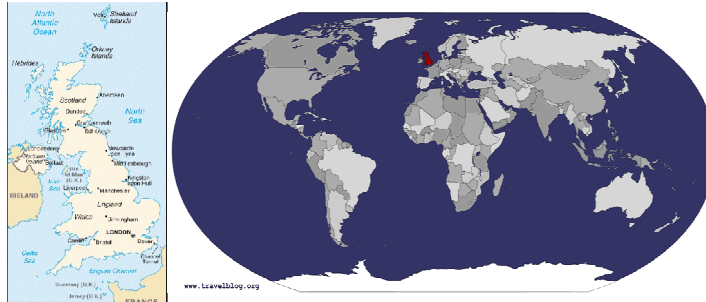


# United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland



Motto: *Dieu et mon droit* (the Royal motto) (French for "God and my right")

Anthem: "God Save the Queen"



<b>Capital</b>	London
<b>Official languages</b>	English
<b>Government</b>	Constitutional monarchy
Queen	HM Queen Elizabeth II
Prime Minister	The Rt Hon Anthony Blair MP (Labour)
<b>Formation</b>	
Union of the Crowns	24 March 1603
Acts of Union	1 May 1707
Act of Union	1 January 1801
Anglo-Irish Treaty	12 April 1922
<b>Area</b>	
- Total	244,820 km <sup>2</sup> (79th), 94,526 sq mi
<b>Population</b>	
- 2005 estimate	60,209,500 <sup>6</sup> (21st)
<b>GDP (PPP)</b>	2005 estimate
- Total	\$1.833 trillion (6th)
- Per capita	\$30,436 (18th)
<b>GDP (nominal)</b>	2005 estimate
- Total	\$2.201 trillion (5th)
- Per capita	\$37,023 (13th)
<b>Currency</b>	Pound sterling (£) (GBP)

Source: Wikipedia 2006

# **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

## **Not In Europe, Not With America - The Third Way For Britain**

Britain will one day most likely leave the EU. The timing may be hard to predict, but not the inevitability of our eventual departure. The Nice summit is merely serving to underline our incompatibility with the structure and the aims of the Union, with the certainty of more differences to come.

I say that our departure has become inevitable with some regret. Being against the Common Market in the first place is not the same thing as looking forward to our leaving, since the process will be drawn out and sure to produce much ill-temper both here and abroad. Among our EU partners, France and Germany will be particularly annoyed - two countries with whom we should always aim to have the most amicable relations.

But we cannot allow this to stand between us and our own well-being. It is a consoling thought that, in the much longer run, our relations with these two countries would improve.

Outside the EU, we would have far less to quarrel about. Even that leading Europhile Lord (Roy) Jenkins has conceded that. We shall depart because the balance of advantage, both politically and economically, already so plainly in favour of leaving, will become overwhelming. The narrow majority which said in a recent Mori poll that it would vote to leave the EU, will grow steadily.

No hope can any longer be pinned on the doctrine of 'subsidiarity' - individual nations deciding more for themselves and Brussels deciding less. The opposite has happened. And the Nice proposals involved even more power going to the centre.

Even if we managed to stop most or all of those plans, it would be only a matter of time before they resurfaced. And the plans for a federal superstate have, of course, a ratchet affect. There is no going back. The powers being taken now go miles beyond those once excused as necessary for the functioning of the single market. For instance, aims for a uniform legal system have nothing to do with economics. And so to that balance sheet.....

There is a popular belief, eagerly fed by EU-enthusiasts with confusing statistics, that we are massively dependent economically on Continental Europe and that leaving would risk millions of jobs. It simply isn't true. Sales of British exports to Europe comprise just 40% of our total worldwide exports of goods and services. But, in fact, exports make up a minor part of our total production. Those to the EU account for little more than 10% of our annual national output.

Ironically the absurdity of the threat-to-jobs claim was shown up earlier this year in a study commissioned by Britain In Europe, the Blair-backed organisation charged with glorifying the single currency. Martin Weale, the Euro-inclined head of the National Institute for Economic and Social Research, concluded that 175,000 jobs - out of a total work force of 27 million - would be lost within three years of leaving the EU. But that was only if the Government did not take any remedial steps.

