

***Europhoria!* Explaining Britain's Pro-European Moment, 1988–1992**

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Abstract

British attitudes to 'Europe' have been long characterised as 'reluctant'. This article uses a range of qualitative and quantitative sources to describe and explain an anomalous period in which Britons were highly 'enthusiastic Europeans'. This 'Europhoria' is interpreted using an expanded 'calculation, cues, and community' theoretical framework, including: (1) calculations driven mainly by anticipation of the '1992' single market launch and 'social chapter' and trust engendered by unrealised negative predictions raised during the 1975 referendum; (2) proactive domestic European policy leading to harmonious, influential, insider status; (3) benchmarking of comparable, better performing European economies and (4) newfound belief that Europe was Britain's most important international community. 'Europhoria' interplayed with a sense of European community and geopolitical possibilities stimulated by the fall of the Berlin Wall and unusually 'European' cultural trends in media, sports and arts. The reversal of these factors – in some cases at pan-European level – explains the British return to Euroscepticism thereafter. These findings have profound theoretical implications for public attitudes to Europe and historical understandings of Britain and Europe.

Keywords

attitudes to European integration, public opinion, Britain and Europe, Thatcher, single market, process tracing

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Just think for a moment what a prospect that is. A single market without barriers – visible or invisible – giving you direct and unhindered access to the purchasing power of over 300 million of the world's wealthiest and most prosperous people. Bigger than Japan. Bigger than the United States. On your doorstep . . . It's not a dream. It's not a vision. It's not some bureaucrat's plan. It's for real. And it's only five years away' – Margaret Thatcher, alongside Jacques Delors, 16 April 1988, addressing the *Europe Open for Business* launch event.

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Britain is slowly adapting to being more 'European'. The Channel Tunnel . . . will tie our offshore islands to the Continent through what is tellingly described as a 'fixed link'. We take it for granted that British foreign policy is increasingly coordinated with that of the other Eleven . . . Our businessmen commute as naturally to Amsterdam or Copenhagen as to Swindon and Liverpool. EEC mergers loom – *The Times*, 30 January 1989.

This column is prepared to own up that it voted 'No' in the 1975 referendum on whether Britain should stay in the European Community . . . To be sure, British withdrawal from the EC is a mere fantasy now – *The Guardian*, 11 December 1989.

As the actual event of German unification unfolds on the world's TV screens, many observers view the spectacle as a precursor . . . of enlarged clout for [Europe] as a whole. Only a couple years ago, the continent suffered from what some called 'Euroclerosis'. Now, 'Europhoria' has overtaken the 12 present members of the European Community. They exude confidence that 'the decade of Europe' is underway – *The Washington Post*, 5 July 1990.

Introduction

Britain's relationship with 'Europe' has long been described in overwhelmingly negative terms: at elite level, an 'awkward partner', and, at popular level, composed of 'reluctant Europeans'. Typically, in late 2015, *The Economist* dedicated its cover to 'The Reluctant European' and a nine-article special report variously described British attitudes to Europe as 'natural ambivalence', 'always [having] been rather half-hearted' and 'a transactional business', with 'deep . . . opposition' whereas for other members 'the project has always been a matter of the heart' (*The Economist*, 2015). Academic uses of the term are numerous, framing British Euroscepticism as unique, constant and precluding any pro-Europeanism beyond instrumentalism fuelled by post-imperial desperation (Appendix 1). Indeed, well-documented moments of the relationship – the UK's initial dismissal of the project, repeated rejected applications, rebates, opt-outs, vetoes, vocal challenges from media and statespersons and finally a dramatic popular and governmental rejection of membership altogether – support this characterisation.

