabeth II.

Keir Starmer

on Brexit. He served in Jeremy Corbyn's Shadow Cabinet as Shadow Brexit Secretary, and following Corbyn's resignation after Labour's defeat at the 2019

Sir Keir Rodney Starmer (born 2 September 1962) is a British politician and lawyer who has served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom since 2024 and as Leader of the Labour Party since 2020. He previously served as Leader of the Opposition from 2020 to 2024. He has been Member of Parliament (MP) for Holborn and St Pancras since 2015, and was Director of Public Prosecutions from 2008 to 2013.

Born in Southwark and raised in Surrey, Starmer attended Reigate Grammar School. He was politically active as a teenager, and graduated with a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Leeds in 1985 and received a postgraduate Bachelor of Civil Law degree from the University of Oxford where he was a student at St Edmund Hall in 1986. After being called to the Bar, Starmer practised predominantly in criminal defence work, specialising in human rights. He served as a human rights adviser to the Northern Ireland Policing Board, taking silk as a Queen's Counsel in 2002. During his tenure as Director of Public Prosecutions and Head of the Crown Prosecution Service he dealt with a number of major cases, including the Stephen Lawrence murder case. In the 2014 New Year Honours, he was appointed a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath (KCB) for "services to law and criminal justice".

Starmer's policing work in Northern Ireland influenced him to pursue a political career, and he was elected to the House of Commons at the 2015 general election. He supported the Remain campaign in the 2016 European Union membership referendum and advocated a proposed second referendum on Brexit. He served in Jeremy Corbyn's Shadow Cabinet as Shadow Brexit Secretary, and following Corbyn's resignation after Labour's defeat at the 2019 general election, Starmer succeeded him by winning the 2020 leadership election. As Leader of the Opposition he moved Labour towards the political centre and emphasised the elimination of antisemitism within the party, and his party made significant gains in the 2023 and 2024 local elections. Starmer oversaw a significant drop in Labour membership in the years leading up to the 2024 election.

Starmer led Labour to a landslide victory at the 2024 general election, ending fourteen years of Conservative government with the smallest vote share of any majority government since record-keeping began in 1830. Under Starmer's premiership, the government has announced changes to the planning system and to workers' and renters' rights, an increase in the minimum wage, and investment in a new nuclear power station at Sizewell C. It has restricted winter fuel payments to pensioners earning less than £35,000 a year, and settled a

number of public sector strikes. Starmer announced a Border Security Command to replace the Rwanda asylum plan and a National Violent Disorder Programme in response to the 2024 riots. He has negotiated free trade deals with the EU, the US and India. In foreign policy, he has continued support for Ukraine in the Russia-Ukraine war and continued support for Israel in the Gaza war, while calling for a ceasefire and the release of hostages.

Endorsements in the 2016 United Kingdom European Union membership referendum

not possible to say what will happen after Brexit; 11 March 2016. Retrieved 19 March 2016. *Brexit: Why I'm voting to leave the European Union* E. Chancellor

A number of politicians, public figures, newspapers and magazines, businesses and other organisations endorsed either the United Kingdom remaining in the EU or the United Kingdom leaving the EU during the 2016 United Kingdom European Union membership referendum.

Jeremy Clarkson

what typically happens in a military operation and then look what the woke left has done here. *He finished* *At least Arthur Scargill had the decency to get*

Jeremy Charles Robert Clarkson (born 11 April 1960) is an English television presenter, journalist, farmer, and author who specialises in motoring. He is best known for hosting the motoring television programmes *Top Gear* (2002–2015) and *The Grand Tour* (2016–2024) alongside Richard Hammond and James May. He also currently writes weekly columns for *The Sunday Times* and *The Sun*. Clarkson hosts the ITV game show *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* (2018–present), and stars in the farming documentary show *Clarkson's Farm* (2021–present).

From a career as a local journalist in northern England, Clarkson rose to public prominence as a presenter of the original format of *Top Gear* in 1988. Since the mid-1990s, he has become a recognised public personality, regularly appearing on British television presenting his own shows for the BBC and appearing as a guest on other shows. As well as motoring, Clarkson has produced programmes on subjects such as history and engineering; he has also written numerous books, primarily on cars. In 1998, he hosted the first series of *Robot Wars*. From 1998 to 2000, he also hosted his own talk show, entitled *Clarkson*.

