# A Perfect Storm Coming to EU in 2019:

# A Case Study of Brexit, Immigration, and Recession

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# **ABSTRACT**

Right after the devastated World War II, the European countries established a close political economic relationship by creating the European Union. Over the past 60 years, the European Union has accomplished tremendous achievements. Honestly, since the establishment of the EU, many challenges have come from political, economic, cultural and international relations aspects. To cope with those crises, each member states must work together.

This paper discussed the main crisis facing the EU in 2019 and selected three issues for further elaboration – Brexit, Immigration, and Recession.

First, in 2016, the UK citizens voted to leave the European Union, and this led to the huge crisis. Pessimists believe that the Brexit may trigger a chain reaction, allowing other member states to follow a similar referendum.

Second, the eurozone crisis has existed since beginning. The bankrupt of Greek in 2010 has been a big problem lasted for many years, EU designates a lot of budgeting to help them, but the situation stays still.

Third, the wave of refugee became the most serious problem in Europe since World War II. The EU still cannot reach consensus and create a well-defined and effective policy to solve the crisis. Until now, 2019, the migration problem remains unsolvable.

The EU is an important world economy and an important core of world political stability. If the EU cannot properly handle their crisis, then the world will face the challenges of turmoil and uneasiness. This paper provided comprehensive analysis to understand and deal with the European crisis in 2019.

Keywords: European Union, Brexit, Immigration, Recession

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# INTRODUCTION

# **Background**

The idea of European Union originated on March 25, 1957. The first attempt of forming a cross-continental institution called European Economic Community consisting of Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and West Germany. Right after the devastated World War II, the six countries hope to establish a close political economic relationship between France and Germany by establishing the European Union and avoiding the potential conflicts between the two countries. Over the past 60 years, the European Union has accomplished tremendous achievements. France and Germany, along with Britain have been the main driving force for the development of the European Union. They have tried their best to eliminate the trade barriers of various countries and set up a huge single market; as result, goods, capital, services and personnel can be freely circulated. Moreover, issuing national currency is the most essential symbol of relinquishing sovereignty, but the EU has successfully persuaded member states in the Europe to accept the new identity. In 1999s, 13 EU member states agreed to replace their national currency with the euro and in 2019 there are already 19 out of 28 EU member states. In this case, it provides a good opportunity for further integration. The member states can trade easily with less trade barrier. Therefore, they can move forward for economic integration, and the member states are more interdependent and interconnected. They become an economic unity, and share the commonwealth, forming a much more unified Europe.<sup>2</sup>

Since the establishment of the EU, many challenges have come from political, economic, cultural and international relations aspects. For example, financial and debt crisis, membership

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> European Union, "About the EU," 25/03/2019, accessed in May 13rd 2019, <a href="https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu\_en?fbclid=IwAR1NhciOphC210YOIwZfQy-XfC8FcPM\_g\_ZhaXBOOBVZgRTrlls65qHT5AQ">https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu\_en?fbclid=IwAR1NhciOphC210YOIwZfQy-XfC8FcPM\_g\_ZhaXBOOBVZgRTrlls65qHT5AQ</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> BBC, "What is the EU and how does it work?,", accessed in Mar 24th, http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zgjwtyc

controversy, Russian threat, democracy deficit and immigration issue all hampered the further integration of Europe. Over the years, the EU has come up with new ways to deal with new crises, but the challenges came forward one after one. To cope with those crises, each member states have to work together and conduct further not only economic integration but also political integration. And it is also very important to achieve political consistency and come up with an effective policy to deal with those crises. In the year of 2019, the road ahead of EU integration is still rough and rocky.<sup>3</sup> The EU government still has to face those challenges and find out a way to deal with it.

This paper is going to discuss the main crisis facing the EU in 2019. This paper selected three issues for further elaboration – Brexit, Immigration, and Recession.

In 2016, the UK citizens voted to leave the European Union, and this led to the huge crisis, because after the UK decided to leave the European Union, there were divergent views on the future development of the EU. Pessimists believe that the Brexit may trigger a chain reaction, allowing other member states to follow a similar referendum. The optimists believe that if the United Kingdom really leaves the EU, it may also promote the unity of the other 27 member states and promote EU reform.<sup>4</sup>

The eurozone crisis has existed since beginning, they didn't set up a complete method to manage budget. Also, the bankrupt of Greek has been a big problem for many years, EU designates a lot of budgeting to help them, but the situation stays still. United Kingdom is one of main character in EU, with German and France, they are the most important resource of money. United Kingdom is leaving EU now, they will face the lack of money resource, they

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The Guardian, "The European Union has bigger problems to deal with than Brexit," 25/03/2019, accessed in Mar 24th,

 $<sup>\</sup>underline{https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/mar/24/the-europe-union-has-bigger-problems-to-deal-with-than-branks-bigger-problems-to-deal-with-branks-bigger-problems-bigger-problems-to-deal-with-branks-bigger-problems-bigger-problems-bigger-problems-bigger-problems-bigger-problems-$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> BBC, "European parliament elections: The Brexit effect," 22/05/2019, accessed in Jun 15th 2019, https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-48364626

have to find another way to fulfill the shortage.<sup>5</sup>

Furthermore, in recent years, the biggest crisis for the EU has been the Refugees crisis of 2015. The wave of European refugee that erupted in 2015 became the most serious refugee crisis in Europe since World War II. The EU still cannot reach consensus and create a well-defined and effective polity to solve the crisis; and the slow progress in how migrants who have already entered Europe are resettled. Until now, 2019, the migration problem remains unsolvable.<sup>6</sup>

The EU is an important world economy and an important core of world political stability. If the EU cannot properly handle their crisis, then the world will face the challenges of turmoil and uneasiness. Therefore, we must find out how the EU deals with the crisis.

### **Motivation**

The three crisis is a serious problem in recent year, these problems will ultimately affect the unification of Europe. The most important is the political form of the country within EU or EU itself. Political form can determine the attribution of national sovereignty, especially on economic and burden safety. For instance, EU dominates the distribution rights of the currency, therefore, countries that use the euro will be subject to the EU's norms, which is the political influence of the economy. Moreover, between the member states of the European Union, manpower can move freely without restraint. This is the best example of political influence on border security, and the political pattern is also a very serious problem in the EU recently. The voices supporting nationalism have slowly risen, and the EU has experienced

https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/mar/24/the-europe-union-has-bigger-problems-to-deal-with-than-b

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The Guardian, "The European Union has bigger problems to deal with than Brexit," 24/03/2019, accessed in Jan 29th 2019,

https://www.thoguardian.com/business/2019/mar/24/the aurope union has bigger problems to deal with then become the deal with then become the deal with the problems.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> European Commission, "THE EU AND THE MIGRATION CRISIS," 25/03/2019, accessed in Jun 2019, http://publications.europa.eu/webpub/com/factsheets/migration-crisis/en/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> European Union, "How big is the EU economy?," 25/03/2019, accessed in April 11th 2019, https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/figures/economy\_en

serious turmoil after the financial turmoil. Europeans have gradually lost confidence in the EU.

Among these three issues, we can see the fundamental problems of the EU and the attitudes presented in the face of these challenges. This paper may allow more people to understand the real core issues facing the EU.

# **Research Question**

This study is to analyze the three major crises facing the EU 2019, immigration, Brexit, and economic recession. These problems not only ignited the whole of Europe, but also influenced each other. In the global economic environment, these issues are worthy of further discussion.

Research question1: What is the strength and problem of EU?

Research question2: What are the cause, process and resolution of the refugee crisis, economic depression and the Brexit problem?

# **Research Purpose**

Due to the Brexit and economic recession in the UK in recent years, the problem of immigration has become more and more serious, and the public's comments have been mixed. The researchers need to explore the reasons behind the formation. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to identify potential problems in the EU itself and how the EU affects the European economy and other issues.

### Contribution

The research paper shows that the advantages and disadvantages of EU, the researcher found out that there are political problems between EU and the members. Thus, the researcher digs into the political form of EU and noticed the two power of the nationalism and supranationalism. Political also infects economic and culture, the researcher collects data and tries to give a fair paper. Readers can know more on EU's history or the three problem that infect EU, no matter which one of them, is a key point to better understanding about EU.

# Limits

It may be difficult to obtain the first version of every media released by EU members, due to the language problems; there are too many kinds of languages used in Europe.

Furthermore, due to the excessive number of news about the EU, it is not possible to read and analyze all relevant documents before they have been screened.

### **Delimits**

Although it is impossible to obtain the original news of all member states, this paper is still as fair as possible in gathering information. Whether it is leftwing, rightwing or middle position news, all of them are after reading and sorting through the same screening process, then create a complete database.