In any case, the EU nations sell more to us than we do to them (our trade balance with the rest of the world is, by contrast, favourable). We are the EU's biggest single export market, bigger even than the US. So Continental nations have a powerful interest in maintaining the flow. You can imagine the alarm there would be among such firms as Mercedes and BMW if anyone suggested curbing their lucrative markets here.

But there is no danger of our trade being 'cut off'. When we joined the Common Market, tariffs between nations were high. These days they are very low, averaging around 4%. And the World Trade Organisation has the aim - endorsed by the EU - to get them down to zero. We would be in an immensely powerful position to insist on a Free Trade agreement with zero tariffs such as Norway and Switzerland have with the EU. Besides, British businesses would benefit directly from leaving the EU because they would no longer be subject to the cramping rules and red tape which have flowed - and are likely to flow on an increasing scale - from the Social Chapter and other Brussels schemes. The threat of trades unions being involved in business decisions would vanish, as would a host of other supposed 'reforms'. We would be left with a significant competitive advantage.

It is no good to say that the EU would, in some way, not 'allow' us that advantage. As a genuinely independent nation we would be entirely at liberty to make up our own rules. Some people seem to have forgotten, sadly, what it means to be free.

On the direct contributions side we would no longer be paying a net £5.5 billion a year to Brussels, most of which goes on the monstrous Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) - for whose radical reform we are still waiting after 30 years of promises. It remains a scheme devised essentially for the benefit of French farmers and keeps food prices high with little benefit to British farmers. Being outside the CAP would allow the annual cost of food to fall by about £250 a head. At the same time we could go back to an agricultural policy (perhaps following the successful New Zealand model) designed to suit ourselves. For instance, the Brussels rule which forbids us producing all our own milk would immediately go.

Outside the EU we could at once reclaim our fishing grounds so disgracefully given away by the Heath government in its supine pleading for Common Market membership. It would transform the outlook for our fishermen at a stroke. We could return to our own conservation policies, those which made the acquisition of rights in British waters a gift to Continental fishermen who had bothered so little about stocks.

The economic advantages of being outside the EU would march hand in hand with the political advantages. Over the past 30 years, Brussels has produced a staggering 25,000 regulations and directives - on matters ranging from cheese-making and hedgerows to the insistence that we accept giant goods vehicles and strengthen our bridges. Very few have even come before Parliament for debate, let alone a vote.

We rarely know how ministers or Brussels civil servants arrive at their decisions, or which national representative voted for what. Outside the EU any rules made would be our own and they could be reversed through a change of government. Outside the EU we would no longer have to fear demands that we should harmonise direct or indirect tax rates or rules on immigration, police, competition, regional policy and all the rest.

There would be no question of being subject to a community rule about minimum VAT. Indeed, we could abandon the costly VAT system with all its red tape. We adopted it in place of our previous indirect taxes only in order to join the Common Market. On our own we could go over to simple sales taxes, such as operate in the US.

We would certainly not need to contribute to any rescue scheme for the huge deficits in EU countries' pension schemes - few of them having our own system of properly funded company schemes. Such an expensive menace has regularly been dismissed as unreal. But the idea floated in Nice that all member nations could be called upon to help individual countries in trouble indicates that the pensions menace should be taken seriously.

So far, so good - and simple too. But what about what about the direct investment from countries like the US and Japan which has flowed into Britain in recent years, often because we offer a sound base for trading with the rest of the EU?

Here, I admit, there is a difficulty, though only a temporary one. Certainly, in the period running up to an exit from the EU, foreign investors would become nervous and the size of the flow would decline. However, once it became clear that we could and would negotiate good trading arrangements, the flow would resume. The attractions of Britain as a commercial base would actually increase as it became clear that we would have access to EU markets without being bound by its sclerotic regulations.

On the legal side, on our own we would no longer be threatened by an EU Charter of Fundamental Rights - how innocuous it sounds - which endangers our own legal system and practices. The only real barrier to our leaving the EU, apart from some hard bargaining, is psychological. Many people worry how we could survive 'on our own'. It is an odd question to ask about the world's fourth largest economy and a country which has a larger network of diplomatic and trade relationships than any other EU nation and, incidentally, the largest and most effective military forces too.

