

Independence Day, UK

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What does the “Brexit” mean for Canada? Yesterday, the United Kingdom voted by referendum to leave the European Union (EU). Many conservatives are applauding this outcome. It means a step away from globalism. It also means an opportunity for increased trade for Canada.

The referendum was very close—51.9% to 48.1%! There will be challenges on a social level with many hurt feelings on both sides. On an economic level, the results have also been negative immediately following this decision. Implementing the result in a responsible manner will also be difficult. But when contrasted with the high costs and lives lost in other independence struggles, this campaign was, thankfully, peaceful for the most part.

What was gained and what was lost? Independence from the rest of Europe was gained. This means that the country will again control its own borders and be the ‘master of its own house’. This is good. Countries should be good neighbours of each other, but should not dictate ‘house rules’ to each other. Britain has faced social upheaval in the last few years due to the open borders policy of the EU. A wave of Muslim immigrants—among them many with radical beliefs—has caused some areas of London to become more like Islamic mini-regimes and less like neighbourhoods in a western democracy. Many Britons had had enough of this!

A certain measure of economic stability was lost, at least in the short term. Those on the side of the ‘remain’ campaign say that the economy will go into recession and there will be long term negative consequences. This is possible, but they will be free to pursue their own interests and this may improve their situation in the long-term.

Since joining the European Union, Great Britain became a more socialistic country. This was already happening, but another layer of government and bureaucracy probably accelerated it. Britain needs to do more than exit the EU; it needs to set an example for Canada and return to the Christian heritage both countries share. Like Canada, Britain needs to return to more individual responsibility and smaller government, respect for the life of the pre-born, and recognition of the nuclear family as the basic foundation of society.

What does this decision mean for the CHP? It sends a hopeful message. The United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) made this idea— independence from the EU—a key part of what they stand for. This newer party, which has never formed government, has achieved a huge victory with this result. They won without forming government. They won through influence, not power. Let’s consider this and take heart! We also have influence; let’s use it!

Let us also pray that Great Britain rediscovers its Christian heritage on a socio-political and cultural level and— more importantly—on a personal, spiritual level. They are a country with a rich history but in need of some basic soul-searching. Canada has similar needs; we need to bear the burden with them especially with our prayers.

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