

Ankara congratulates Trump over presidential victory, calls for Gülen's extradition

Hurriyet Daily News, 09.11.2016



The Turkish government has congratulated Donald Trump for his presidential victory, while repeating its call for the extradition of U.S.-based Islamic preacher Fethullah Gülen, accused of orchestrating the failed coup attempt of July 15.

“We congratulate Mr. Trump,” Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım said. “I am openly calling on the new president from here about the urgent extradition of Fethullah Gülen, the mastermind, executor and perpetrator of the heinous July 15 coup attempt, who lives on U.S. soil.” Yıldırım added that Gülen’s extradition could mark a “new beginning” in Turkey-U.S. relations.

“I am sure that the strategic partnership of Turkey and the U.S., which is based on a long history, has created an opportunity for the new president, paying attention to Turkey’s sensitivity in the fight against terrorism, carrying forward traditional friendly relations prioritizing peace and security in the region,” he said. Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu also congratulated Trump, vowing to strengthen strategic cooperation with Washington.

“We congratulate @realDonaldTrump, President-elect of the USA. We desire to reinforce with the USA our strategic cooperation based on trust,” Çavuşoğlu tweeted. Later in the day, Çavuşoğlu said Turkey had always valued its relationship with the U.S. “We believe that our relations that lie in trust will be further developed with Trump,” he said, adding that he believed relations between the two countries would grow stronger.

Commenting on Gülen, Çavuşoğlu said Turkey was clear in demanding the extradition of the Islamic preacher and that the U.S. should not delay the issue. Justice Minister Bekir Bozdağ, meanwhile, said the U.S. voters had “refused to have their national will dictated,” echoing a theme that the government frequently uses in Turkey.

“Eventually, it is the public who votes. What I see is that as an election strategy, the American public said ‘no’ to having their will be directed,” he said. Before Trump’s victory became certain, Bozdağ said Turkey would continue to work with whoever wins the presidency. Bozdağ underlined the importance of public support, arguing that the Hillary Clinton campaign had been supported by the elite segments of society.

“As I looked at the campaigns, I thought Clinton’s stance must be weak to necessitate a campaign from pollsters, television stations, newspapers, sportspeople and artists. I know the elections in Turkey and in other countries and it’s very important to reach the public.

If the public supports you, you win. Nobody wins with newspaper headlines, polls and television stations,” he said. The minister said Turkey would continue to work with the new president. “We have joint interests, strategic partnerships, [and] there are many agreements between us. The change of presidents will not bring a radical revision of these relations,” Bozdag said. We hope US-Turkey relations will be better in this new term of the new president. We anticipate bringing our relationships further than today. We will see what will happen when the new president starts his duty,” he said.

Deputy PM Şimşek: A Turkey torn from EU would be seen as a third-world country

Hurriyet Daily News, 11.11.2016



A Turkey which is detached from the European Union will be perceived as a third-world country, Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Şimşek said in a meeting, sources close to the matter have said.

“The more Turkey shows progress in terms of European Union membership, the more it will become attractive. If Turkey burns bridges with Europe, this will be a victory for the Gülen movement,” he said at the Anatolian Lions Business Association (ASKON), according to sources. The Gülen movement is seen the main suspect in the July 15 coup attempt.

“If you agree or disagree with me, we will become a more attractive country mainly in the eyes of the Islamic world if we show progress in our negotiations with the EU. In my last visit to Japan, many questioned whether Turkey would become severed from the EU. ‘If so, we will not be in Turkey,’ they noted. Japan now tells Britain that the country will not keep making investments there due to Brexit,” he said, according to sources.

“Democracy matters a lot. After the jet crisis erupted with Russia, everything suddenly stopped. We have been quarrelling with the EU every day, but things never stopped. We need to continue our EU process for our interests. I always tell Europeans: ‘Rather than talking big about each other, let’s talk and establish a dialogue,’” he added.

Şimşek also said Turkey now needed to strengthen the climate of confidence, noting that the transition to a presidential system would be the biggest reform. “Turkey is a strong country. We started a really big reform movement in 2002 and implemented these reforms one by one. Turkey became successful and grew between 2002 and 2007.

Now we need to strengthen the climate of confidence. To achieve this, we need to get the transition to a presidential system done as soon as possible. Yes, there are liquidity problems and some bottlenecks in trade volume, but Turkey has overcome a huge trauma.

The July 15 coup attempt was not easy to overcome, but we have the capacity to do this. We can do this. The presidential system will be the biggest reform. This will be an insurance that we will not experience what we saw on June 7 again,” he said, according to sources. On June 7, 2015, the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) failed to capture a majority in parliamentary elections. im ek also noted that the political ground had shifted to extremes around the world, which is not good, according to sources.