The question should really be stood on its head. We should ask how could the country survive as a recognisable independent nation within the EU. For those who think it important to 'belong' to some international group, there is the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) which includes the US, Canada and Mexico. It is a proper free trade area which leaves member nations free to make all their own laws. We would be welcome as members.

But membership of NAFTA is not essential. It is an optional add-on. The balance of advantage in leaving the EU is so striking - and threatens to become more so as the European political concept is developed - that some may be puzzled that neither of the main parties advocates departure. (What politicians on both sides say off the record is another matter).

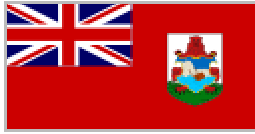
So what would we lose? Very simply Britain would no longer play a role in forging what EU politicians see so excitedly as a potential superpower, able to challenge the US in size and influence. To which the appropriate answer is "So What?". Remember the purpose of the whole European venture. First it was to prevent France and Germany ever going to war again. Second, it was a vehicle for France's grand ambition to lead a Europe which could openly challenge American power and influence. Third, it would offer a way to safeguard European agriculture. Fourth, it would demonstrate that the Anglo-Saxon free market economic model was not the best path to prosperity.

The first aim would seem to have been met - and never needed us anyway. The second may be achievable but amounts to a dangerous power game. The agriculture plan has pushed up food prices and driven down farm incomes. The fourth aim has been disproved by events - see French and German unemployment levels for example. The fierce national debate about Europe will continue. But it will shift gradually and remorselessly from the terms on which we stay, to the terms on which we leave. Hard facts will prevail over political nonsense.

© Andrew Alexander, Daily Mail, 9th December 2000.

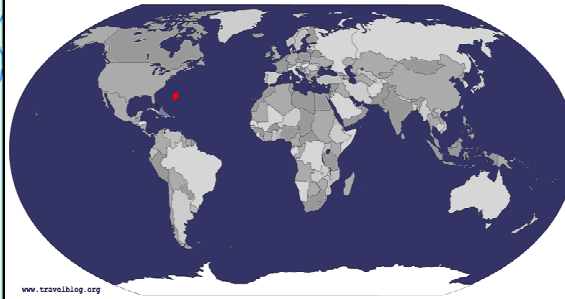
The Commonwealth Federation plan provides the United Kingdom with a solid base for it to continue to grow into a global economy with like-minded peoples. It will give Britain a chance to once again play a leading part in a great power and to pursue completely independent policies, free from both European and American domination. It gives Britain that independent third choice from Europe and America - a truly British choice. At the same time, trade links with Europe could be maintained and new trade links around the world could be built up. This proposal also offers Gibraltar a chance to integrate with Britain and the other related nations - to be part of it, instead of a possession of it, thus safeguarding Gibraltar from Spanish control forever.

# Bermuda



Motto: *Quo Fata Ferunt* (Latin) "Whither the Fates Carry [Us]"

Anthem: "God Save the Queen" (official) "Hail to Bermuda" (unofficial)



<b>Capital</b>	Hamilton
<b>Official languages</b>	English
<b>Government</b>	UK overseas territory
Queen	HM Queen Elizabeth II
Governor	Sir John Vereker
Premier	Ewart Brown
<b>Independence</b>	none (British Overseas Territory)
<b>Area</b>	
- Total	53.3 km <sup>2</sup> (224th), 20.6 sq mi
<b>Population</b>	
- 2006 estimate	65,773 (205 <sup>th</sup> )
<b>GDP (PPP)</b>	2004 estimate
- Total	\$4.5 billion (165th)
- Per capita	\$69,900 (1st)
<b>Currency</b>	Bermuda dollar <sup>2</sup> (BMD)
Source: Wikipedia 2006	

# **Bermuda**

Bermuda is a British Overseas Territory increasingly looking to change its political status. The island has been a British dependency for about four hundred years – one of the oldest relationships with the United Kingdom that is still existing. The island has one of the oldest parliamentary governments, has a healthy economy and is stable. However, recently, there has been a growing movement in Bermuda to alter its constitutional status in the form of an independence movement.