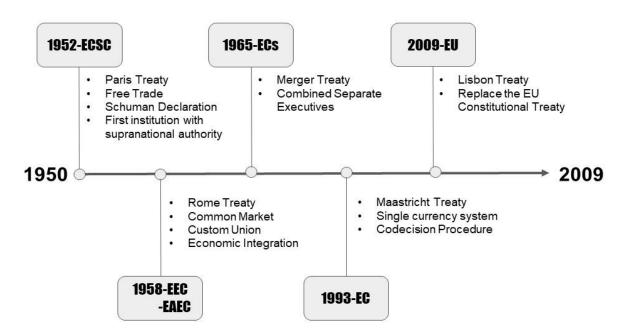
In order to solve the problem of too much data, the researchers will through the consistent screening process to reduce the data to the number that can be read. First, the three news websites will use the EU crisis as a keyword, second, use relevance to sort and third, setting the time between January 1, 2019 to July 31, 2019. Finally, the searched results are read, analyzed, classified and built into a database.

# LITERATURE REVIEW

This section began with the historical discussion of European Union. The official website provided comprehensive data ....and this section is based on the data.

# **Europe form Unity after the War**

Figure 1- Early EU



With the ruined European continent, the member states decided to prevent the next war from happening. By the means of promoting economic integration, Europe achieves the peace consensus. Therefore, there were six countries established the European Economic Coal and Steel Community in 1951.<sup>8</sup> The function of coal and steel are used for making or producing weapon, they want to co-management to prevent anyone from invade others. The main countries are as follows:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> European Union, "A peaceful Europe – the beginnings of cooperation," 23/05/2019, accessed in May 13rd 2019,

https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/history\_en#eu-pioneers

The member states, ECSC, included West Germany, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Italy, and the Netherlands. The purpose of the member states, ECSC, was trying to promote free trade and let the members to become more connected and interdependent. The transparency to the production of coal and steel can make the member states become more trustworthy, also it can increase cooperation on internal security.<sup>9</sup>

## **Process of EU**

Due to the success of ECSC, they decided to establish a common market. After signing the "Rome Treaty", six member states established the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community in 1957. The purpose of the member states, EEC, was trying to bring about economic integration, including a common market and customs union. This economic organization was trying to defend peace and freedom and fulfill the goal of economic growth and balance the development among the European. Trying to establish the common market was to ease the fear of starting war between each other and lay a closer alliance foundation for the European people. <sup>10</sup>

The purpose of member states, EAEC, was trying to create a specialist market of nuclear energy under the Euratom Treaty. By developing nuclear energy to distribute it to member states and sell surplus to non-member states. According to a French engineer, Louis Armand, his report concluded that further development of nuclear energy like this can fill the deficit brought by the exhaustion of coal sediment and selling the surplus to the other countries. <sup>11</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA, "European Coal and Steel Community," accessed in June 13rd 2019, https://www.britannica.com/topic/European-Coal-and-Steel-Community

The Library of Economics and Liberty, "The Concise Encyclopedia of Economics European Economic Community," accessed in June 13rd 2019, https://www.econlib.org/library/Enc1/EuropeanEconomicCommunity.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Think Tank, "European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) - Structures and tools," 08/09/2017, accessed in June 13rd 2019,

At the same time, the member states also established the Custom Union. The purpose of member states, Custom Union, is the main component of European Union and there are no tariffs and reduce non-tariff barriers to trade between members of Custom Union. Throughout the custom union, it creates favorable conditions for the mutual export of products among member states. This policy not only make producers reduce costs and enjoy economies of scale but further enhance the competitiveness of enterprises within the alliance, especially for non-member countries. <sup>12</sup>

# **Problems during the Process**

Unfortunately, the road to integration with the EU is not completely smooth. During the 1960s, France tried to limit supranational power and rejected Britain as member state, making tensions gradually emerge. Nevertheless, in 1965, an agreement was reached through the Merger Treaty to merge three communities on 1 July 1967, which were called as the European Communities. By the establishment of a set of institutions, it combined three organizations into a single institutional structure, including EEC, EAEC and ECSC. <sup>13</sup>

Furthermore, the Communities were expanded to include Denmark, Ireland and Britain in 1973. The first direct election of the European Parliament was held in 1979.

Moreover, Greece joined in 1981. In 1985, the Schengen agreement was signed by five European countries, included Belgium, West Germany, France, Luxembourg and Netherlands.

# The "Schengen Agreement"

The purpose of Schengen Agreement was trying to abolish internal border checks of Europe's Schengen Area. Therefore, anyone holding a valid identity card or visa from any

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Think Tank, "European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) - Structures and tools," 08/09/2017, accessed in June 13rd 2019,

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS\_BRI%282017%29608665

European Union, "A period of economic growth," 23/05/2019, accessed in May 13rd 2019, https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/history en

member state can move freely in all member states. In addition to free movement, it also promotes exchanges among member states and a better understanding of each other's culture, hoping to reduce discrimination and hatred in this way.<sup>14</sup>

# Systems of EU

In 1986, Portugal and Spain also followed. Simultaneously, the European Economic Community began to use the European flag and signed the Single European Act.

The European Commission is the government office of one of the four major institutions of the European Coal and Steel Community established by the Paris Treaty of 1951.

The European Commission is the executive body of the EU political system and is responsible for implementing the decisions of the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament. In addition, the European Commission can make recommendations on legal provisions, policy measures and projects by exercising its initiatives. The European Commission is a supranational institution independent of its member states, whose members serve the entire EU rather than their respective member states.<sup>15</sup>

The Council of the European Union is a council of ministers from governments of 28 EU member states, so after the signing of the Rome Treaty in 2004, it is often referred to as the "Ministerial Council" and the aim is to distinguish it from the governor of the EU summit, the head of state or government. The Council of European and the European Parliament are the main decision-making body of the European Union.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> European Commission, "Schengen Area," 16/06/2019, accessed in May 16rd 2019, https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/borders-and-visas/schengen\_en\_en\_

European Commission, "What the European Commission does," 29/04/2019, accessed in May 13rd 2019, <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/about-european-commission/what-european-commission-does\_en">https://ec.europa.eu/info/about-european-commission/what-european-commission-does\_en</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> European Union, "Council of the European Union," 29/04/2019, accessed in May 13rd 2019, https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/institutions-bodies/council-eu\_en

# **Impact of the Environment on Politics**

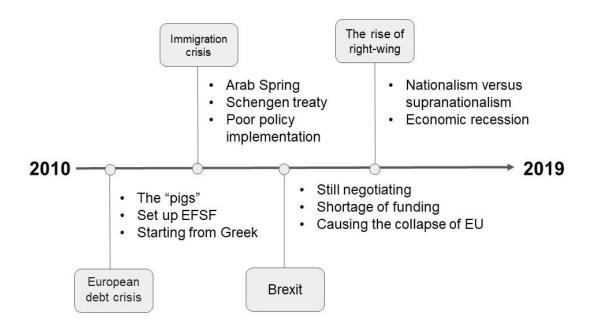
Because the geographical environment in Europe is very special, the countries are connected to each other and affect the policies of many countries. Immigration has always been a top priority for all European countries, and it has been debated for a long time whether to open immigrants or not.

Before the establishment of the European Union, countries had their own norms, but after the establishment of the EU, the EU called on countries to accept a large number of refugees, but only on paper, no actual policies, and there is no unity among the various member states. Except Germany, it is the country that accepts the most immigrants. However, not every country has the means to bear a large number of immigrants. Different countries have begun to produce different voices. Even people from different countries have different opinions. <sup>17</sup> They can be classified into two types. Intergovernmental and Supranational.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> BBC, "Migrant crisis: EU 'must accept 200,000 refugees', UN says,"04/09/2015, accessed in May 13rd 2019, https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34148891

### Main Problem of EU

Figure 2- EU until now



The three major structural problems of the EU are politics, economy and culture.