Turkey’s current account deficit widens in September

Anadolu Agency, 11.11.2016



Turkey’s current account deficit stood at \$1.7 billion in September, an increase from a \$167 million surplus in the same month of 2015. The Central Bank stated that this was due to a decline in income from tourism and an increase in imports.

According to Central Bank data, the Turkey’s current 12-month rolling deficit rose to \$32.4 billion, up from \$31.02 billion in August 2016. An increase in Turkey’s current account deficit in goods items and a decrease in the services surplus were the main reasons for the increase, the Central Bank stated.

“An increase in the deficit in goods items by \$686 million to \$3.2 billion, as well as a \$1.16 billion decrease in the services surplus to \$2.3 billion and a \$42 million increase in primary income deficit to \$927 million affected the current account negatively, reversing the surplus observed in September of the previous year into deficit in the same month of this year,” it said.

Travel items under services recorded a net inflow of \$2.02 billion, decreasing by \$888 million compared to the same month of the previous year, the Bank also said. Turkish revenues from tourism fell by 32.7 percent to \$8.28 billion in the third quarter of the year, official figures showed on Oct. 31. The country’s total revenue from tourism was over \$17.3 billion from January to September, \$7.6 billion less compared to the same period last year.

Turkey-US rift over Raqqa op continues

Hurriyet Daily News, 07.11.2016



A rift between Turkey and the U.S. over which local forces will take part in liberating Raqqa from the ISIL continues to rumble on, even after the top soldiers of the NATO allies held a lengthy meeting in Ankara on Nov. 6.

Turkey has reiterated its readiness to push Syrian Kurds out of the Manbij area in northern Syria. “The Americans also see and admit that the Raqqa operation will take a long time. We have underlined that both the Raqqa and Mosul operations should be held on a legitimate line. Legitimacy cannot be provided with the participation of armed terror organizations.

It requires the participation of legitimate states and their armed forces,” Deputy PM Numan Kurtulmu told. Turkish and American chiefs of general staff, Gen. Hulusi Akar and Gen. Roger Dunford, held an announced meeting in Ankara on Nov. 6 to discuss ongoing joint fight against ISIL, as news broke that much-anticipated Raqqa operation is about to begin.

Turkey has long been pressing the U.S. to stop allying with Syrian Kurds’ Democratic Union Party (PYD), which it sees as an offshoot of the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK), and to cooperate with the Turkey-backed Free Syrian Army (FSA).

“In the end, the Americans will also understand the importance of legitimacy,” Kurtulmu said. “Until now, we have continued to express our views and works. We tell them that all unnecessary steps taken by non-Arab forces in Raqqa will end up being to the disadvantage of America as well. It would also be against regional peace, a dead end, a wrong path.”

Kurtulmu also said one of Ankara’s strategic priorities was to ensure that all PYD forces would be withdrawn from the Manbij area in northern Syria, and this concern was delivered to Dunford in meetings. “We have also made clear that eliminating the PYD from Manbij one way or another is among our strategic priorities, and that Turkey has accomplished its preparations on Manbij,” he added.

After Dunford’s meetings in Ankara, an article posted on the U.S. Department of Defense’s official website quoted him as saying that “the coalition and Turkey will work together on the long-term plan for seizing, holding and governing Raqqa.” Dunford said he met with Akar in order to coordinate operational planning in many areas, including operations against ISIL in Raqqa, operations in Mosul, and others.

“Obviously as a close ally, we really just want to make sure that we’re completely tight as we work through some challenging issues. The SDF [Syrian Democratic Forces] are moving south to isolate the enemy that’s in the vicinity of Raqqa and in Raqqa. We always advertised that the isolation phase is going to take months,” he said.

He added that as the operation in Syria continues, the U.S. will continue to work with the Turks and others to determine the make-up of the forces that actually seize Raqqa and hold it and govern it. “We always knew that the SDF wasn’t the solution for holding and governing Raqqa. What we are working on right now is to find the right mix of forces for the operation,” Dunford stated.

“[The operation needs] a predominantly Arab and Sunni Arab force. And there are forces like that. There is the moderate Syrian opposition, the vetted Syrian forces and the Free Syrian Army [FSA] forces, and there is some initial outreach to forces in Raqqa proper,” he said.

“Last year at this time, there were a couple of hundred Arabs inside the SDF. Now there are 12,000-plus. The forces have grown significantly. Success breeds success and there are a lot more forces to use. As we close on Raqqa, we will identify other forces from the area that are willing to support operations there,” Dunford said.