While this account is compelling, it is incomplete. Indeed, there was a time when British citizens were overwhelmingly united in seeing a bright European future as the focus of their ambitions for their country and, in many cases, themselves. Similarly, British governments took the lead in deepening the European project with profound, lasting consequences for both the United Kingdom and 'Europe'. From roughly the mid-1980s until the early 1990s, rather than being an 'awkward partner' of 'reluctant Europeans', the United Kingdom could better be described as Europe's *primary* 'proactive partner' composed of 'enthusiastic Europeans' keen for many aspects of deeper integration, owing to the elision of an unusual set of circumstances. This period can be labelled with a *portmanteau* used by media in the United Kingdom, Europe and beyond to describe the contemporary political, economic and cultural sentiment of the time: *Europhoria!* (e.g. Lagerfeld, 1990).

The article aims to both describe and explain *Europhoria*. It utilises, contributes to and tests theories of attitudes to European integration with quantitative and qualitative data sources from a comparative perspective – both top-down and bottom-up – that also factors in the changing nature of the European project itself. However, unlike most studies, it takes a cross-temporal approach to doing so, offering fresh insights into the event-driven nature of attitudes to Europe and beyond. This approach also contributes to several sub-fields of

contemporary history through the prism of public attitudes: the breakdown of the post-war consensus, the founding of both the single market and the European Union, and a period of global transition as the Cold War ended. Similarly, explaining British *Europhoria* is of theoretical interest for the science of attitudinal formation with its myriad sociological, economic and psychological determinants. Finally, it is of substantive importance for those seeking to understand why political unions gain and lose support.

The Case: Enthusiastic Europeans

According to the Eurobarometer, net belief that European membership is a good, rather than bad, thing has always been lower in the United Kingdom than across the rest of the European Union on average (Figure 1). However, Britons have not always been substantively Eurosceptic. Nor, moreover, have British attitudes been constant. In 1980, Britons had a net belief that membership of the then-EEC was a good thing of -0.26 percentage points. By March 1992, the same figure was 42 percentage points, higher than in several other countries (for country trends, see Figure A2).

Similarly, first, *Mori* polling on a hypothetical membership referendum showed overwhelming support for ‘stay in’ anomalously between 1988 and 1992 (see Figure A2). Second, Britons expressed overwhelming support for ‘the unification of Western Europe’ between 1985 and 1992 – in every year but one 50% more were for rather than against and the proportion of Britons ‘very much for’ was higher than several other countries (Eurobarometer, Figure A3). Finally, third, Britons were split about whether British links to the European Community should be closer or about the same, with only a tiny minority favouring less close links – notably the case across all age, gender, class, educational level and regional groups (British Social Attitudes, 1991, Table A1). As such, although we should not overstate the positivity, it was clearly both exceptional across time and broad across societal groups. How can we explain this seemingly anomalous and counter-intuitive data?

Theories of Attitudes to European Integration

Early works explaining individual variation in support for European integration identified several – since repeatedly validated – factors including age, class, cognitive skills, income, occupation, partisanship, political values and support for the domestic government (Gabel, 1998; Hobolt, 2014). Hooghe and Marks’s classic work (2005; see also Hobolt and de Vries, 2016) proposed and tested a three-factor combined model of ‘calculation, community, and cues’, showing that feeling European (‘community’) has a larger effect than economic calculations and that Eurosceptic elites cue Euroscepticism in those not feeling European. Works thereafter have confirmed the mixed and small effects of economic calculation (e.g. Garry and Tilley, 2015). ‘Community’ has received the most unambiguous support (Dennison et al., 2020, 2021; Hewstone, 1986) notwithstanding concerns regarding endogeneity between its typical operationalisation – European identity – and support for the EU (Carl et al., 2019; Hobolt and de Vries, 2016). Cueing by politicians has been shown to be primarily effective in explaining variation between countries though this finding is liable to reverse-causality while media cueing has been shown to have modest effects (Gabel and Scheve, 2007; Steenbergen et al., 2007). Partially related to cues, perhaps the most important addition to Hooghe and Marks’ (2005) three factors is that of ‘benchmarking’, whereby the worse one’s country seems to