Bermuda was first settled in 1609 by shipwrecked English colonists headed for Virginia. Tourism to the island to escape North American winters first developed in Victorian times. Tourism continues to be important to the island's economy, although international business has overtaken it in recent years. 'Britishness' in the cultural sense runs deep in Bermuda.

Bermuda has developed into a highly successful offshore financial centre. A referendum on independence was soundly defeated by a 3 to 1 margin in 1995. Recent polls taken in Bermuda show that a new result would not be much different. There is a clear desire by the majority of people in Bermuda to remain British. One of their key concerns is globalisation and that independence might be a move against the trend towards global markets.

Full membership of the Federal Commonwealth as an autonomous region should satisfy the demands of both those Bermudans wanting more self-government and those wanting to remain British and have access to global markets. It would terminate the island's position as a dependency of Britain and make it into a fully self-governing region, equal to the other parts of the Federation.

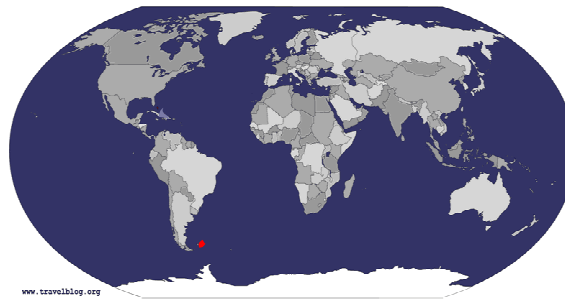
However, as part of the Federation, Bermuda would have access to markets and investment around the world and it would be easily accessible as a favourite tourist destination for other Federation citizens. This would strengthen Bermuda's economy and give the island its own voice in Federation affairs and the ability to participate in decisions that are made at the global level, something that it is not able to do now. Federation membership or Bermuda would clearly be a win-win situation for all Bermudans.

## Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)



Motto: *Desire The Right*

Anthem: "God Save the Queen" (official)



<b>Capital</b>	Stanley
<b>Official languages</b>	English
<b>Government</b>	UK overseas territory
Queen	HM Queen Elizabeth II
Governor	Sir Alan Huckle
Chief Executive	Chris Simpkins
<b>Independence</b>	none (British Overseas Territory)
	<b>Area</b>
- Total	12,173 km <sup>2</sup> (162nd), 4,700 sq mi
	<b>Population</b>
- 2005 estimate	3,060 (226th)
	<b>GDP (PPP)</b>
- Total	2004 estimate
- Per capita	\$75 million (223rd)
	\$25,000 (2002 estimate)
<b>Currency</b>	<u>Falkland pound<sup>1</sup> (FKP)</u>

Source: Wikipedia 2006

# **Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)**

The Falkland Islands are a British Overseas Territory isolated in the South Atlantic with a population that is entirely of British origin. Ethnically, this is the most British country on Earth, even more so than the United Kingdom, in which 92 per cent of the population originates in the country.

The Falkland Islands have had a complex history since their discovery, with France, Britain, Spain and Argentina all claiming possession and establishing as well as abandoning settlements on the islands. The Spanish government's claim was continued by Argentina after the latter's independence in 1816 and the independence war in 1817, until 1833 when the United Kingdom took control of the islands by force, following the destruction of the Argentine settlement at Puerto Soledad by the American sloop USS Lexington (December 28, 1831). Argentina has continued to claim sovereignty over the islands, and the dispute was used by the military junta dictatorship as a reason to invade and briefly occupy the islands before being defeated in the two-month-long undeclared Falklands War in 1982 by a United Kingdom task force which returned the islands to British control.

On April 2, 1982, Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands and other British territories in the South Atlantic (South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands), encouraged in part by the United Kingdom's reduction in military capacity in the South Atlantic and as a diversion from poor economic performance at home. The invasion was condemned by the United Nations Security Council, although world reaction ranged from support in the Latin American countries (with the exception of Chile), to opposition in Europe, the Commonwealth, and eventually the United States. The British sent a large expeditionary force to retake the islands leading to the Falklands War. After a short but fierce naval and air war, the British landed at San Carlos Water on May 21 and a land war followed until the Argentine forces surrendered on June 14.