U.S. and Turkish officials also agreed that a high-ranking U.S. officer and staff will work in Ankara to enhance cooperation. That officer will report to U.S. Central Command commander Army Gen. Joe Votel. The officer will act as a point of contact for the Combined Joint Task Force operating against ISIL. “We want to be totally transparent about this with our Turkish ally,” Dunford said.

The general characterized the military-to-military relations between the two countries as excellent. In fact, he felt comfortable enough with his relations with Akar to call him on Friday and ask “if I could drop by” to discuss mutual issues on Sunday.

UN official: US aid for Syria must go on

Reuters, 10.11.2016



A top U.N. humanitarian aid official for Syria said he expected continued U.S. help in efforts to support beleaguered Syrian civilians under the newly elected Donald Trump’s presidency.

Jan Egeland also cited reports yesterday from Syria that “the last food rations are being distributed as we speak” in besieged eastern parts of the city of Aleppo, The AP reported. Speaking to reporters in Geneva, Egeland said the U.N. needs “continued, uninterrupted U.S. help and engagement in the coming months,” and noted that progress is made only when the United States and Russia, a backer of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, are leading the diplomatic efforts.

Egeland said he could not speculate about whether the prospect of improved U.S.-Russia relations under Trump would have an impact. Meanwhile, Syria’s main opposition group urged U.S. president-elect Trump to protect civilians and help end the bloodshed in the country, devastated by five years of war. Riad Hijab, head of the opposition High Negotiations Committee (HNC), said Syrian civilians were in urgent need of protection from al-Assad’s regime, in a statement released on the night of Nov. 9, AFP reported.

He called for American support to “establish peace in our region and to find fair and swift solutions for the threat of terrorism... especially the state terrorism practiced by the Syrian regime against the Syrian people,” Hijab said. The United States leads an international coalition conducting air strikes in Syria against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

Washington also supports certain rebel groups fighting the Russian-backed Assad regime. Hijab congratulated Trump on his election victory and urged him to provide “the fastest and most efficient means to protect civilians.” The conflict in Syria has left some 300,000 people dead since anti-regime protests in 2011 triggered a brutal government crackdown that has prompted accusations of war crimes.

US-backed forces push closer to ISIL ‘capital’ Raqqa

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A U.S.-backed Kurdish-Arab alliance pushed closer to the ISIL’s de facto capital of Raqqa in Syria, a spokesperson said. SDF, which are composed of Kurdish and Arab forces, have been pushing south from areas near the Turkish border towards Raqqa and alliance spokeswoman Sheikh Ahmed said they had moved to within 36 kilometers of the city.

“Two more villages have been taken since yesterday,” she told, adding that SDF forces had so far advanced 14 kilometers closer to Raqqa from Ain Issa, the main staging point for the operation, that was launched on Nov. 6.

“The fighting continues; morale is good and our fighters are determined that this offensive will succeed,” she said. SDF commanders said ISIL has been fighting back with its favorite tactic of sending suicide bombers in explosives-packed vehicles against advancing forces.

Many of the attacks have been foiled by coalition air strikes or anti-tank fire, they said. SDF forces have been seen digging trenches and piling sandbags in retaken areas to reinforce their positions. Like in the battle for Mosul, which is ongoing since Oct. 17, the goal of the Raqqa offensive is to surround and isolate the jihadists inside the city, before eventually mounting a street-to-street assault.

Raqqa had a population of some 240,000 before the start of the Syrian civil war in 2011 and more than 80,000 people have since fled there from other parts of the country. Raqa and Mosul are the last major cities in Syria and Iraq under the jihadists’ control and their capture would deal a knockout blow to the self-styled “caliphate” ISIL declared in mid-2014. The U.S.-led coalition that launched operations against ISIL two years ago is providing crucial backing to both offensives, with air strikes and special forces advisers on the ground.

Unlike in Iraq, where the coalition has a state-controlled ally in federal forces, in Syria its ground partner is comprised of local militias, including some rebel groups that have battled Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's regime.

The domination of the SDF by the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) has also raised deep concerns in Turkey, which considers the YPG a terrorist group linked to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

Mr. Brexit and Britain

Economist, 09.11.2016



“BREXIT-plus-plus-plus” was how Donald Trump—who also called himself **“Mr Brexit”**—termed his pitch to voters during his successful presidential campaign. Sure enough, many Americans will soon be waking up soon to a feeling similar to the one Remainers in Britain experienced on the morning of June 24th: bafflement at the failure of so many polls to predict the result, shock at the electorate's defiance of expert opinion, concern for liberal values.