The EU is currently one of the largest economies in the world, and member states give part of their rights to the organization, mainly for the economy. The main organizations of the European Union are the European Commission, the European Council, the European Summit, the European Parliament and the European Court of Justice. The European Commission is the executive body of the EU political system and is responsible for implementing the decisions of the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament. In addition, the European Commission can make recommendations on legal provisions, policy measures and projects by exercising its initiative. The European Commission is a supranational institution independent of its member states, whose members serve the entire EU rather than their respective member states. These designs make the EU more and more like a federal state. <sup>18</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> European Constitution.eu, "Understanding and reforming institutions,", accessed in May 13rd 2019, <a href="https://europeanconstitution.eu/understanding-and-reforming-institutions">https://europeanconstitution.eu/understanding-and-reforming-institutions</a>

In fact, the EU has problems in the initial design. Their economic integration is too fast, but the political integration power is not enough, so it is difficult to have a complete structure. Although the EU is a concept similar to the federal government, those member states have the important powers of diplomacy, taxation, and national defense in their hands. The EU is equal to the group that has greater influence than the general international organizations but is smaller than the state. In short, countries They can't interfere with each other, only the relationship of trade. And there is no strict punishment mechanism for Member States not complying with the regulations implemented by the EU, resulting in the EU being just a shell-like existence.<sup>19</sup>

After the establishment of such a huge commercial map, the EU has neglected to let the people identify with the EU in essence, that is, to culturally empower the people. In Europe, each country has different official languages. The political form is also different, and it needs to be reformed from the most basic culture to make the EU a true one.<sup>20</sup>

The strength of the EU members is not equal. Some regions have higher productivity, while others are dominated by agriculture. Stronger countries will think that they have the ability to survive on their own and do not need help. The United Kingdom is one of them; but relatively speaking, for countries like Greece that are already bankrupt, they need other countries to rectify their economies. The EU has already had several financial aids for this, but there has been no improvement at all. Therefore, for a prosperous country, these crises will slow down their development, so the contradictions between countries have become deeper and deeper, and they have evolved into events like the Brexit.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Feminism, "The real crisis of European multiculturalism.,"20/09/2017, accessed in May 13rd 2019, <a href="https://www.thenation.com/article/the-culture-veil/">https://www.thenation.com/article/the-culture-veil/</a>

The Guardian, "The real danger to Europe? The lost sense of a common cause," 24/10/2018, accessed in May 13rd 2019.

https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/oct/24/true-threat-to-europe-lost-sense-of-common-cause

### Problem with EU's Member

Since most of the funding sources are Germany, the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, and Austria, they play the main character in the EU. Like the Greek debt crisis, the choice of tightening policies, the subsequent economic stagnation, unemployment rate and other issues have also caused dissatisfaction in many countries, so that the EU's decree is difficult to implement. <sup>21</sup>On the political front, due to the autonomy between countries, the EU's sustainable development is full of uncertainty. In recent years, the EU's economy has begun to decline, the people cannot enjoy the benefits brought by the EU, and the voice of the rightists has begun to grow. In the early days of its establishment, the European Union publish the Euro as a unified currency, which can be used among EU member states, reducing the burden on travelers, because there is no need to worry about the exchange rate, save a lot of money, and expand the business of many companies, but at the same time, there is a problem. For different countries to maintain the same interest rate, the EU's policies may have an impact on the economically weak countries, which means that the loss of state autonomy, may be used by some people. The rightists emphasize the autonomy of the economy and national sovereignty, and the national interests are greater than the organization. The left is just the opposite. Germany is a complete leftist in the EU economy. Historically, Germany has been a communist-dominated country since the Second World War, so it is similar to the EU. The EU's initial goal was to start from Europe, to build a European republican economy, and then to become a common economy all over the world. Therefore, the left-wing countries will be committed to implementing EU policies, assisting and promoting their own influence. Pulling on other countries.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> EU Law Enforcement, "I Why the implementation of European Union law is more than just a question of legal compliance,"30/06/2017, accessed in May 13rd 2019, http://eulawenforcement.com/?p=339

Democracy Now, "EU Parliamentary Elections: Left and Far-Right Parties Gain as Centrists Falter," 28/05/2019, accessed in June 15th 2019, https://www.democracynow.org/2019/5/28/eu parliamentary elections left and far

# Discussion of EU's Problem

The above content is only the tip of the iceberg. Looking at the history of the entire human race, groups like the European Union are very rare. As long as you pay membership fees and you can join the EU after the agreement of the council, the membership is only because of business. Exchanges, tariff reductions, currency circulation of these benefits, rather than fundamental reasons, such as cultural identity; when a member begins to have no economic benefits, there is no reason to continue cooperation. The UK is only the first to erupt. In the near future, there may be more Member States making the same decision.

The EU's annual budget issue is also one of them. Every year the EU budgets, including the development of the agricultural and technology industry. <sup>23</sup>Budget review is subject to the consent of each member country, so it takes a lot of time, even Many countries use other issues to delay or even evade. And the budget is only 1% of GDP, not enough to pay the annual cost. In addition to the Brexit incident, the EU's budget must be improved in the future, and it is enough to achieve the overall science and technology and national defense development without sacrificing agriculture aims. In the budget, the percentage of agriculture and other technology industries has also caused many people to start to question. These problems are urgently needed by the EU. The EU does not have its own tax revenue. The income depends on the payment of various member states. It is mainly undertaken by Germany, the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, and Austria. These economically sound countries bear the responsibility. <sup>24</sup>The EU, as a large non-state organization, has no comprehensive measures to cooperate with the whole. The economy is weak, and the national defense has been affected by terrorist attacks. More and more member states have voiced rightists. The rise of populism has made Europe gradually move toward splitting.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> European Union, "How the EU budget is spent,"13/02/2017, accessed in May 13rd 2019, <a href="https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/eu-budget/expenditure\_en">https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/eu-budget/expenditure\_en</a>

European Union, "Taxation," 06/05/2017, accessed in May 13rd 2019, https://europa.eu/european-union/topics/taxation en

# Opposition of Intergovernmental and Supranational

In the development process of the EU, there are always problems between the two parties. Nationalism advocates that countries adhere to their own sovereignty while cooperating, but supranationalism holds the opposite opinion and hopes to transfer the sovereignty of its own country. The EU exercises together to establish a joint government.

Nationalism believes that the reason for setting up such an institution is to solve international problems more efficiently. Some small organizations even solve problems between the two countries, and usually set up some international treaties or agreements to solve them. The problem is that such an agreement or regulation can only be regarded as the effect of advice or opinion, and it cannot be mandatory to regulate the member states; supranationalism advocates the establishment of an organization with more power than all member states to manage all members and share All resources. Transnationalism advocates the establishment of a complete constitutional measure, so it must have certain political, national defense, and economic capabilities, emphasizing overall integration.<sup>25</sup>

# **Future of EU**

The EU did not have many members at the beginning of its establishment, but as the economy grew, the EU continued to expand and let new members join, pursuing a European community, but ignoring the interests of most countries, like living in a beautiful dream. As a result, development has become one of the reasons for Brexit. Many Member States have stopped the "Schengen Treaty" even because of the tide of refugees, preventing mutual exchanges between countries and halting the growth of the EU. <sup>26</sup>After the Second World War,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> The Euroculturer, "Introducing the European Union: Between Supranationalism and Intergovernmentalism,"04/11/2013, accessed in May 13rd 2019, https://euroculturer.eu/2013/11/04/introducing-the-european-union-between-supranationalism-and-intergovernm entalism/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> European Council On Foreign Relations, "THE FUTURE OF SCHENGEN," accessed in June 15th 2019, https://www.ecfr.eu/specials/scorecard/schengen\_flash\_scorecard

Europe continued to promote integration and brought long-lasting peace and prosperity to Europe. However, in recent years, the EU's terrorist attacks in democracy and efficiency, the state and the supranational, and Europe itself have gradually exposed the potential crisis of the EU. Although the EU has taken a lot of policy, the effect has been very limited. The current crisis is largely due to the fact that the EU has expanded too fast, and the EU is bound to become more rigorous in the future, preventing more member states from lost confidence in the EU.<sup>27</sup>

For the European people, what really disappoints them is not the crisis they face, but the entire EU. Countries have different opinions on refugees, and it is difficult to achieve reunification. Germany and France believe that the mobile economy is good for them, but Hungary and other countries believe that it is difficult to integrate into the local religion. The refugee crisis has caused serious security and economic problems in Europe. <sup>28</sup>The Schengen Convention stipulates that countries can eliminate border control and bring convenience. On the other hand, Europe has become the first choice for refugees. The number of years of smuggling from Greece to Africa Years have risen. Until now, hundreds of thousands of refugees have flowed into Europe every year. These refugees come from different regions, religious beliefs, and the European people have security concerns. Will Europe become the next terrorist hotbeds? There have been many incidents in refugee camps between countries. On the evening of November 13, 2015, a series of terrorist attacks in Paris, France, killed more than 130 people, and the murderer was a refugee who entered Europe in 2015, making this incident a classic example of terrorism. Europeans began to criticize refugees. Related measures will make terrorism prevalent in Europe, and the EU's policy is to open up the door to Europe. After hosting these refugees, because ethnic and religious conflicts have become more

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> European Central Bank, "Having confidence in Europe," 26/09/2016, accessed in June 15th 2019, https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/key/date/2016/html/sp160926\_1.en.html

Deutsch welle, "Refugee crisis could be 'stroke of luck in German history,' says ex-president" 19/06/2019, accessed in Jun 15th 2019.

https://www.dw.com/en/refugee-crisis-could-be-stroke-of-luck-in-german-history-says-ex-president/a-49262489

and more fierce, the annual influx of Muslims in Germany has become a nightmare for residents. Some German women even changed their clothes to suit the living habits of immigrants. Pass through a short skirt to avoid conflict.<sup>29</sup> Germany even changed the shelter into a refugee camp, which led to a surge in the number of wanderers in Germany. Among the EU members, each country has certain quotas, but the UK has adopted a tougher attitude toward this policy. Many countries have called for increased patrols on the coastline, as well as fingerprint identification and follow-up of refugees to prevent human trafficking occur. These phenomena have triggered the overall democratic deficit of the EU. More and more people are dissatisfied with the expansion of the EU and the increase of immigrants. Coupled with the internal leadership of the EU, young people are losing confidence in the EU, in the tide of globalization. Under the Europeans, which should have been united, they fell apart because of the refugee crisis. The EU, which has always been dominated by humanitarianism, has ushered in a major turning point. As the opposition has soared, the refugee crisis has lifted the power of the right wing, which in turn has pushed the EU's policy shift.