Following the war, the British increased their military presence on the islands, constructing RAF Mount Pleasant and increasing the military garrison. Falkland Islanders were also granted full British citizenship. Although the UK and Argentina since resumed diplomatic relations in 1989, no further negotiations on sovereignty have taken place.

Executive authority is vested in the Queen and is exercised by the Governor on her behalf. The Governor is also responsible for the administration of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, as these islands have no native inhabitants. Defence and Foreign Affairs are the responsibility of the United Kingdom. The current Governor is Alan Huckle, appointed July 2006.

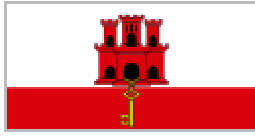
Under the constitution, the latest version of which came into force in 1985, there is an Executive Council and a Legislative Council. The Executive Council, which advises the Governor, is also chaired by the Governor. It consists of the Chief Executive, Financial Secretary and three Legislative Councillors, who are elected by the other Legislative Councillors. The Legislative Council consists of the Chief Executive, Financial Secretary and the eight Legislative Councillors, of whom five are elected from Stanley and three from Camp, for four year terms. It is presided over by the Speaker, currently Darwin Lewis Clifton.

The loss of the war against Britain over control of the islands led to the collapse of the Argentine military dictatorship in 1983. Disputes over control of the islands continue. In 2001, British Prime Minister Tony Blair became the first to visit Argentina since the war. On the twenty-second anniversary of the war, Argentina's President Néstor Kirchner gave a speech insisting that the islands would once again be part of Argentina. Kirchner, campaigning for president in 2003, regarded the islands a top priority. In June 2003 the issue was brought before a United Nations committee, and attempts have been made to open talks with Britain to resolve the issue of the islands. As far as the Falkland Islands Government and people are concerned there is no issue to resolve. The Falkland Islanders themselves are almost entirely British and maintain their allegiance to the United Kingdom.

Falkland Islanders were granted full British citizenship from 1 January 1983 under the British Nationality (Falkland Islands) Act 1983.

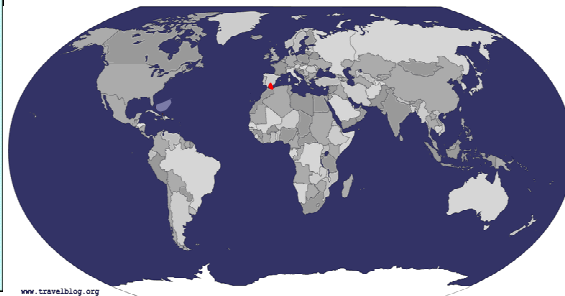
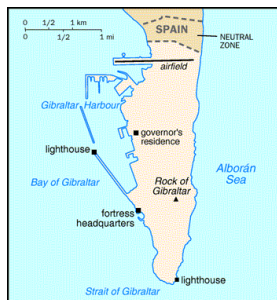
Full sovereign membership for the Falkland Islands in the proposed Commonwealth Federation will ensure that the islands remain permanently British and will maintain everlasting ties with the remainder of the British world. If Argentina becomes associated with the Federation, then this should ease tension and build friendly links between Argentina and the Falkland Islands (which the Argentines call Islas Malvinas) while maintaining British sovereignty. It will also give the islanders complete autonomous say in the governing of their country while at the same time allowing them to be represented in the wider decisions made by the Federation which affect them.