If Mr Trump relishes the comparisons it is because he identifies with the architects of Britain's departure from the European Union:

Like him, privileged demagogues deft at manipulating the public's worst fears and instincts. Yet these affinities confer few obvious advantages on Britain. Mr Trump may admire the country's recent decision, but he will make an unpredictable, unfamiliar partner—especially compared with Hillary Clinton, an instinctive Anglophile. It says something about the immediate future of the “special relationship” so revered in London that the British politicians most experienced in dealing with America's president-elect are Nigel Farage, a Brexiteering rabble-rouser (who stumped for him and is currently flying to Washington, DC to ingratiate himself further with the incoming administration) and Alex Salmond, a former first minister of Scotland (whom Mr Trump branded “a has-been and totally irrelevant” in a tiff over a Scottish golf resort).

What about the country's leaders? Theresa May could hardly be more different in temperament from her new counterpart. The foreign secretary, Boris Johnson, though closer to him in style, has said: “The only reason I wouldn't visit some parts of New York is the real risk of meeting Donald Trump.”

In January British MPs debated banning Mr Trump from the country, calling him a “buffoon”, a “demagogue” and a “joke” (one using the word “idiot” thrice in five minutes). To say the British establishment is unenthusiastic about America's president-elect would be to put it politely. Nonetheless, the risks of a Trump presidency—protectionism, geopolitical turmoil, American isolationism—weigh heavy on British interests.



And they do so all the more thanks to the decision in June that so animated Mr Trump: Brexit removes many of the shock absorbers that might have helped Britain to ride out the next few years. Take trade. Mr Trump has long pledged to pursue a tough line in negotiations and seems to fancy a tariff war with China. Protectionism is infectious. If, as seems likely, Britain leaves the EU's customs union on quitting the organisation, it may well find itself trying to negotiate new trade terms at a time when economies around the world are pulling up the drawbridge.

Meanwhile the British economy was already in a fragile state before last night's result, with the pound weakened, business uncertainty mounting and some evidence of slowing investment. The economic shock of a Trump presidency may exacerbate these trends (though the pound briefly rose against the dollar as Mr Trump's victory became clear). It will also harden politics in the mainland European countries with which Britain will shortly start negotiating, where populists emboldened by his win (most notably Marine Le Pen of France's National Front) will reduce mainstream leaders' freedom to approve a pragmatic deal with Britain.

Then there is security. A staple of the pro-Brexit campaign was that the existence of NATO made European defence cooperation unnecessary and that quitting the EU would thus not knock Britain's influence as a military power.

That did not reckon with America's next president being as equivocal about NATO as is Mr Trump, who has pledged an "America first" doctrine requiring countries under its security umbrella to make their own arrangements. Britain could thus find itself falling into the gap between a less effective, more divided NATO on the one side and rapid moves towards EU defence integration on the other.

A single theme unifies these risks. Brexit is a giant shock to Britain's place in the world. It will sever old links and require new ones to be forged. As some of its keenest proponents concede, this transition will bring painful costs.

Most of all it demands lots of good will and flexibility on all sides. In so far as Mr Trump's win means a meaner, more fractious, more volatile global order, it raises those costs and shrinks that space for compromise and consensus essential for a smooth Brexit.

Limiting the damage of a Trump presidency on a Brexiting Britain demands ambition and perspective from Mrs May. Her approach should be two-sided. First, build a new, closer alliance with Angela Merkel, not just on Brexit but on wider issues: the world economy, security, Russia and China.

In Berlin and other European capitals officials complain that June's referendum result has taken Britain's mind off all other matters. The prime minister must not allow that to happen and instead work with Mrs Merkel as a bloc capable of countering Mr Trump's worst traits. Second, Mrs May should use Britain's influence in America (which is significant, if not as much as Britons like to imagine) to attempt to moderate the new president, staying his hand when he does wrong and indulging his vanity when he does right. Mrs May already had her hands full with Brexit. Now, for Britain's sake and that of the world, she must also deal with Mr Brexit himself.

More than half of Germans want Merkel to run in 2017 vote

Reuters, 09.11.2016



More than half of Germans want Chancellor Angela Merkel to run for a fourth term as the conservative candidate in the 2017 federal election, a poll showed, despite a dip in her popularity due to her liberal migrant policy.

Some 59 percent of Germans want Merkel to put herself forward for “The Union,” which is made up of Merkel’s Christian Democrats and its Bavarian sister party - the Christian Social Union - a survey by pollster Forsa for Stern magazine showed. That compared with 35 percent who said they do not want Merkel to run for a fourth term, according to the poll of 1,002 people conducted between Nov. 3 and 4.

Senior allies of Merkel have indicated they expect her to run for office again in 2017 even though her decision to allow more than a million migrants fleeing the Middle East, Africa and elsewhere into Germany this year and last has polarized society.