In 2015, the BBC elected not to renew Clarkson's contract after he assaulted a *Top Gear* producer while filming on location. That year, Clarkson and his *Top Gear* co-presenters and producer Andy Wilman formed the production company W. Chump & Sons to produce *The Grand Tour* for Amazon Prime Video.

Clarkson's opinionated but humorous tongue-in-cheek writing and presenting style has often provoked a public reaction. His actions, both privately and as a *Top Gear* presenter, have also sometimes resulted in criticism from the media, politicians, pressure groups, and the public. He also has a significant public following, being credited as a major factor in the resurgence of *Top Gear* as one of the most popular shows on the BBC. In 2006, the British public ranked him number 19 in ITV's poll of TV's 50 Greatest Stars.

Since 2019, he has become a farmer at Diddly Squat Farm for his show, *Clarkson's Farm*. The show received a positive reception and became a popular show on Prime Video upon its release. In May 2024, the "Clarkson's clause" amendment, named after Clarkson, was introduced; this clause makes it easier to convert unused agricultural buildings to commercial usage, something he did in Season 2 of the show when planning permission for his restaurant was denied.

Political positions of Keir Starmer

UK's future is outside the EU but we need to act now to make Brexit work; *Daily Express*. Archived from the original on 15 June 2023. Retrieved 15 June 2023

The political positions of Keir Starmer, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom since 2024 and Leader of the Labour Party since 2020, have frequently changed. Views of his political philosophy are diverse.

During the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn, Starmer adopted soft left political positions, and described his politics as being "red-green". During the 1980s and 1990s, Starmer also wrote for *Socialist Alternatives* and *Socialist Lawyer*; by the 2020s, he at times upheld and at other times rejected the socialist label. Starmer succeeded Corbyn by winning the 2020 leadership election on a left-wing platform, pledging to uphold many of his predecessor's economic policies whilst working to end the issue of antisemitism within the party. As opposition leader, Starmer eventually moved Labour toward the political centre. Some commentators described Starmer as exhibiting an authoritarian approach, and critics on the Labour left complained of being purged from the party under Starmer's leadership.

Despite the lack of any consensus about the character and even existence of Starmer's ideology, it has acquired a neologism, Starmerism, and his supporters have been called Starmerites. Prior to his general election win, Starmer had been widely compared to Tony Blair's leadership and New Labour along with Ed Miliband and One Nation Labour, lending itself to the nickname New New Labour and One Nation Labour-Blairism Synthesis, having taken the party closer to the centre-ground; observers also noted differences from Blair and Miliband.

John Bolton

Bolton criticized the UK "political class" for not implementing the Brexit vote. In September 2011, when the Obama administration declared the death of Al Qaeda

John Robert Bolton (born November 20, 1948) is an American attorney, diplomat, Republican consultant, and political commentator. He served as the 25th United States ambassador to the United Nations from 2005 to 2006, and as the 26th United States national security advisor from 2018 to 2019.

Bolton served as a United States assistant attorney general for President Ronald Reagan from 1985 to 1989. He served in the State Department as the assistant secretary of state for international organization affairs from 1989 to 1993, and the under secretary of state for arms control and international security affairs from 2001 to 2005. He was an advocate of the Iraq War as a Director of the Project for the New American Century, which favored going to war with Iraq.

He was the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations from August 2005 to December 2006, as a recess appointee by President George W. Bush. He stepped down at the end of his recess appointment in December 2006 because he was unlikely to win confirmation in the Senate, of which the Democratic Party had control at the time. Bolton later served as National Security Advisor to President Donald Trump from April 2018 to September 2019. He repeatedly called for the termination of the Iran nuclear deal, from which the U.S. withdrew in May 2018. He wrote a best-selling book about his tenure in the Trump administration, *The Room Where It Happened*, published in 2020.

Bolton is widely considered a foreign policy hawk and advocates military action and regime change by the U.S. in Iran, Syria, Libya, Venezuela, Cuba, Yemen, and North Korea. A member of the Republican Party, his political views have been described as American nationalist, conservative, and neoconservative, although Bolton rejects the last term. He is a former senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) and a Fox News Channel commentator. He was a foreign policy adviser to 2012 Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney.