Since many countries have autonomy, the EU is facing the problem that the opinions of various countries cannot be unified. In the beginning of the European Union, unlike the current large number of parliaments and institutions, as the EU gradually expanded, a series of institutions were established that contradicted the ideas of countries such as the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom originally wanted to achieve economic benefits through free trade through the EU, but for countries with a communist background like Germany, they would prefer to hand over sovereignty to the EU and achieve full EU integration. The Schengen Treaty has caused the loss of national defense security at the border between member states, but the EU has no perfect military force to safeguard Europe's security and national

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> BBC, "Migrant crisis: Migration to Europe explained in seven charts" 04/03/2016, accessed in Jun 15th 2019, https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34131911

defense.<sup>30</sup> After the unification of the currency, it has brought more trade opportunities to the countries, but it also brought many negative effects to the EU. The price fluctuations of different countries have same exchange rates. Countries with economic disadvantage such as Greece are more likely to have a debt crisis.<sup>31</sup> Although the EU has given a lot of help to these countries, it cannot be fundamentally resolved because the economic strength of countries is not equal; it may also cause the free rider problem. For example, the rich countries such as Germany and France have relatively stable prices, using common currencies to make them more powerful. But at the same time, it also represents they are sharing the same risk of euro. The United Kingdom initially chose not to use the euro as a common currency, and the EU lacks substantial institutional power to unify policies among member states. These problems are also about nationalism and supranationalism, EU needs to find a balance between each country.

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Spiegel, "Italy Doubles Down on Threat to Euro Stability" 04/03/2016, accessed in Aug 5th 2019,
 <a href="https://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/blackmail-from-italy-could-create-next-euro-crisis-a-1235928.html">https://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/blackmail-from-italy-could-create-next-euro-crisis-a-1235928.html</a>
 Spiegel, "The Time to Act Is Now" 04/03/2016, accessed in Aug 5th 2019,

https://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/italy-poses-serious-threats-to-eurozone-a-1211088.html

**Table 1- Strength and Problem of EU** 

Strength	Problem	
<ul> <li>Peace and security</li> <li>Policy integration</li> <li>Market enlargement</li> <li>International competitiveness</li> <li>European standard</li> <li>New European cultural</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Democracy deficit</li> <li>Conflict of sovereign state</li> <li>Free rider</li> <li>Organizational inefficiency</li> <li>Clash of culture</li> <li>Damage of locality</li> </ul>	

The literature review concluded with the Table 4. And the data analysis part will follow these twelve points to further elaborate the European crisis.

# **METHODOLOGY**

# An Overview

To analyze the problem of the EU, this paper will focus on the three major crisis.

Since the EU is an organization between nationalism and supranationalism, each country has its own sovereignty and its development is different. This paper will analyze several countries and understand the economies of each country. From these aspects, such as economic, political and cultural impact on the EU, and from the historical track of the EU to explore the current EU policy and the causes of the current situation.

The researchers selected three news sources as The Guardian, Spiegel, Independent, and the number of samples taken by each news item was different, The Guardian 10, Independent 13, Spiegel 37. Because the EU is Very special, the researchers used three different positions to make the paper more objective.

**Table 2-Components of Database** 

Key Word	Source	Number	Time Period
The Guardian  https://www.theguardian.com/international  Independent  https://www.independent.co.uk/  Spiegel  https://www.spiegel.de/	The Guardian	10	01 Jan. 2019
	https://www.theguardian.com/international	10	to 31 Jul. 2019
	Independent	13	01 Jan. 2019 to
	https://www.independent.co.uk/	13	31 Jul. 2019
		37	01 Jan. 2019 to 31 Jul. 2019
		31 Jul. 2019	

The researcher used the following news, Independent, Guardian and Spiegel as my sources; these news media are set up from within the EU members. These three sites represent right, left and the media in the middle position, this paper can explore the challenges facing the EU from all angles.

In the face of different news websites, there is a need for a standard screening process to achieve consistency, and find the appropriate keywords to be used as search targets, avoiding excessive data volume cannot be fully read, so in this paper the researcher first used the EU crisis as a keyword, because this is closely related to the theme of the thesis, and then the relevance is used as a sort, from the original thousand data to one hundred, and finally the news is downloaded and saved as a Word file. Economic, political, cultural and non-relevant forms are classified to create a complete database.

# The Reasoning

In order to analyze the problem from an objective perspective, the researchers chose The Guardian, Independent, Spiegel as the source of information.

Because the EU is such a large system that it is unable to gather ideas and opinions from all member states, the researchers used major countries in the EU member states, the United Kingdom and Germany, as the main source of collection. Picking out news in many EU countries is not just a matter of language translation. It also has different political positions. The three selected by the researchers are left, right, and neutral. For the analysis of the EU, the three websites can provide questions about Brexit, immigration and economic recession. Through the analysis of the opinions of various factions, we can better understand why there is an event of Brexit; you can understand why everyone is more and more afraid of immigration; through data analysis, we can see the development of the EU in recent years. These three

websites can make this paper more relevant to the facts and make a complete analysis of the EU and the three major crises.

# DATA ANALYSIS

# **Immigration Crisis**

This analysis of the data will be analyzed from the three main problems of the EU. The first is the refugee crisis. The refugee crisis has triggered a series of butterfly effects. Since the Arab Spring of 2010, the number of refugees who have come to Europe has soared. Most of the refugees are from Syria, Afghanistan and Eritrea, after signing some treaties, although it has made Europe more free and open, it has attracted other third world countries, attracting a large number of refugees into Europe, and the EU has to pay attention to this issue. The refugee crisis has already been in Europe. Form security, economic and political issues. Many politicians openly criticized the EU's refugee policy, arguing that the free movement of the population and the practice of opening borders will make Europe a target of terrorism, and the cost of handling refugees will be more endless, making the European economy even more deterioration. The strength of the series of the European economy even more deterioration.

# **Policy integration**

Since most of the refugees are from Islamic countries, it is a serious problem for European countries with Christianity as the mainstay. Each country has different opinions on refugees.

34Germany believes: "For those who are persecuted, there is basically no upper limit to the full strength of asylum." Germany is also the country with the largest number of refugees compared to European countries. The Hungarians feel that it is better to maintain the status, do not want to live with a large group of Muslims, and no one has the power to order them to do so. They held a vote of whether to accept refugees, although the voter turnout rate is less than 50%, but among these people, up to 98% of the refugee policy against the EU shows Hungary's tough

<sup>32</sup> C-SG-012

<sup>33</sup> P-GD-00

<sup>34</sup> C-SG-012

attitude towards refugees. The United Kingdom stated that it should not allow everyone to share the costs of refugees, especially those who are terrorists who can move freely in Europe without restrictions. The UK has never agreed with the EU policy on refugees. Even using geographical location to claim that the United Kingdom is not in the Schengen area, to avoid the refugee policy issued by the European Union. Sweden was originally a multicultural fusion country. There were a lot of Muslims in Sweden, so Sweden is supportive of refugee policy, and Sweden is also a paradise for refugees. However, in terms of policy integration, the EU lacks substantial power to regulate countries, and most of its power remains in various member states.<sup>35</sup>

# **Peace and security**

In 2015, the refugee crisis in Europe broke out completely. At least 129 people were killed in the "Islamic State" terrorist attack in Paris, France. The murderer was a refugee from Syria, which made the European people completely angry. It also allowed more countries to use this incident as an excuse to refuse to accept refugees. This is unfavorable for the EU's policies, and the Schengen Treaty is gradually facing the edge of destruction. However, in the next few years, terrorist attacks have occurred in various countries. A series of bombings in the Belgian capital, Brussels, caused many deaths. Germany, which has always been considered to be a safe country, has also fallen. A man from Syria fired bombs in the concert caused most German casualties. These are the negative effects of the EU's policy of accepting refugees. The EU is similar to supranationalism, but actually lacks substantial power to face such a situation. The sudden situation, the EU's planning for refugees, lack of contingency measures, leading to a

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<sup>35</sup> P-ID-002

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> N-SG-012

<sup>37</sup> C-ID-001

chaos in Europe as a whole.<sup>38</sup>

However, there has been no way to accepting unlimited refugees. There is no substantive solution to the problem, and countries have begun to take different positions. There are many problems for refugees, including religion, the cost of dealing with refugee issues, and the degree of cooperation of countries with EU policies. Europe has always been dominated by Christianity, while refugees are predominantly Islam, which has caused most European countries to oppose the entry of refugees. In fact, the refugees have caused many tragedies in various places. Therefore, the country which adheres to the humanitarian relief policy, has begun to show different voices. Many European turned against refugees, these situation shows that Europeans are no longer as native as before.<sup>39</sup>

Until now, there are still many refugees seeking various ways to enter Europe. Many countries even return refugees to their original countries. The Schengen Treaty is now facing enormous challenges. In order to prevent the entry of refugees, many countries have also blocked the borders, resulting in a large number of refugees in many localities. This has gradually contradicted the EU policy. The problem of refugees affects not only the economy, the political situation has changed at the same time. The EU's policy toward refugees must be adjusted in the future.