Merkel, 62, has been chancellor of Europe’s largest economy since 2005. She has repeatedly declined to comment on whether she will run in 2017, saying only that she will make her intentions clear in due course. In September she said she was still motivated.

If Merkel decides not to run for office, 26 percent think Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble, who earned respect for his handling of the euro zone crisis, would be the best candidate to run for the conservatives, while 18 percent were in favor of Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen.

Von der Leyen is often rumored to be a possible successor to Merkel but said in October that she hoped to continue serving in her current role beyond the election. Twelve percent thought Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere would be the best choice for conservative candidate if Merkel chooses not to run.

German defense minister wants EU military to match NATO

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German Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen said that the European Union must modernize its military defense and security to match NATO's drive to beef up its own security forces in the wake of a major Russian build-up.

France, Germany, Italy and Spain are calling for a common European defense policy after Britain's vote to quit the bloc, an initiative that marks the EU's biggest push since the 1990s. "We have seen an enormous modernization drive by NATO over the past three years because of the Kremlin's behavior," Reuters quoted von der Leyen as telling a security conference hosted by the conservative Christian Democrats.

"That was correct and important, but I believe that we must invest at the least same energy into a modernization of the European security and defense union," she said. Von der Leyen, keen to assuage concerns raised by the United States and Britain, said the increase should occur "knowing that one cannot build up competition between the two bodies, but that they should work in a complementary fashion."

For instance, she said, the EU had a clear mission in working with Africa to stem the steady flow of migrants crossing the Mediterranean Sea, but that was not NATO's job. "I see a big mission for the European Union, which must work for a solution together with the African countries," von der Leyen said. "But to do that, it must better organize and bundle the many instruments it has in the civilian and military realms, actually implement them, and offer a joint European response."

In a joint letter, Germany, France, Italy and Spain have argued that the EU should be able to respond to external crises without the guiding hand of the United States. Proposals include increasing European spending on military missions, jointly developing assets such as helicopters and drones, expanding peacekeeping abroad and building stronger defenses against state-sponsored hackers.

NATO, and especially the United States, has long argued that Europeans should increase defense spending and strengthen their militaries to ensure their own defense. EU defense ministers will hold talks on the plans in Brussels next week before presenting a more detailed strategy at a summit meeting of EU leaders in December.

Von der Leyen has been pushing hard to revamp the German military, improve its procurement process and boost personnel. Last month she said Germany was ready to play a larger military role in the service of closer European defense cooperation.

German ministry 'wants migrants returned to Africa'

Reuters, 08.11.2016



The German Interior Ministry wants to stop migrants ever reaching Europe's Mediterranean coast by picking them up at sea and returning them to Africa, the newspaper reported.

In what would be a huge shift for a country with one of the most generous asylum policies, the ministry says the European Union should adopt an Australian-style system under which migrants intercepted at sea are sent for processing at camps in third countries. "The elimination of the prospect of reaching the European coast could convince migrants to avoid embarking on the life-threatening and costly journey in the first place," the paper quoted.

"The goal must be to remove the basis for people-smuggling organizations and to save migrants from the life-threatening journey." The ministry's proposal calls for migrants picked up in the Mediterranean - most of whom set off from conflict-torn Libya - to be sent to Tunisia, Egypt or other north African states to apply for asylum from there.

If their asylum applications are accepted, the migrants could then be transported safely to Europe. The ministry is headed by Thomas de Maiziere, a member of Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative Christian Democrats. Merkel has been under fire for her open-door refugee policy, with her party losing votes to the anti-immigration Alternative for Germany (AfD) party in recent regional elections.

The ministry said there were no concrete plans or discussions at EU-level about the proposal, but opposition politicians condemned the plan. Bernd Riexinger, head of the opposition Left party, said it would be "a humanitarian scandal and a further step toward elimination of the right to asylum," the paper reported. He said asylum applications should be filed in Germany to ensure applicants had access to legal help and he called Australia's treatment of migrants "absolutely unacceptable".

More than 2,200 migrants were rescued in the Mediterranean in a single day on Saturday and 10 bodies were recovered, Italy's coast guard said. The International Organization for Migration said last week that 159,496 people had reach Italy by sea this year and 4,220 died trying - a sharp increase from 3,777 in the whole of 2015.

Why Brexit has never loved Donald Trump back

Foreign Policy, 07.11.2016



Given all the strange sights the 2016 presidential race has produced, a British politician taking the stage in Jackson, Mississippi to whoops and cheers may not rank among the weirdest.

