

Brexit 101 – what’s it all about – [click here for a fuller discussion](#)

In some respects, the vote boiled down to economic uncertainty versus national sovereignty.

You see, the EU is both an economic and political union. Member states enjoy the benefits of free trade, i.e., the free flow of goods and services across borders. Now that the UK appears poised to exit the EU, trade deals and the vast complexities of an exit must be negotiated.

Further, large companies that set up shop in London, using their address as a gateway into the EU, may find other host countries more beneficial. Simply put, layoffs and empty buildings dampen investment and consumer spending, which, at worst, can lead to a recession.

But membership has its costs, and nations in the EU sometimes find themselves burdened by the whims of the European Parliament.

Today, immigration is the biggest concern facing UK voters, and member nations must accept anyone who is a citizen of the EU.

It’s this open-door immigration policy that has rubbed some folks the wrong way. As a colleague who is both a citizen of the UK and the U.S. explained to me, many in his home country dislike EU rules that require British taxpayers to finance welfare benefits to those who immigrate to the UK.

In a nutshell, what voters viewed as onerous regulations and their impact on national sovereignty trumped the economic uncertainty a Brexit might cause.