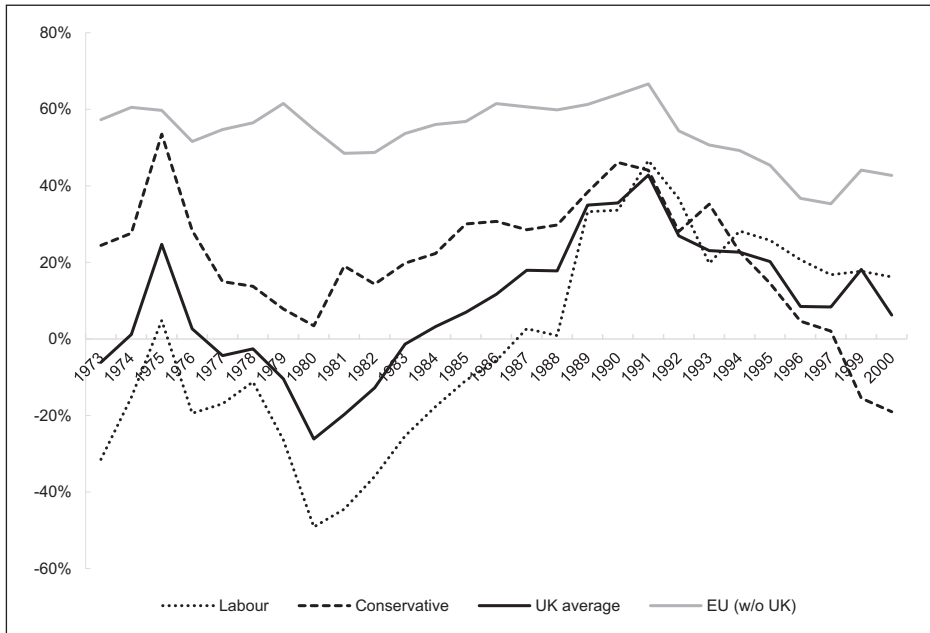


Figure 1. British and European Net Belief That EU 'Membership Is a Good Thing' Rather Than 'Bad Thing', 1973–2000 (Yearly Averages, Also by Conservative and Labour Voter).

Schmitt et al. (2008). % stating EEC/EC/EU membership is a good thing minus % stating EEC/EC/EU membership is a bad thing. 'Generally speaking, do you think that (your country's) membership of the European Community (Common Market) is . . . ?' 'A good thing'; 'Neither good nor bad'; 'a bad thing'; 'don't know'.

be doing politically and economically, the more positively one views European integration (Hobolt and de Vries, 2016; Sánchez-Cuenca, 2000). Hobolt and de Vries (2016) lament the lack of understanding of exactly what citizens benchmark against – neighbouring countries, trading partners, the EU average or otherwise – and the lack of consideration of the increasingly multidimensional nature of attitudes to European integration. As such, De Vries (2018) expanded benchmarking to include the process of Brexit as a benchmark.

Most studies of attitudes to Europe have focussed on individual or cross-country variation and thus overlook the causes of over time variation and changes in the object of such attitudes – the EU – either as a constitutional construct with changing powers or a political body subject to evaluations (Dennison, 2023: 41; though, e.g. McLaren, 2005: 157). That said, Hooghe and Marks (2009) argue that post-1992 integration transformed public opinion from a 'permissive consensus' to a 'constraining dissensus' Die across the EU. Moreover, rather than over time change being uniformly distributed, distinct aspects of changing integration interact with distinct national histories and rationales for integration on a national basis (Diez-Medrano, 2003). Personal and national 'calculations' have been conceptualised primarily in economic terms and not considered non-economic issues, such as environmental protection, labour rights and foreign affairs and defence (Amato et al., 2019) or broader non-cognitive, emotional forms of calculation (see Dennison, 2024, for review). Finally, factors explaining attitudes to Europe have been operationalised with broad or conceptually distant variable (such as 'types of capitalism' and

education-level used to measure ‘calculations’ and left-right self-placement to measure cueing), an approach criticised as ineffective at explaining complex historical processes (Kousser, 1984; Olsen, 2004). Second, attitudes to Europe have been measured along single dimensions of affect and so not considered qualitatively distinct emotions beyond simple positivity and negativity, despite attitudes having inseparable emotive and cognitive components (Clifford, 2019).