# **Democracy deficit**

Because the problems caused by refugees have become more and more fierce, many countries have gradually turned from support to opposition, which has triggered a serious democratic deficit. The word "democracy deficit" was proposed by David Marquand in 1979. Because the EU is not just a group that unites European countries, but a country directly

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> C-SG-012

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> P-ID-005

<sup>40</sup> P-GD-002

connected with citizens, so European democracy is also receiving worldwide attention. There are several main aspects of the democratic deficit, such as efficiency, sovereignty, and people's support. Due to its special constitution, the EU is between the state and the supranational, and it is the only existence in the world. Therefore, every move taken by the EU has been concerned by the whole world.

First of all, although the EU is not a country, it has its own legislature, independent administration, and the European Parliament. These organizations similar to the concept of the country are designed according to the sample of democracy, but there are many problems in these institutions. For example, the EU elections are usually discussed by the heads of state. The people can participate only in the European Parliament. However, the proportion of seats in the European Parliament presents a very large gap. The proportion of seats is based on the national population. Germany has 96 seats, and the number of countries with the least number of seats can be lower than Germany for 90 seats. As a result, big country becomes dominated in European Parliament. For countries with a relatively small population, this is the case. The injustice has indirectly caused the democratic deficit, and the people have gradually lost confidence in the EU system, because the EU does not really let the Europeans have the power to decide. These powers are usually concentrated in the head of state and the EU itself. In response to this refugee crisis, 41 the EU's position is contrary to the thinking of most people. The EU hopes that countries will accept the refugee quota policy and tide over the difficulties together. However, most Europeans hope that the EU can control the refugees, instead of accepting refugees unconditionally. The contradiction between these ruling classes and the people gradually evolved into a democratic deficit.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> C-SG-012

# **Conflict of sovereign state**

The EU itself is an organization with the concept of supranationalism. <sup>42</sup> The EU holds some power, but there is still autonomy between the member states, and the EU has no way to enforce the law. Since the outbreak of the refugee crisis, the EU has repeatedly called on countries to unite and accept refugee quotas, but in fact, many countries do not support the EU's practices and instead implement their own policies. <sup>43</sup> Due to the deterioration of its economic conditions and the heavy debts, Italy's actions to rescue the refugees were failed and Italians can't bear it anymore, 44 they refused to let the rescue boat approach the Italian coast. This shows that the EU is only an empty shell, and the real decision is still on themselves. Such a conflict is a conflict of state sovereignty, and this problem has existed since the founding of the European Union. From the beginning of the coal-steel community to the current EU, the member of EU has given up a lot of sovereignty. The important economic dominance is given to the EU. In the course of this development, there have been many voices of opposition. Mrs. Chaichel once gave a speech on the Maastricht Treaty. She said: "The close cooperation between countries does not mean that the power of Brussels should be centralized....the countries in the Soviet Union just realized that the success of the country depends on the decentralization of power and decision-making, and it is necessary to escape from the centralized center as much as possible. But some people in the European coal and steel community still I want to do the opposite!" This content deeply influenced the establishment process of the European Union, and also made Europeans think about the feasibility of sacrificing national sovereignty to complete the European reunification plan. In the refugee crisis, many European countries began to reflect on the issue of national sovereignty and the power held by the EU. In the current situation, European countries tend to protect the interests

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> C-SG-006

<sup>43</sup> P-GD-00

<sup>44</sup> P-GD-002

of local people more than to maintain the unity of Europe as a whole.

The EU has always maintained humanitarianism. 45 It accepts and assists refugees to live in Europe. The EU has proposed refugees, including aid funds or shelters, etc., which has caused a fleeing frenzy of refugees. Whether seeking a proper route or illegal smuggling, the EU believes it should be accepted. However, for the financially troubled EU, the expenditure of refugees is already a huge expenditure, which leads to the low acceptance of refugees by the countries, while the EU is an organization lacking substantive power, thus leading to the policy of refugees between countries is also different. 46 Countries that support humanitarian relief, such as Germany, will provide shelters and bailouts; on the contrary, unsupported countries like the United Kingdom will adopt an unacceptable attitude towards refugees, which will gradually lose the cohesiveness of the EU. The refugees have also brought more instability in Europe. Not only the economy, but also the problems in life have gradually emerged. Many Europeans hope that the EU can prevent the refugee incidents more strictly and prevent the stowaways from entering Europe. Strengthen the patrol of the coastline. The EU's policy on refugees can be said to be one of the reasons for the split of European countries. It is also because of the refugees' events that the European people's support for the EU has gradually declined.<sup>47</sup> It is believed that the humanitarian actions adopted by the EU will only make the EU become more insecure and lead to an economic downturn.

The EU countries not only have different languages, but also have different cultural backgrounds. There are different policies for refugees. Eastern European countries refuse to accept refugees because they usually come from Islamic countries and disrupt Europe based on Christianity. Western Europe is just the opposite. It advocates multiculturalism and wants to unite countries and share EU quotas. In order to successfully break through this difficult time.

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<sup>46</sup> C-SG-012

<sup>47</sup> C-SG-010

The EU's policies gradually split Europe. <sup>48</sup> When the meeting held at the headquarters was also useless, the heads of state of each country were not intrigued at the meeting. They insisted on different positions and could not reach a consensus. The Hungarian Prime Minister even said: "If all the refugees are allowed When they all come in, Europe will be ruined." Compared with Germany and France, open hands and welcome the arrival of refugees, the hardline approach of Eastern Europe has let the EU apply many punitive measures. In the future, it will reduce financial assistance to Eastern European countries and even plan to cancel the right of Eastern European countries to move freely to Europe, has also caused dissatisfaction in Eastern European countries. There is still no common direction for the refugee crisis, whether it is the European Union or European countries.

### **Recession**

The economy has always been a very important factor for the EU to maintain<sup>49</sup>, because the regional economy can promote transactions between countries, and it can also increase the overall competitiveness and make the country stronger. <sup>50</sup>Therefore, the economic issue can be said to be one of the most important issues of the EU, and it is also a very important reason for forcing the EU to make reforms. <sup>51</sup>The EU has evolved from the original small-scale to the current European Union. One part of the reason can be said that the EU have taken a series of reform, such as the unified currency to reduce tariffs, although it has caused some country's rebound, but the results shown later were good, making the EU one of the best economies in the world. However, as the EU gradually expanded and the euro zone joined more countries, it caused many storms and made the EU begins to face up to these potential unrest factors. <sup>52</sup>

<sup>48</sup> C-SG-012

<sup>49</sup> E-GD-001

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> E-SG-008

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<sup>52</sup> E-GD-001

Since the financial turmoil, most countries in Europe have fallen into recession. Since the beginning of 2012, the unemployment rate has reached a new high. At the same time, European governments, finance ministers and European officials have announced austerity measures, and austerity measures have not brought about economic recovery. On the contrary, many countries have gradually developed the idea of leaving the EU, because the austerity policy of the EU has made people's lives more difficult. The EU needs to make some changes in urgent.

## **Market enlargement**

In the process of EU development, many communist countries in Eastern Europe were joined. There was no problem at the beginning, but after the global financial turmoil, there were many potential problems. <sup>53</sup>The development status of each country in Europe is different. For example, Greece relies on agriculture, while Germany is dominated by industrial processing, and the economic level is very different. Once you join the EU, using a unified currency will bring a very different situation for the two countries. In countries with economic backwardness, because they have joined the eurozone, they have lost the power to freely adjust the exchange rate, cannot use the low price of money to drive economic development, and there is no way to attract foreign investment, which will be detrimental to the country's economic development; compared with economic developed countries, they go with higher GDP and sufficient funds, can use the euro to reduce the costs incurred in transactions, make transactions more enticing, and bring higher benefits to the country. Many people also blamed the economic crisis that the EU was facing later on the expansion too fast, which indirectly led to the bankruptcy of Greece.

In the process of market enlarging, many countries in Eastern Europe have joined, and their development is lagging behind that of the European Union at the time. Relevant

<sup>53</sup> E-SG-008

regulations and product specifications need to be integrated, and the EU's ultimate goal is to create an integrated market. The ultimate goal of the EU is to create an integrated market, a large economy that allows goods, manpower, and capital to move freely.