Still, it's worth taking a few minutes to look back on oddness of the moment: Donald Trump, delivering a remedial lecture on European politics ("I said that Britain would leave the EU — sometimes referred to as 'EU'"); Nigel Farage, wearing a suit in the late August Mississippi heat, bounding up on stage to bash Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. For a few months, Farage and Trump gleefully played populist brothers in arms.

Farage worked the spin room on Trump's behalf following the second presidential debate, producing memorable animal comparisons; Trump called himself "Mr. Brexit" nearly every chance he got.

Farage could have rightfully taken offense at that self-conferred title. If anyone was Mr. Brexit, shouldn't it be him, the man who devoted his entire political career to achieving U.K.'s exit from the European Union? But no matter — it was worth swallowing his pride for what seemed a mutually beneficial relationship, one which allowed Trump to claim Brexit's momentum for his own campaign and allowed Farage to be the international face of a victory that was, in fact, only partially his.

And then, two weeks ago, it seemed that even Trump's favorite Brexiteer had finally had enough. In an interview with the BBC's Jeremy Paxman following the wave of sexual assault allegations that had just slammed into Trump's campaign, Farage showed the first signs of slowly backing away from the Republican nominee.

Farage said he disagreed with Trump on "lots of things" — among them, he said, his treatment of women and his plan to ban Muslims from the United States. "There are lots of things in this campaign that I couldn't support in any way at all, nor do I," he said. When you've lost Mr. Breaking Point, can you really keep calling yourself Mr. Brexit?

The incentive for Trump to tie his populist campaign to the Brexit vote is clear enough: Brexit's anti-establishment vibe fits his own populist brand. Plus, Brexit won! When 'decent people,' as Farage put during his Mississippi stump speech, band together and rise up, they can shake off the unelected Eurocrats! (Or, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama.)

But, Farage's early enthusiasm aside, Trump's love for Brexit has never been requited. Many of the most prominent Brexit champions are not Trump supporters at all. (For Farage's part, as of the surprise Clinton email bombshell from the FBI a week ago, he appears to be back on Team Trump.)



And that lack of support says something about where the analogies between the Trump campaign and the Brexit vote do and don't stack up. Trump, for instance, does not have the backing of Boris Johnson, the former mayor of London, whose support, many post hoc accounts suggest, was instrumental in giving the Brexit campaign the mainstream respectability it needed to secure a victory.

Johnson, now foreign secretary, has called Trump "unfit to hold the office of the president of the United States," and following the Brexit vote, made a point of drawing a "very, very strong contrast" between what it meant to vote to leave the EU and what it means to vote for Trump.

Whatever support Trump has from Rupert Murdoch — whose newspapers led the way in Brexit cheerleading — has come only grudgingly, and in the wake of a high-profile feud during the Republican primary.

Murdoch, who particularly dislikes Trump's stance on immigration, apparently blamed former Fox News head Roger Ailes for enabling Trump's rise, and even went so far as to order the moderators of the first GOP primary debate on Fox to hit Trump hard on a variety of issues, according to New York magazine, declaring that "this has gone on long enough."

The Murdoch-owned New York Post endorsed Trump in the GOP primary, but the Wall Street Journal, which does not endorse candidates as a matter of tradition, has published editorials that have been strongly critical of the Republican nominee, including one that edged close to asking Trump to drop out of the race.

These are the big names, the ones with international cache. But there are others: Daniel Hannan, a member of European Parliament whom the Guardian newspaper dubbed "The Man Who Brought You Brexit" thinks Donald Trump is "a narcissistic, thin-skinned bully, a serial liar, a man who shows not the slightest respect for the office to which he aspires."

Douglas Carswell, UKIP's only member of Parliament, called Trump "shrill and obnoxious" and said the idea of banning Muslims from the United States was "plainly absurd." Douglas Carswell, UKIP's only member of Parliament, called Trump "shrill and obnoxious" and said the idea of banning Muslims from the United States was "plainly absurd."

Many of the theories for a possible Trump victory have depended on analogies with Brexit. If Brexit could achieve a convincing populist victory despite ambiguous polling, who's to say Trump can't do the same? But the fact that many, if not most, prominent Brexit supporters express a visceral dislike for the Republican presidential nominee, despite his obvious enthusiasm for them, at the very least suggests that not all populist causes are created equal.

It's sometimes hard to remember these days, in the wake of the Conservative Party Conference last month in which Theresa May made clear that she saw the Brexit victory as a mandate to take a hard line against immigration, that the vote to leave the EU actually came out of a coalition composed of two camps.



One of these camps looked very much like Trump voters do: white, working class, anti-immigrant, and anti-globalization — people who saw pulling the lever for Brexit as a big middle finger to “the system.”