Britain and Europe

The broad theoretical factors of the ‘calculation, community, cues’ framework and benchmarking approaches can thus be expanded as outlined above and by incorporating the changing nature of European integration and Britain’s specific experience therein. Doing so bridges the divide between recent historical scholarship on Britain and Europe around the time of its entry to the EEC until the early 1980s (Aqui, 2020; Moss and Clarke, 2021; Saunders, 2018; Velkar, 2020) and the political science literature providing longer-term explanations for Brexit (Carl et al., 2019; Dennison and Geddes, 2018; Roe-Crines and Heppell, 2020). It also speaks to existing literature explaining particularly British public opinion to European integration over time (e.g. Clements, 2009, 2010).

First, the ‘calculations’ of personal and national contemporaneous economic instrumentalism can be expanded to include: (1) retrospective calculations (the UK’s 1975 membership referendum campaign acting as a benchmark, see De Vries, 2018); (2) prospective calculations of integration following the Single European Act and Jacques Delors’ ‘1992’ plan (Cowles, 1995) and prospective enlargement following the fall of the Berlin Wall (Smith, 2009); (3) qualitatively distinct emotional forms of affect; (4) non-economic calculations and (5) ‘benchmarking’ calculations *vis* other member states’ performance (Delanty, 2018). Second, ‘cues’ can be deconstructed to include: (6) the changing nature of Europe; (7) Britain’s and its government’s positions therein (on British government official information campaigns on Europe, see Smedley, 2021); (8) the European Commission (Mitchell, 2012) and, more studied, (9) parties and (10) media. Third, ‘community’ can include (11) European *vis* exclusive national identity; (12) the relative importance of alternative international relationships as communities (in the UK’s case, Winston Churchill’s three concentric ‘majestic circles’ of the Commonwealth, the Anglo-American relationship and Europe) and (13) cultural expressions of a European identity in media, the arts and sport (Snow, 2001; doing so answers the call to write ‘Europe’ into Britain’s cultural history, Becker and Fuhg, 2021).

Methodology and Data

This article is concerned with multiple causal dynamics eliding *within* and affecting a single case *over time*. Thus, process tracing is an appropriate method. It offers robust, systematised analysis of *both* quantitative and qualitative data to describe and explain processes over time, adding leverage over purely quantitative studies based on abstract averaged relationships that make up the bulk of the extant literature on attitudes to European integration (Mahoney, 2012). Process tracing depends on identifying ‘diagnostic evidence’ using conceptual frameworks, recurring empirical regularities and theory. Because it needs to compare multiple potential causal processes to explain an outcome, process tracing is particularly reliant on ‘intensive description that should be a foundation of process tracing’ (Collier, 2011: 824) so that causality can be reasonably

inferred by demonstration of covariance with the dependent variable and elimination of alternatives (Bennet and Checkel, 2014). Processes should be traced over time in a consistent manner. The reason that a time period beyond 1988–1992 is examined is for the purposes of explanation. To only describe the period being explained would make comparison impossible and would constitute the error of “selecting on the dependent variable”. Instead, to explain the anomalous period 1988–1992, it is necessary to consider how other periods of time – before and after – were different (or not) and consider theoretically why these observed differences are likely to be explanatory. As such, the conclusions in the article are arrived at by comparing how trends in data from a wide variety of sources varied over time (and where possible, country) both before, during and after “*Europhoria*” in a manner typical of process tracing. The combined causal ‘process’ is described in the conclusion, in Figure 11 and in Table A2.