## **Organizational inefficiency**

The EU is not a country. The legitimacy of the EU comes from governments and parliaments. Independence is a distinctive feature of it. It does not accept the directives of the EU's governing bodies and is not subject to the supervision of governments. It is the only institution that is qualified to allow the issuance of Euros within the EU. However, the function of the central bank is only to adjust the exchange rate of the currency and issue the currency.

54 The power to lease and collect taxes is still in the hands of local countries.

55 This makes the euro a lack of fiscal system. All sources of funds depend on the payment of member states, especially the United Kingdom, France, and Germany. These financially sound countries are even more important sources of funding. The preparation and use of these budgets are subject to review by all Member States, resulting in inefficient results. The result of unequal economic power has also caused many countries to think that there is a "free rider" among member states. When Greece faces bankruptcy, it receives a large amount of relief from the EU every year, these budgets come from member states. Greece is alleged to be overuse of large amount of relief, but there is no determination to change, which also triggers the opposition between many countries, the budget review becomes more difficult and waste of time. 

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The EU may have limited ability to respond to immediate situations. For the crisis that has recently been faced, the EU has not only failed to guide member states to unite but has allowed the EU to gradually split. Since the EU is a government without real power, self-interest is

55 F-GD-00

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> E-SG-008

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> E-GD-002

widespread in various countries, and the system is constrained. Any law that wants to pass the country requires the consent of other countries. Therefore, it is even more obvious that the EU's administrative efficiency is insufficient.

In addition, the EU does not mandate that every member country use the euro, such as the United Kingdom, Hungary, Poland, etc. The biggest reason is that the local people believe that the use of the euro will increase prices, especially in Poland, as Eastern Europe. Poland, the largest economy, has issued a statement that it does not use the euro, because it will not be able to adjust the exchange rate of the current situation, which will not be conducive to the future development of the country.<sup>57</sup> The European Commission has stated that joining the euro zone can eliminate exchange rate costs and increase transparency, but the lack of a sound monitoring system leads to a loss of balance between countries, and it has also caused huge debts in southern European countries due to low interest rate policies.

### **International competitiveness**

Each member country develops at a different speed and its economic capabilities are very different, however, it uses the same exchange rate of the euro, this is counterproductive for countries like Greece and Italy, which makes it impossible for these countries to freely lower the exchange rate, in order to enhance exports and attract tourism interests. Since Italy joined the Eurozone in 2002, the domestic rebound has continued, which has directly affected politics. Compared with Italy, an industrial power like Germany, the common currency will increase the willingness to trade. At present, Italy's debt is the highest in Europe. <sup>58</sup>

Because of the unification of the Eurozone in Europe, the EU's international competitiveness has increased, and it has become one of the best economies in the world, making the euro one of the world's important currencies. After the first global financial turmoil

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> E-SG-008

<sup>58</sup> E-GD-001

was encountered in 2008, many countries in Europe to go bankrupt. The first problem was Greece, although the EU had already set up a bill to stipulate the deficit of member states. Debt must not exceed a certain percentage, but after the financial turmoil, not only Greece, but Ireland, Italy, Spain and Portugal, have problems. Because in the financial turmoil, countries in order to solve their own unemployment problems, increase spending to stimulate consumption, using a looser fiscal policy, such measures will make countries' debts higher and higher. In addition, the exchange rate of the euro is fixed and cannot be adjusted according to the needs of countries, so that the financial situation is trapped under the structure of the euro. Under the debt crisis, the strong countries getting stronger, the weaker become weaker. The stronger countries will use the earned money to buy foreign debts of other countries, so that this situation is a vicious circle. On the countries of the countries, so that this situation is a vicious circle.

In the debt crisis, a large part of the reason comes from the imbalance of income and expenditure within the countries, and the economic growth rate and development of governments cannot grow simultaneously. Many countries have adopted the euro, causing their own inflation rate to rise, and their own salary problems and tax issues between countries. For these countries, the raising debt ratio is to stimulate the economic recovery, but such behavior just happens to make these countries into bankruptcy. <sup>61</sup>The EU has also resorted to many measures to rescue the euro zone. In order to provide immediate assistance to members of the eurozone, the European Commission established a crisis relief mechanism mainly for the euro zone countries in May 2010. It is part of the 750 billion euros of aid. Its main function is to provide financial assistance to the member states of the euro zone that have suffered financial or economic crisis on behalf of the EU-27 Committee. Countries that join the Eurozone later will automatically join these aid programs to maintain stability in the European market. But for

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> E-GD-002

<sup>60</sup> E-GD-00

<sup>61</sup> E-GD-002

those countries that are insolvent, these aid programs may be just a drop in the bucket. The funds for aid also have many harsh conditions, such as being used only to pay off debts, which is equivalent to returning the money to these creditors.

Since the financial tsunami, the EU has gradually rid of the haze of economic recession through years of efforts through reforms such as the European Stability Mechanism and European banking regulators. <sup>62</sup> Only a few EU countries still face high unemployment and other unfavorable factors. <sup>63</sup>Among them, Germany, which was originally a manufacturing-oriented country, experienced economic decline after the 2008 financial turmoil. After slowly transforming into the service industry, Germany actively encouraged entrepreneurship, improved its international competitiveness, and finally saw results. Among the EU countries, France and Italy are performing poorly. The effectiveness of the two countries in reforming and adjusting wage costs is not satisfactory. Among them, France, the second largest economy in the Eurozone, has seen an increase in unemployment, France's manufacturing industry is still in recession, local companies are worried about the business environment, and investors are facing the long-term high unemployment rate in France. The road to true recovery in France is still quite long. Among the two countries, the government did not dare to make adjustments to the welfare policy, which also caused the burden of the people to increase, leading to economic fatigue. <sup>64</sup>

## Free rider

Among the EU countries, Greece is not the only one, such as Portugal, Italy, Ireland, Spain, these countries with weak economic strength are collectively known as the "PIGS", these five countries in the euro zone since the outbreak of the European debt problem, the

63 F-SG-007

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>62</sup> E-GD-001

<sup>64</sup> E-GD-001

country's debt has become so large that it cannot be repaid, it needs to be rescued by external forces. Although the European Central Bank and the European Executive Committee have introduced many measures to rescue these countries, the most fundamental issues in these countries have yet to be verified.<sup>65</sup>

The bankruptcy problem in Greece has also indirectly led to dissatisfaction in many countries. For example, the United Kingdom believes that Greece's economic problems are caused by the Greeks themselves, the political chaos of the country, and the indiscriminate borrowing. The British do not agree to let these countries take these grants without reforming the fundamental problems of the country. It has created a confrontation between countries. The EU countries have different views on the aid fund mechanism. Germany is one of the best economies in Europe. Germany supports the EU's aid program and proposes tens of billions of euros of assistance every year, but a conditional loan, the German Chancellor hopes that these bankrupt countries can implement austerity policies. However, the austerity policy brings to these countries longer working hours and higher unemployment rates, for bankrupt countries, this will only make the economy worse and worse. <sup>66</sup>

### **Brexit**

On June 23, 2016, the United Kingdom held a referendum to decide whether Britain should leave or stay in the European Union. The results show that the British want to leave the EU, so the British government officially launched the "Lisbon Treaty" on March 29, 2017 article 50 leaves the EU procedure. Both the UK and the EU must be within two years, that is, March 29, 2019, male an agreement with each other. However, as an important source of economic resources within the EU and the influence of the UK in the EU, the negotiation

<sup>66</sup> E-GD-002

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>65</sup> P-ID-006

<sup>67</sup> P-ID-007

process for Brexit will take a long time.<sup>68</sup>

Brexit is a global act, and what globalization brings is opportunity and uncertainty.

Moreover, political parties politicize Brexit and use the uncertainty and insecurity of people's inner to incite people support Brexit.<sup>69</sup>

Brexit is one of the major crises for the EU. This is not only because it is the first time a Member State has attempted to withdraw from the Union, but because the country is concerned as a powerful power, its withdrawal will have a devastating political, economic implication and the standing and influence of the EU.<sup>70</sup>

### Clash of culture

In the long-term history of Europe, Europe has always been a place of constant struggle, not only because of religion, but also because of the nationalities and cultures of different places, forming a special situation in Europe. The primary purpose of Europe as a community is to pursue peace and avoid a resurgence of war. The common market and the creation of an independent supranational organization are the means to achieve the goal, starting with the adjustment of the economic sector, and then slowly unifying the whole of Europe, but among them However, it lacks the common culture of Europe, and indirectly leads many people to have no sense of belonging to the EU, which will affect the EU's implementation of the policy and the future development of the EU.