But the other camp looked very, very different. A Brexit vote, for them, was a vote to liberate Britain from the EU’s reams of regulations, so that it might be freed to become the ultimate freemarket state. This camp was, if anything, pro-immigrant and pro-globalization — people who wanted to see London turned into a sort of “Singapore on the Thames.”

More than a few American publications have referred to Boris Johnson as the Donald Trump of Britain. But funny hair aside, this isn’t an accurate comparison at all. There’s a reason why Nigel Farage is Trump’s favorite Brexit buddy: Farage, despite briefly losing faith a few weeks ago in the face of Trump’s alleged sexual predations, hails from the first camp of Brexit voters. But many of the figures that gave Brexit its political and intellectual muscle — the professionals, in other words, the ones who knew how to run campaigns, who knew how to strategize, and prepare for, say, debates — hailed from the second.

There is no real Trump equivalent of this second camp. Not politically (with, perhaps, the exception of Kellyanne Conway, a late addition, Trump’s leading strategic advisors have been his children). And certainly not intellectually: Conservative thinkers remain among the staunchest #NeverTrumpers out there. Daniel Hannan spent decades of his life writing books and speeches that honed the intellectual case against the European Union. There is no Trumpian equivalent of a Daniel Hannan.

When people like Johnson, or say, Michael Gove, another leading Brexit campaigner, railed against the “elites,” they always seemed to be doing it with a bit of a wink. The idea was absurd on its face — these were among the most elite people in the country, even if they were happy to exploit the anger of the working classes to achieve their own ends.

But with Donald Trump, despite his own personal wealth, the anti-elite attacks are less patently ridiculous. For better or worse, his campaign is a genuinely anti-elite revolt. With a handful of exceptions — the Peter Thiels, the Newt Gingriches — there are truly very few of the people commonly considered “elites” who are rooting with gusto for Donald Trump.

This missing second camp complicates the analogy between Brexit and Trump, so it’s not actually clear what it tells us about the prospects of a Trump victory. The fight over the EU referendum has since been replaced by a battle over who will “win” Brexit — the Little Englanders or the Singapore-on-Thamesers — that is still unfolding.

But for those who saw, in Brexit, people like Rupert Murdoch riding a wave of working-class anger toward a dream of a regulation-free Britain, the course of the fight, so far, has been surprising. May has sent signals that some see as portending a “hard Brexit”; that is, she’s indicated she might be willing to prioritize stopping immigration over maintaining access to Europe’s single market. For the most part, this isn’t the sort of Brexit that this second camp had in mind. Will it turn out that Britain’s angry white working-class voters were actually exploiting the pro-Brexit elites, and their politicking expertise, to achieve the sort of victory they wanted, rather than the other way around?

The ultimate meaning of Brexit will be determined retroactively, by whomever wins the ongoing fight between Britain's pro-Brexit camps. And that, in turn, will determine whether Trump, who only represents one side of that fight, can rightly refer to himself as Mr. Brexit, or rather just a poor man's Nigel Farage, fated to rule a fringe party and nothing more.

Trump claims astounding victory as America's 45th president

Hurriyet Daily News, 09.11.2016



Republican Donald Trump stunned the world by defeating heavily favored rival Hillary Clinton in the Nov. 9 presidential election by becoming the 45th U.S. president and ending eight years of Democratic rule and sending the country on a new, uncertain path.

His triumph over the Democrat Clinton, not declared until well after midnight, threatens to undo major achievements of U.S. President Barack Obama. Trump has pledged to act quickly to repeal Obama's landmark healthcare law, revoke America's nuclear agreement with Iran and rewrite important trade deals with other countries, particularly Mexico and Canada.

Obama, who campaigned hard against Trump, telephoned the Republican to congratulate him on his victory and invited him to the White House for a meeting, the White House said in a statement. "Ensuring a smooth transition of power is one of the top priorities the president identified at the beginning of the year and a meeting with the president-elect is the next step," the White House said.

Trump appeared with his family before cheering supporters in a New York hotel ballroom, saying it was time to heal the divisions caused by the campaign and find common ground after a campaign that exposed deep differences among Americans. As he claimed victory, Trump urged Americans to "come together as one united people after a deeply divisive campaign. "I will be president for all Americans."

Clinton called her Republican rival to concede but did not immediately speak publicly about the stunning results. Trump, who spent much of the campaign urging his supporters on as they chanted "lock her up," said the nation owed Clinton "a major debt of gratitude" for her years of public service. His comments were an abrupt departure from his campaign trail rhetoric in which he repeatedly slammed Clinton as "crooked."

