

Britain at a Watershed

鼓動するイギリス

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Britain at a Watershed

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Preface

As ever, it is a pleasure to write for Seibido Publishing Company in collaboration with Professor Atsushi Mukuhira, with whom I have now written a number of books about the UK. Our aim as always is to help students improve their level of English by providing them with topics about Britain, which we hope they will find fresh and interesting. I think the collaboration between Atsushi and me reflects the modern age: Atsushi lives in Japan and I live in England, and we communicate via email. I sometimes wonder how difficult it would be to revert to the old-style of writing without a computer and having to depend on the postal service to send and receive materials!

Although I live in London, I keep in touch with Japan in a number of ways. One of my most wonderful experiences of the year is when I give a course of lectures in British history and culture to visiting Japanese students in the beautiful surroundings of Hertford College, Oxford. I also teach once a year in the equally beautiful setting of Como in northern Italy, where I have many friends. The organiser of the course in Como is Professor Layla Bianchi, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Layla for all her hard work in reading my writing in its early stages and making helpful suggestions.

The dominant topic in British life has been the referendum on membership of the European Union, which took place in June, 2016. As is well known, the UK electorate voted by a small margin to leave the European Union after being a member since 1973. As I write in 2017, it is far from clear, however, what form Britain's exit from the EU will take. What is clear is that the referendum on Brexit has shown Britain to be very divided on the issue. Although there is only one unit specifically about Brexit (that is, Unit 1), there are references to Brexit throughout the rest of the book, and in this way I hope to have covered the central issue in British life today.

As always, we have tried to balance the topics in the book to provide an overall view of life in modern Britain, but, at the same time, taking account of our history and traditions. I have had a lot of fun getting materials together; for example, last summer I took a wonderful trip to Cornwall – a part of the world I had not been to before, but it proved to be such an amazing experience that I was determined to share some of my enthusiasm for this part of the world with you. (Please see Unit 5.) I also visited York in pouring rain, but the weather did not dampen my enthusiasm for this beautiful city! (Please see Unit 17.)

I should like to end by saying how much I admire your dedication to learning English and to thank you for using this book.

John Randle, London, July 2017

はじめに

本書は、ロンドン在住の John Randle 氏による real / vivid / timely なエッセイに基づく総合英語テキストです。

英国事情についてすでに多数の教材を書き下ろしている Randle 氏ですが、今回のエッセイは少し趣が異なります。英国の文化・伝統や市民生活を中心にしたテーマ自体は従来のものと変わりませんが、本書では Brexit（欧州連合からの英国の離脱）という百年に一度の歴史的な大転換を間近に控えた英国社会の深層に鋭く切り込むことで、英国国民やその生活文化の根底にある精神風土をこれまで以上に鮮やかに描き出しています。

2016 年 6 月、日本では「離脱」のニュースが驚きをもって報じられました。けれども、実際にどのような変化が英国で生じ、それが日本や世界にどのような影響をもたらすかについては、いまだに不透明なままです。「それは英国でも同様」と Randle 氏は語ります。けれども同氏はロンドン在住の利点を最大限に生かし、日本から眺めるだけでは決して見つけられない多様な変化の萌芽をあぶり出しています。Brexit は確かに英国と欧州の事案ですが、その余波は必ず日本に、そして世界全体へと及び、場合によっては 21 世紀型の新たなグローバル秩序が構築される導火線になるかもしれません。すでに古希を過ぎた Randle 氏の渾身のエッセイからは、そのような洞察がにじみ出ており、まさに著者の集大成ともいえる気概と読みごたえに満ちています。

本書のセクション構成とねらいは、次のとおりです。

- ・ Warm-up

音声聴きながら画像を参照し、各 Unit のテーマに関わるイメージを広げます。

- ・ Vocabulary in Focus

各 Unit のテーマに関わる重要語を本文の中から抜き出し、事前に把握します。

- ・ Reading Comprehension

現代英国に関わる timely なエッセイを精読し、グローバルマインドを養います。

- ・ Exercises

エッセイの理解度を確認するとともに、有用な構文を復習します。

- ・ Dialogue

会話とそれに関する Q&A をもとに、背景となる情報を補強します。

皆さんがこのような学習作業に積極的に取り組まれることで、実用的な英語運用力の基礎が身につくことを期待しています。

本書の作成に際し、(株)成美堂の菅野英一氏と佐藤公雄氏には多大なご助力をいただきました。また、Bill Benfield 氏にはいつもながら的確な英文校閲を行っていただきました。お三方に改めて感謝の意を表したいと思います。

2017 年 8 月 英国メイ首相来日の日

椋平 淳

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The Brexit Referendum

日本ではあまりなじみがない国民投票（referendum）ですが、英国でも事情は同じです。国民投票にかけるようなテーマは概して、議会だけでは判断が難しい問題であるため、明解な道筋を求めて投票が行われます。けれども、そのような微妙な問題ならばなおさら、世論を二分する危険もあるわけで、実施にはそれ相当の覚悟が求められるのです。

// Warm-up

CD ①02, 03

音声を聴いて、写真の説明として適切なものを選びましょう。

1.



(a)

(b)

(c)

2.



(a)

(b)

(c)

// Vocabulary in Focus

次の英語に対応する日本語を選びましょう。

1. constitutional ()

a. 交渉する

2. independent ()

b. 辞職する

3. be better off (doing) ()

c. 立憲上の

4. immigration ()

d. ～する方がよい

5. resign ()

e. 独立した

6. negotiate ()

f. 移民

Referendums are not common in British political life. However, on rare occasions, they have been used to decide important constitutional questions. There was, for example, a referendum in Scotland in 2014 to decide whether the country should be independent or not. Most recently, on 23rd June, 2016, a referendum was held throughout the UK to decide whether the UK should remain in the EU. The result came as a shock to most people in the UK and to many people around the world, and could prove to be a defining moment or watershed in British history.