The United Kingdom joined the European Community (predecessor of the European Union) in 1973, but after joining the European Union, the British did not feel the obvious difference. Geographically speaking, the UK is across the strait from the European countries. In the hearts of the British, they consider themselves British rather than European. Historically,

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>68</sup> P-GD-002

<sup>69</sup> P-ID-004

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>70</sup> P-GD-003

<sup>71</sup> P-GD-009

during the Second World War, Germany quickly conquered the European continent, and the British relied on tenacious resistance, and although they suffered heavy losses, they saved their dignity. Most people miss the most powerful period in the UK, which is the glory days of the Victorian era. Therefore, the British are not accustomed to being ruled. After joining the EU, they are also a few countries that have not joined the Eurozone. Not only did Britain not get the benefits of using the euro, but it also had to pay a lot of money to the EU every year, let the EU save a few countries with bad finances, and let the British feel deceived. With the British self-esteem and the lack of any interest, the British launched a referendum and unexpectedly put the UK on the road to leaving the EU.<sup>72</sup>

The people who support Brexit, advocates that the EU is a hindrance to the development of the UK, because the EU wants to build a whole Europe, but the British do not want to hand over sovereignty to the EU, the UK did not join the euro zone and the Schengen area. The cumbersome regulations of the European Union also limit the free development of the UK. The annual increase in membership fees also makes the British think it is a waste of state funds. In addition, the EU has encountered an economic crisis, the euro zone is sluggish, and the British do not want to be influenced by EU. The refugee crisis is also a topic of concern for the British. The result of opening the border is the decline of national security and the financial burden of the state. The people who support the staying advocates that the global economy will form a regional economic trend in the future. The leaving of UK will cause the UK to lose its advantage. Europe is also a big market, which can provide more trade and job opportunities. The entry of immigrants will not affect the domestic employment market, it will bring more labor and solve the manpower problem for the UK.

The same situation may occur in other EU member states. Due to the EU's recent policies,

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>72</sup> P-SG-008

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>73</sup> P-ID-007

<sup>74</sup> P-ID-005

the prevalence of nationalism has caused the Europeans to gradually lose confidence in the EU. The EU wants to use a multi-faceted policy to achieve the goal of European unification, but it lacks practical execution and does not improve the situation of vulnerable countries, such as the introduction of the euro and the agreement to sign free movement of the population. These policies have not improved the situation of the disadvantaged countries and have caused many developed countries to fall into chaos. These have indirectly affected the culture of Europe and made Europe popular in the trend of Brexit.<sup>75</sup>

## **Damage of locality**

Since the UK is one of the economic leaders in the EU countries, the departure of the UK will definitely have a huge impact on the EU. For example, the annual budget source is a big problem. The EU needs to reach an agreement with the UK to make it possible for the UK to Leaving the EU.<sup>76</sup>

Because Ireland is geographically close to the United Kingdom, if the United Kingdom leaves the EU, Ireland is still a member of the European Union, which will cause problems between Britain and Ireland, and the United Kingdom also attaches great importance to such special circumstances. In order to start the process of leaving Europe, the United Kingdom proposed the Chequers proposal to the European Union. According to the proposal, the British hope that Britain can freely sign treaties with European countries, have close cooperation with the EU, and enjoy duty-free, and no customs inspection is required. The rules of the product law follow the EU regulations, which makes the UK and the EU countries reach a consistency. However, in the service industry, the United Kingdom advocates the British norm, and EU member states do not have the right to work freedom in the UK, and they need to apply for legal qualifications through the British government. In this way, not only can Britain maintain

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>75</sup> P-SG-017

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>76</sup> P-ID-007

relations with Ireland, but they can also smoothly leave the EU. However, this bill has been questioned by many people. The opponents believe that this is a humiliation, and the accepted regulations are equivalent to literally leaving the EU. The EU side rejected the proposal to establish a free economic zone in the UK, and they have not yet found a common agreement in the negotiations.<sup>77</sup>

With the Brexit, the countries have produced the same voice and even brought up the rise of right-wingism; Italy's position at the beginning was biased towards nationalism. <sup>78</sup>With the outbreak of refugee incidents and the factors of its own economic conditions, the life of Italian people have become more and more miserable, and the annual expenditure on refugees has only increased. The Italian government has negotiated with the EU several times, but it has never received more financial assistance. This has made the people of Italy more biased towards rightistism. Even the newly appointed prime minister is a person who strongly supports rightistism. After the global financial crisis in 2008, Italy's unemployment rate has remained high. Nearly one-third of the 25-year-olds are unemployed. Italians believe that the use of the euro does not make the economy recover. It will only benefit Germany and other strong countries. The poll conducted in 2017 pointed out that Italy's support for the EU fell to 57%, and the support ratios of Germany and France increased. This shows that the EU's benefits for vulnerable countries are limited. It also caused the Italians to gradually move towards the leaving of EU.<sup>79</sup>

On March 22, 2016, a series of bombings occurred in Brussels, killing 32 victims and killing more than 300 civilians. After investigation, it was discovered that the bombings were committed by the terrorists of the Islamic State, and the overall image of the Muslims was greatly damaged in Germany. This is one of the reasons for the Germans' decline in the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>77</sup> P-SG-00

<sup>78</sup> F-GD-00

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>79</sup> C-SG-006

acceptance of refugees, plus the refugees committed in Germany. There are many incidents including sexual violence and random killings on the streets, directly caused the Germans to change their views on refugees, making Germany gradually biased towards rightistism. The results of the recent elections show that the ultra-rightist political parties have become the third largest party in Germany. Many Germans have been unable to accept the negative impact of the refugee policy, and then voted to express their desire to reform. <sup>80</sup>

As can be seen from the examples of these countries, the EU needs to consider more in the formulation of policies, and the most lack of them is to allow people to more agree with the decisions made by the EU. Behind a successful organization, there is a group of people who can identify with them, support and agree with the actions of this organization, which is what the EU lacks. <sup>81</sup>This issue is also the biggest problem facing the EU.

## New European culture

On May 22, 2018, the European Commission adopted a new European Cultural Agenda, which was carried out mainly in three aspects, using the power of cultural and cultural diversity to promote social cohesion and well-being, supporting education and innovation, and employment and growth. Culturally based creativity and strengthening international cultural relations. Cultural changes are made using Europe's many cultural heritages, emphasizing the need to use shared attitudes to protect and promote the preservation of cultural heritage. The economy will promote the art and culture in education through the support of the cultural industry and drive the overall development. Finally, through exchanges between national cultural heritages, we will strengthen the embarrassment between countries and make Europe truly integrated.

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<sup>80</sup> P-SG-018

<sup>81</sup> P-SG-017

## **European standard**

Standardization is the focus of improving the efficiency of European policies.

The EU is particularly concerned with standardization, as standards affect most areas of public concern, such as industry competitiveness, the operation of a single market, environmental protection and human health. The European standard can be said to be the EU's most important policy direction in the integration of Europe and has strict standards for product specifications and laws. 82

From the beginning of the small-scale, the EU gradually expanded, extending the sphere of influence to the whole of Europe, inventing the euro as a unified currency, eliminating tariffs and exchange rate differences, and creating an integrated market. In order to integrate the true elimination of nationality among Europeans, the EU has eliminated discrimination between countries and signed many treaties to eliminate the restrictions on nationality so that everyone can recognize the big family of Europe. And the relevant laws and regulations have been legally established, which has enhanced the overall strength of Europe and contributed to the integration of Europe. However, in the process, the EU's goals are difficult to achieve due to the incomplete political system and fiscal system. There is still a gap in power in the financial sector, and there are also different political sentiments in different countries. There is still a long way to go in order to achieve a truly integrated Europe.

<sup>82</sup> N-ID-006

## **CONCLUSION**

As researchers delve into the interior and exterior of the EU, found out that it's too complex to define it as a specific problem, all link together. They are not detachable, so the researcher chooses the three questions that are occurring right now. The researcher used a neutral view and accompanying with some data from three different news to show readers the fairest study.

The study mentioned the advantage and disadvantage of EU from past to now, as time goes by, some conditions will be different. Therefore, the researcher not only look at the EU from a historical perspective, but also analyze the current affairs. The researcher learned about the history of the EU and analyzed the overall development process, including the agreements reached by the EU countries, the content of the treaty and the cultural aspects of each country, to explain the overall situation of the EU, and the details for the problem inside EU.

As far as policy is concerned, the EU needs to improve its system so that the decree is no longer difficult to implement, and this requires the cooperation of all countries. The EU needs to unite countries with the most basic sense of identity. On the economic front, the EU's unilateral control of the currency has led to the problem of bankruptcy in many countries. The adjustment of the currency exchange rate should be matched with the weaker countries to avoid more Greece. Finally, the Brexit incident is not just a single incident, but a warning to the EU as a whole. The EU must be able to truly improve the lives of European people, rather than becoming a business group that big countries use to make more profits. The EU must learn to live in peace with this world, not to create a new world at a glance.