This will be done both over time and between countries within each of three time periods: 1983–1987; 1988–1992 and 1992–1997. These time periods are selected along the following lines: 1988–1992 is selected for the reasons given in ‘The Case’ section above; the preceding and succeeding comparative periods of 1983–1987 and 1992–1997 are collectively book-ended by general elections: the 1983 general election – at which EEC membership was debated and the Conservative’s emphatic victory lead to an ambitious European policy – and the 1997 general election – after which British attitudes were largely stable until ‘Brexit’. All that said, most time series are presented to their longest possible extent, in many cases the full extent of British membership, and analysed in the text. Eurobarometer trends are used for comparative time series; national polling and manifesto data are used for British time series (and some one-off polls where applicable), while relevant policies, speeches, newspaper articles, commentary and cultural artefacts qualitatively measure processes. The expanded theoretical factors as outlined in above and classified in Table A2 are underlined and in italics throughout.

1983–1987: The Background to Europhoria

[P]eople are coming to see the Community as at best irrelevant, and at worst obstructive . . . The revolutionary British suggestion is that the Community should establish a *common market*. This does not currently exist . . . a host of new policies and new initiatives, some public but many more private, would become viable’. – British Foreign and Commonwealth Minister Geoffrey Howe (Howe, 1984: 187, 190).

This is a good deal for Britain. It also means that the way is now clear to get our refund for last year, and to press ahead with the development of the Community’ – Margaret Thatcher, 26 June 1984, following Fontainebleau Summit.

1983 saw a range of books and articles published to commemorate and reflect on Britain’s ten years of membership (Young, 1993: 147). In January, *The Times* ran a week-long series of op-eds by British and world leaders – some pro- and some anti-European – that are notable for, first, the similarity of arguments to those used in the 1975 referendum and, second, the near unanimous verdict that British membership thus far had been rancorous and disappointing (*The Times*, 1983; see Appendix 2). Public attitudes to Europe became increasingly negative in the five years following the 1975 referendum (Figure A3). Thereafter, temporary resolutions to the British Budgetary Question (BBQ) and ongoing integration gridlock saw only the slightest trend towards positivity by the British public (Figure 1). By contrast, perceptions across the other eight members remained stable and far

more positive. As such, while the years 1976–1986 were ‘a decade of stagnation in the integration process’ as a whole, the volatility of British attitudes suggests causes peculiar to Britain (Eichenberg and Dalton, 1993: 507).

That said, as shown in Figure 2, the extent to which Britons saw the ‘Common Market’ as one of the most important issues affecting their country declined significantly from around 15% at the 1979 election to around 5% at the following 1983 election, robbing the issue of its power to motivate behaviour (Dennison, 2019). Meanwhile, as shown in Table 1, the extent to which each *party cued* Europe – defined in terms of the proportion of manifesto devoted to the issue – in their 1983 manifestos was similarly lower than that in 1979 – with the Conservatives again only giving positive mentions to Europe and Labour giving a simple promise to withdraw.

Although voters in 1983 retained negative *retrospective calculations* about membership thus far, they did see things moving in the right direction and opposed withdrawal. When asked 2 months before the 1983 General Election which of 7 policies they believed Thatcher’s first government had achieved, a majority only responded ‘achieved’ to two: ‘Reduced inflation’ and ‘Get a better deal from the EEC’ (56%). The same two were the only ones to have a higher percentage stating ‘achieved’ in 1983 than ‘expected’ when asked in 1979. Moreover, after the election, polling showed that 30% supported and 56% opposed Labour manifesto promise of withdrawal (British Public Opinion [BPO]. 1983a). On more specific effects, one year later, Britons still saw three of four effects of membership shown in Table 2 (notably all key in the 1975 referendum campaign) – prosperity, autonomy and prices – in negative terms, and only one – peace in Europe – in positive terms.