John Lydon

and supported Brexit: "Well, here it goes, the working-class have spoke and I'm one of them and I'm with them." Lydon described Brexit advocate Nigel

John Joseph Lydon (LY-dʔn; born 31 January 1956), also known by his former stage name Johnny Rotten, is a British-born singer, songwriter, author, and television personality. He was the lead vocalist of the punk rock band the Sex Pistols, which was active from 1975 to 1978, and again for various revivals during the 1990s and 2000s. He is also the lead vocalist of post-punk band Public Image Ltd (PiL), which he founded and fronted from 1978 until 1993, and again since 2009.

Lydon's outspoken personality, rebellious image and fashion style convinced Sex Pistols manager Malcolm McLaren to invite Lydon to join the group as its lead vocalist. With the Sex Pistols, he co-wrote singles including "Anarchy in the U.K.", "God Save the Queen", and "Holidays in the Sun", the content of which precipitated what one commentator described as the "last and greatest outbreak of pop-based moral pandemonium" in Britain. The band scandalised much of the media, and Lydon was seen as a figurehead of the burgeoning punk movement. Due to their controversial lyrics and disrepute at the time, they are regarded as one of the most influential acts in the history of popular music.

After the Sex Pistols disbanded in 1978, Lydon founded his own band, Public Image Ltd, which was far more experimental in nature and described in a 2005 review by NME as "arguably the first post-rock group". The band produced eight studio albums and a string of singles, including "Public Image", "Death Disco", and "Rise", before they went on hiatus in 1993, reforming in 2009. In subsequent years, Lydon has hosted television series in the UK, US, and Belgium, in 2004 appeared on *I'm a Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here!* in the UK, appeared in advertisements on UK television promoting Country Life, a brand of British butter, written two autobiographies, and produced solo musical work, such as the studio album *Psycho's Path* (1997). In 2005, he released a compilation album, *The Best of British £1 Notes*.

In 2015, there was a revival of a 1980s movement to have Lydon knighted for his achievements with the Sex Pistols, although he declined an MBE for services to music. *Q* magazine remarked that "somehow he's assumed the status of national treasure".

Dua Lipa

Fit. Archived from the original on 31 July 2017. Retrieved 10 January 2021. Butler, Will (15 April 2018). "Dua Lipa speaks on Brexit, Trump and her family

Dua Lipa (DOO-ʔ LEE-pʔ; born 22 August 1995) is an English and Albanian singer, songwriter and actress. Her accolades include seven Brit Awards and three Grammy Awards.

Lipa worked as a model before venturing into music and signing with Warner Bros. in 2014. She released her eponymous debut album in 2017, which peaked at number three on the UK Albums Chart and spawned the singles "Be the One", "IDGAF", and the UK number-one single "New Rules". She was honoured with the Brit Awards for British Female Solo Artist and British Breakthrough Act in 2018. Her second UK number-one single, "One Kiss" with Calvin Harris, was the best-selling song of 2018 in the UK and won the Brit Award for Song of the Year. She later won the Grammy Award for Best New Artist and for Best Dance Recording for "Electricity" featuring Silk City in 2019.

Lipa's second album, *Future Nostalgia* (2020), became her first UK number-one album and peaked in the top-three in the US. Its lead single, "Don't Start Now", scored the longest top-ten stay for a British female artist on the UK Singles Chart and ranked in the top five on the US Billboard Hot 100 year-end chart of 2020. The album's success continued with the follow-up singles "Physical", "Break My Heart", and "Levitating", with the latter topping the Billboard year-end Hot 100 chart of 2021 and receiving a Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) Diamond certification in the US. *Future Nostalgia* won the Brit Award for British Album of the Year and the Grammy Award for Best Pop Vocal Album.

Lipa subsequently scored her third and fourth UK number-one singles with the 2021 Elton John duet "Cold Heart (Pnau remix)" and "Dance the Night" from the soundtrack of the film *Barbie* (2023), wherein she also made her acting debut. Lipa released her third studio album, *Radical Optimism* (2024), which debuted atop

the UK Albums Chart and was preceded by the UK top-ten singles "Houdini", "Training Season", and "Illusion". She also had a supporting role in the 2024 spy film *Argylle*.

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