## **APPENDIX**

# Table of the Database Established for Data Analysis on

for Europed	an Union Policy			22 items
	https://www.theguardian.com/international			
Master URL		https://www.indeper	ndent.co.uk/	
		https://www.spi	egel.de/	
Ref. No.	Title	Date Published	Source	Item URL
	EU declares migration crisis			
P-GD-001	over as it hits out at 'fake	6 Mar. 2019	The Guardian	https://is.gd/GqAwMk
	news			
	May to ask EU for Brexit			
P-GD-002	extension as UK slides into	19 Mar. 2019	The Guardian	https://is.gd/scb1Bo
	political 'crisis'			
	he EU won't change course			
P-GD-003	on Brexit – look at the	24 Apr. 2019	The Guardian	https://is.gd/Pq8sF8
	Greek debt crisis			
	Tens of thousands of EU			
	nationals in UK could			
P-ID-004	become undocumented after	21 Jan. 2019	Independent	https://is.gd/9erNYJ
	Brexit in crisis 'worse than			
	Windrush'			
	Theresa May in fresh crisis			
P-ID-005	after anti-EU Tories reject	28 Jan. 2019	Independent	https://is.gd/Uf4Ub3

	'plan B' to rescue her deal			
	ahead of Commons vote			
	Ten Years of Turmoil			
P-ID-006	episode 2 review: Shedding	04 Feb. 2019	Independent	https://is.gd/V1UJ2C
1-10-000	light on the Greek debt	04100.2017	macpendent	https://is.gu/ v 1032C
	crisis			
	Theresa May admits			
P-ID-007	country is 'in crisis' with 10	19 Mar. 2019	Independent	https://is.gd/r6ZTNQ
	days to avert no-deal Brexit			
P-SG-008	It's Time to Let the UK Go	18 Jan. 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/mwemzZ
P-SG-009	Crisis Smolders Between	21 Feb. 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/O3cCwe
r-3G-009	Berlin and Paris			
D CC 010	Viktor Orbán Is Following	01 Mar. 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/mqZnIg
P-SG-010	the Wrong Political Path			
P-SG-011	What Surprises Me Is the	01 Mar. 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/MPRWTR
P-5G-011	Extent of the Mess			
D 66 010	The Shortcomings of			
P-SG-012	Merkel's European Policies	13 Mar. 2019 Spi	Spiegel	https://is.gd/kNSneK
D GG G:	Theresa May's Days Are	2027 25:5	g : -	
P-SG-013	Numbered. Now What	22 Mar. 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/zjgcoZ
	Amid Brexit Chaos, Theresa			
P-SG-014	May's Conservative Party	05 Apr. 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/eWs9eL
	Implodes			
P-SG-015	Documents Link AfD	12 Apr. 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/a9VGIx

	Parliamentarian To Moscow			
P-SG-016	The Fresh Young Face of France's Populist Right	19 Apr. 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/vQLLXx
P-SG-017	The Right-Wing Populist  Plan to Destroy Europe	24 May 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/9pwEMV
P-SG-018	Merkel and Macron at Odds over New EU Leader	31 May 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/lySt4i
P-SG-019	What Boris Johnson Could  Mean for Brexit	04 Jun. 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/PjCfZN
P-SG-020	Does Von der Leyen Have a  Chance as Commission  President	05 Jul. 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/HxRffu
P-SG-021	Ursula Von Der Leyen  Recruits Team to Win Over  Brussels	12 Jul. 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/W9ry9m
P-SG-022	Boris Johnson Will Start  Breaking Promises  Tomorrow	23 Jul. 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/l5O8LT
for Europea	n Union Economy			9 items
Master URL	https://www.theguardian.com/international  https://www.spiegel.de/			
Ref. No.	Title	Date Published	Source	Item URL
E-GD-001	Eurozone economies: as  Italy struggles how are other	02 Feb. 2019	The Guardian	https://is.gd/qKlpR6

	countries faring?			
E-GD-002	Cash, credits and crisis life in the new European 'precariat'	15 May 2019	The Guardian	https://is.gd/OlHmwC
E-GD-003	EU moves into crisis mode as it plans for no-deal Brexit	28 Mar. 2019	The Guardian	https://is.gd/VdCT9Z
E-GD-004	The EU banked on parliament rejecting no deal.  Now that's all changed	30 Jul. 2019	The Guardian	https://is.gd/0JoAcw
E-SG-005	How Brexit Distracted the  UK From Its Real Problems	25 Jan. 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/PYBn7v
E-SG-006	German Failure on the Road to a Renewable Future	13 May 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/zz0sEH
E-SG-007	The Strong Favorite to  Become Greece's Next  Leader	21 May 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/LlRsH9
E-SG-008	Will Christine Lagarde  Pursue Tighter Monetary  Policy?	29 Jul. 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/Yd10ar
for European Union Culture 15 items				
Master URL	https://www.independent.co.uk/  https://www.spiegel.de/			
Ref. No.	Title	Date Published	Source	Item URL

C-ID-001	EU 'letting refugees die' at sea after cancelling Mediterranean rescue missions	28 Mar. 2019	Independent	https://is.gd/oadpg7
C-ID-002	The EU's decision to stop rescuing drowning refugees shames us all	28 Mar. 2019	Independent	https://is.gd/b41Pj4
C-ID-003	The Brexit crisis is cracking the veneer of solidarity among European leaders	09 Apr. 2019	Independent	https://is.gd/vBm9YH
C-ID-004	Support for EU membership above 80% in most member states amid Brexit mess	26 Apr. 2019	Independent	https://is.gd/lktVAt
C-ID-005	Italy's populist government to continue turning refugee rescue boats away as they boycott European crisis meeting	22 Jul. 2019	Independent	https://is.gd/KOPECx
C-SG-006	Europe's Right Wing Takes  Aim at the EU	04 Jan. 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/4BBZkc
C-SG-007	Why Germany's  Deportation System Is  Failing Everyone	12 Mar. 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/vaDH09
C-SG-008	Patience Wears Thin with  Germany's NATO Spending	02 Apr. 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/RNaaRj

C-SG-009	The British Parliament in the Age of Brexit	12 Apr. 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/uEHynq
C-SG-010	Abysmal Conditions for  Refugees in the Greek  Islands	24 Apr. 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/WEUrsq
C-SG-011	Will Merkel Be Followed	28 May 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/m4oZlr
C-SG-012	European Policies Create  New Dangers on  Mediterranean	18 Jun. 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/h4aTVO
C-SG-013	Boris Johnson Lacks 'Competence and Integrity'	21 Jun. 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/W3UoET
C-SG-014	We Need To Overcome this  Division	22 Jul. 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/coZxiA
C-SG-015	Relations with Moscow  Emerge as German Election  Issue	29 Jul. 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/dScgqn
Less-related 14 items			14 items	
Master URL	https://www.theguardian.com/international  https://www.independent.co.uk/  https://www.spiegel.de/			
Ref. No.	Title	Date Published	Source	Item URL
N-GD-001	Inside Europe: superb TV that shows how to solve the	11 Feb. 2019	The Guardian	https://is.gd/A9w4yg

	EU crisis			
N-GD-002	Nearly a fifth of the EU's  budget goes on livestock  farming, says Greenpeace	12 Feb. 2019	The Guardian	https://is.gd/byxpeF
N-GD-003	EU ignoring climate crisis  with livestock farm  subsidies, campaigners  warn	22 May 2019	The Guardian	https://is.gd/iVUUxw
N-ID-004	Venezuela crisis: Maduro rejects UK and EU ultimatum as military envoy to US defects to opposition	27 Jan. 2019	Independent	https://is.gd/AR9XZN
N-ID-005	Brexit crisis: MPs ordered to stay in parliament to solve EU withdrawal chaos as February recess cancelled	31 Jan. 2019	Independent	https://is.gd/BfEzIQ
N-ID-006	Climate crisis: Germany,  Italy and Poland reject call  for net zero emissions by  2050, leaked paper indicates	08 May 2019	Independent	https://is.gd/Fg2Yru
N-ID-007	Iran tanker crisis: Jeremy  Hunt announces joint  European task force to  protect British ships	22 Jul. 2019	Independent	https://is.gd/bLhkkg

N-SG-008	'Trump Could Hardly Have  Chosen a Worse Moment'	11 Jan. 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/FnC9Iu
N-SG-009	All Eyes on the Army in  Venezuela Power Struggle	29 Jan. 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/Cpolhr
N-SG-010	Juncker's Reign Atop the  EU Stumbles to a Close	01 Feb. 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/LCN0vF
N-SG-011	Will Europe Be Victim of  Nuclear Power Plays	05 Feb. 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/Sv82ph
N-SG-012	German Ban on Arms  Exports to Saudis Spurs  Pushback	06 Mar. 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/oqTESn
N-SG-013	AfD Hopes to Win Votes by  Opposing Climate  Protection	06 May 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/BHPnIW
N-SG-014	Trump's Iran Escalation  Poses a Threat for Germany	10 May 2019	Spiegel	https://is.gd/urG4RZ

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