# Gibraltar



Motto: *Nulli Expugnabilis Hosti* (Latin) "Conquered By No Enemy"

Anthem: "God Save the Queen" (official)



<b>Capital</b>	Gibraltar
<b>Official languages</b>	English
<b>Government</b>	UK overseas territory
Queen	Queen Elizabeth II
Governor	Lt. Gen. Sir Robert Fulton KBE
Chief Minister	Peter Caruana
<b>Independence</b>	
Captured	1704
Ceded	1713 (Treaty of Utrecht)
National Day	10 September
	<b>Area</b>
- Total	6.5 km <sup>2</sup> (229th), 2.5 sq mi
	<b>Population</b>
- Jul 2005 estimate	27,921 (214th)
<b>GDP (PPP)</b>	2000 estimate
- Total	\$769 million (200th)
- Per capita	\$27,900 (n/a)
<b>Currency</b>	Pound Sterling (GBP)

Source: Wikipedia 2006

# **Gibraltar**

Gibraltar is a British Overseas Territory which wants to remove colonial status, but remain solidly British. It is a tiny peninsula at the mouth of the Mediterranean which has been a British possession since 1704 - about three hundred years – another one of the oldest relationships with the United Kingdom that is still existing. Gibraltar remains disputed between the United Kingdom and Spain – both countries claim it. The people of Gibraltar remain solidly British and have voted by a nearly 99 per cent margin to remain British and have rejected joint UK-Spanish sovereignty. Clearly, Gibraltarians want to control their own destiny, but remain solidly within the British family of nations. Only about 20 per cent of Gibraltarians are of British ethnic origin, the rest being North African and Mediterranean. Gibraltar even changed its flag in 1969 from one containing the British Union Jack to a totally distinctive design based on a castle. However, the country remains overwhelmingly loyal to the British world.

Strategically important, Gibraltar was ceded to Great Britain by Spain in the 1713 Treaty of Utrecht; the British garrison was formally declared a colony in 1830. In referenda held in 1967 and 2002, Gibraltarians ignored Spanish pressure and voted overwhelmingly to remain a British dependency. However, there is a growing movement in Gibraltar to end its status as a dependency and move forward to a new relationship with the United Kingdom in which Gibraltarians have some say.

A new constitution for Gibraltar was announced in March 2006. Britain has agreed with Gibraltar to reform the constitution with the colony that introduces the right of self-determination for the people on the peninsula but conditioned to 'existing treaties.'

The condition is believed to have been included at the insistence of Spain in reference to the 1713 Treaty of Utrecht which ceded the possession but not sovereignty of Gibraltar and states that if the British ever leave, it will be passed into Spanish hands.

In a parliamentary statement on Monday, Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said that the full text of the new constitution will be published in the coming weeks, and put to the people of Gibraltar in a referendum.

"The new Constitution confirms that the people of Gibraltar have the right of self-determination and that the realisation of this right must be promoted and respected in conformity with the provisions of the UN Charter and any other applicable international treaties," Straw said.

He said that the colony's right of self determination is "not constrained by the Treaty of Utrecht except in so far as Article X gives Spain the right of refusal should Britain ever renounce Sovereignty."

"Thus independence would only be an option with Spanish consent," the Foreign Secretary told MPs in his statement.

The preamble to the new Constitution makes clear the UK stands by its long-standing commitment that Gibraltar will remain part of Britain's dominions "unless and until an Act of Parliament otherwise provides."

It also pledges that the British government "will never enter into arrangements under which the people of Gibraltar would pass under the sovereignty of another state against their freely and democratically expressed wishes."

Britain and Spain have a long history of diplomatic clashes over the peninsula, seized by the UK as a colony in 1704 because of its key strategic location as a gateway to the Mediterranean.

The Gibraltar Liberal Party has proposed the following for Gibraltar's future:

1. Gibraltar becomes a self-governing city state.
2. The Queen remains as Queen of Gibraltar.
3. Dominion status (eg. similar to Canada).
4. The Gibraltarians remain British.
5. The people of Gibraltar, masters in their own homeland.

Clearly, these demands can be met by full Federal Commonwealth membership for Gibraltar as an autonomous region. Gibraltar would also keep access to free trade with the rest of Europe and would gain access to global markets. As the United Kingdom devolves into part of the Federal Commonwealth, the British Overseas Territories would go with it. Thus, Gibraltar could become a dependency of the Federation or become its own autonomous region with the Federation. Clearly, the latter would be preferred by Gibraltarians. In the event of any invasion of Gibraltar by Spain, the entire Federation could come to Gibraltar's rescue. Gibraltar would be a key strategic military location for the Federal Commonwealth at the mouth of the Mediterranean.

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