A sign pointing to a polling station, where people go to vote

10

15

The British people voted by 52 per cent to 48 per cent to leave the EU. The two sides in the campaign leading up to the referendum were the Remain side, who said Britain should not leave the EU, and those favouring Brexit – a word combining “Br” from Britain and “exit” (that is, exit from the EU). The Remainers said it would be foolish to leave a large and successful trading bloc like the EU. Brexiteers said Britain would

be better off making its own decisions regarding the economy and questions like immigration.

20

In fact, immigration came to be a major issue in the election and may probably be the reason the Brexit side won. Large numbers of people, particularly in poorer areas of the country, voted for Brexit because they believed the UK would be able to exercise tighter control over immigration. They were afraid of competition from immigrants for jobs, housing and places in education.

25



David Cameron has told the world he will resign as Prime Minister.

Areas with a younger population, good jobs and better education tended to 30
vote “Remain”. So, for example, the university towns of Oxford and
Cambridge voted heavily to remain in the EU.

David Cameron, the prime minister who had called the referendum
and who had been confident there would be a decision to remain, resigned
a few weeks after the result. He was replaced by Theresa May. It is up to 35
May to negotiate Britain’s exit from the EU and to find for the UK a new
position in the world, which everyone agrees will not be an easy task!

Notes

EU (= European Union) 「欧州連合」 defining moment 「決定的な瞬間」 watershed
「分水嶺」 Remain side 「残留派」 Remainer 「残留派 (の人)」 Brexiteer 「離脱派
(の人)」 David Cameron 「デービッド・キャメロン」 (1966-, 首相在任: 2010-16)
confident 「自信を持つ」 Theresa May 「テリーザ・メイ」 (1956-, 首相在任: 2016-)

Exercises

① *Reading Comprehension* の内容と一致するものには T (True) を、一致し
ないものには F (False) を記入しましょう。

1. () Referendums are very common in British political life.
2. () The referendum held on 23rd June, 2016, was to decide whether
Scotland should be independent or not.
3. () The result of the referendum on 23rd June, 2016 came as a big
shock both in the UK and overseas.
4. () Remainers wanted the UK to remain in the European Union, and
Brexiteers wanted the UK to leave the European Union.
5. () The writer says that, in the referendum, the university towns of
Oxford and Cambridge voted the same way.

② []内の語句を適切な語順に並べ、英文を完成させましょう。

1. A referendum was held in June, 2016 in the UK to _____
_____ or to leave the EU.

[decide, in, stay, to, whether]

2. The word _____ two parts: “Br” from
Britain plus “exit”.

[is, “Brexit”, made, of, up]

3. One _____ the campaign was
immigration: the Brexit side wanted tighter controls.

[in, issues, major, of, the]

4. The university towns of Oxford and _____
_____ majority to remain in the EU.

[a, by, Cambridge, large, voted]

5. David Cameron _____ and was
replaced by Theresa May as the new prime minister.

[after, Brexit, resigned, result, the]

■ Briefing on the EU ■

英国が離脱を決めた EU（欧州連合）とは、どんな組織でしょうか。加盟国は 2017 年現在、英国を含めて 28 カ国。1993 年に発効したマーストリヒト条約により発足し、ユーロへの通貨統合と、政策・外交・司法の統一を柱に掲げた共同体です。前身となる欧州経済共同体（EEC）や欧州共同体（EC）は主に経済分野での地域連携を進めていましたが、それを外交や司法の分野まで拡大し、より総合的な性格を帯びることになりました。EU 全体としては人口 5 億人超、GDP は世界の 5 分の 1 を占める巨大な経済圏を構成します。

EU 諸国の中で、英国はドイツに次いで第 2 位の GDP を誇り、EU 全体の 6 分の 1 です。経済の大きさから、EU への拠出金はドイツ、フランス、イタリアに次いで第 4 位で、全体の 10% 超です。こうした支出が EU 内の小国救済に使用されたり、また域内失業者の受け入れ国としての役割を背負うなど、理不尽な関係性が英国国民の間に反感を蓄積させてきたとも言われています。

とはいえ、英国は世界有数の強国。新たな世界構造に向けて、どのようなリーダーシップを発揮するのでしょうか。

Dialogue

 ①06

① 次の会話の音声を聴いて、下線部に入る語句（各3語）を書き取りましょう。

Two students, Jane and Pierre, are talking about the Brexit result.

Pierre: I come from France, and people there (1) _____
_____ British people voted to leave the EU.

Jane: Yes, I agree. The result came as a big shock.

Pierre: Can I ask? Were you happy with the result?

Jane: Well, personally, I wasn't happy, (2) _____
_____.

Pierre: Why do you say that?

Jane: Well, (3) _____ the north, and a lot of
people there were not happy about the EU.

Pierre: Well, I'm sad Britain is leaving the EU.

Jane: But Britain and France will still be friends and neighbours!

② ①の会話に関する Q&A を聴いて、適切な答えを選びましょう。 ①07, 08, 09

1. _____?
a. The north of England b. France c. We are not told.
2. _____?
a. She was happy and surprised.
b. She was surprised and sad.
c. She was not happy and not surprised.
3. _____?
a. Britain and France
b. Jane and Pierre
c. The north and the south of England