Prevailing in a cliffhanger race that opinion polls had clearly forecast as favoring a Clinton victory, Trump won avid support among a core base of white non-college educated workers with his promise to be the "greatest jobs president that God ever created." The Republican blasted through Democrats' longstanding firewall, carrying Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, states that hadn't voted for a GOP presidential candidate since the 1980s.



He needed to win nearly all of the competitive battleground states, and he did just that, claiming Florida, Ohio, North Carolina and others. “Such a beautiful and important evening! The forgotten man and woman will never be forgotten again.

We will all come together as never before,” Trump wrote on Twitter. In his victory speech, he said he had a great economic plan, would embark on a project to rebuild American infrastructure and would double U.S. economic growth.

Clinton spent months warning voters that Trump was unfit and unqualified to be president. But the former senator and secretary of state struggled to articulate a clear rationale for her own candidacy. Trump will inherit an anxious nation, deeply divided by economic and educational opportunities, race and culture.

Exit polls underscored the fractures: Women nationwide supported Clinton by a double-digit margin, while men were significantly more likely to back Trump. More than half of white voters backed the Republican, while nearly 9 in 10 blacks and two-thirds of Hispanics voted for the Democrat. Republicans maintained their majorities in both chambers of the U.S. Congress in the momentous election, empowering the party to reshape Washington.

The Republican sweep sets up the United States for two years of “unified” government, which would normally mean significant policy change, although Trump’s election was anything but normal and he will start his presidency with unusual handicaps. Television networks projected the party would retain majorities in both the 100-seat Senate and the House of Representatives, where all 435 seats were up for grabs.

In the House, Republicans were on track to take 239 seats to the Democrats’ 196, according to NBC’s House model. That would be an eight-seat gain for Democrats, but still well short of what would be necessary to snatch the 435-member chamber back from Republican control. Both Republican leaders on Capitol Hill held Trump at arm’s length during the campaign. Trump offended and attacked some congressional Republicans on the stump, including House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan.

Early on Nov. 9, shortly after Clinton conceded to Trump, Ryan said in a statement: “We are eager to work hand-in-hand with the new administration to advance an agenda to improve the lives of the American people.” Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, also a Republican, said in a guarded and similarly timed statement: “The American people have chosen a new direction for our nation.” The new Congress will not convene until Jan. 3, but the “lame-duck” Congress will return next week and Republicans are set to begin the process of picking leaders for both chambers.



Announcements & Reports

Are Advanced Economies at Risk of Falling Into Debt Traps?

Source : Bruegel
Weblink : <http://bruegel.org/2016/11/are-advanced-economies-at-risk-of-falling-into-debt-traps/>

A glass half full: The rebalance, reassurance, and resolve in the U.S.-China strategic relationship

Source : RAND
Weblink : <https://www.brookings.edu/research/a-glass-half-full-the-rebalance-reassurance-and-resolve-in-the-u-s-china-strategic-relationship/>

Income convergence during the crisis: did EU funds provide a buffer?

Source : Bruegel
Weblink : <http://bruegel.org/2016/10/income-convergence-did-eu-funds-provide-a-buffer/>

Upcoming Events

Competitive Gains in the Economic and Monetary Union

Date : 13 November 2016
Place : Brussels - Belgium
Website : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/event/534-competitive-gains-in-the-economic-and-monetary-union/>

The Future of Capitalist Democracy: UK-Japan Perspectives

Date : 15 November 2016
Place : London - UK
Website : <http://www.chathamhouse.org/event/future-capitalist-democracy-uk-japan-perspectives>

13th Asia Europe Economic Forum (AEEF)

Date : 16 November 2016
Place : Beijing - China
Website : <http://bruegel.org/events/13th-asia-europe-economic-forum/>



Emerging Markets and Europe: Time for Different Relationships?

Date : 17 November 2016
Place : Brussels - Belgium
Website : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/event/524-emerging-markets-and-europe-time-for-different-relationships/>

What future for Europe's Social Models?

Date : 19 November 2016
Place : Brussels - Belgium
Website : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/event/526-what-future-for-europes-social-models/>

Challenges for Growth in Europe

Date : 23 November 2016
Place : Brussels - Belgium
Website : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/event/521-challenges-for-growth-in-europe/>

Global Governance of Public Goods: Asian and European Perspectives

Date : 23 November 2016
Place : Paris - France
Website : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/event/529-global-governance-of-public-goods-asian-and-european-perspectives/>

The Future of the Welfare State

Date : 24 November 2016
Place : Berlin - Germany
Website : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/event/541-the-future-of-the-welfare-state/>

Vision Europe Summit 2016

Date : 25 November 2016
Place : Lisbon - Portugal
Website : <http://bruegel.org/events/vision-europe-summit-2016/>