In 1984, the Eurobarometer showed that slightly more Britons thought that EC membership was a good thing than thought it was a bad thing for the first time since 1976 (Figure 3).

Later that June, at the Fontainebleau European Council, Thatcher secured a British rebate, ending the British Budget Question. Immediately, Thatcher circulated her ‘Europe,

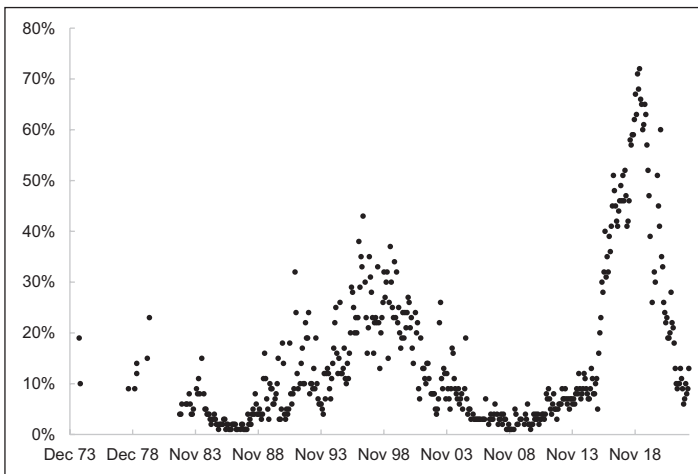


Figure 2. Public Issue Salience, Percentage of Britons Answering ‘Common Market’ as One the Most Important Issues Affecting Britain.
Source: Ipsos.¹

Table 1. *Party Cues, Conservative and Labour Party Manifesto Emphasis on Positive and Negative Aspects of Europe, 1970–2016.*

	Conservative		Labour	
	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
Feb-74	3.4	0.0	0.6	7.1
Oct-74	4.1	0.0	0.0	1.0
1979	2.0	0.0	0.5	5.1
1983	1.8	0.0	0.0	2.3
1987	0.2	0.7	0.2	0.4
1992	2.0	1.1	1.9	0.0
1997	2.9	3.9	3.4	0.4
2001	1.0	4.0	2.4	0.0
2005	1.2	2.9	2.3	0.2
2010	1.0	1.4	1.5	0.3
2015	0.6	4.6	2.9	0.1
2017	0.6	1.7	1.7	0.2
2019	0.0	4.5	0.4	0.3

Source: Manifestos Project Database (Lehmann et al., 2023).

Table 2. *Retrospective Calculations of European Membership in the Terms of the 1975 Referendum Campaign.*

7–8 June 1984: ‘Do you think Britain’s membership of the Common Market has or has not . . .’	Has	Has not	DK
‘Made Britain more prosperous than it would have been?’	26	60	14
‘Reduced Britain’s control over her own destiny?’	64	28	8
‘Safeguarded the peace and political stability of Europe?’	51	35	14
‘Made food prices go up more than they would have done?’	76	16	8

Source: BPO (1984).

the future’ (HMG, 1984) paper to fellow EEC Heads of Government. ‘Europe, the future’ outlined a radical vision and call for action: the creation of a new Europe dynamised through a single internal market, empowered through common defence, foreign, environmental, research and developmental policies, governed through the Council and united through the active development of a common identity among citizens. That spring, Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe had also publicly outlined a similar vision, arguing that following the recent general election result ‘the debate about whether we should be in or out is over’ (Howe, 1984: 187).

More fundamentally than the resolution of the BBQ and the 1983 general election victory, this unprecedented British governmental proactivity can be explained partially by international *benchmarking*. As shown in Figure 7, during the first half of the 1980s, the four major economies of the EEC underwent highly similar economic trajectories of stable decline with no relative ordinal change. As such problems – and thus solutions – were viewed as common and moved benchmarking from internal comparisons to external

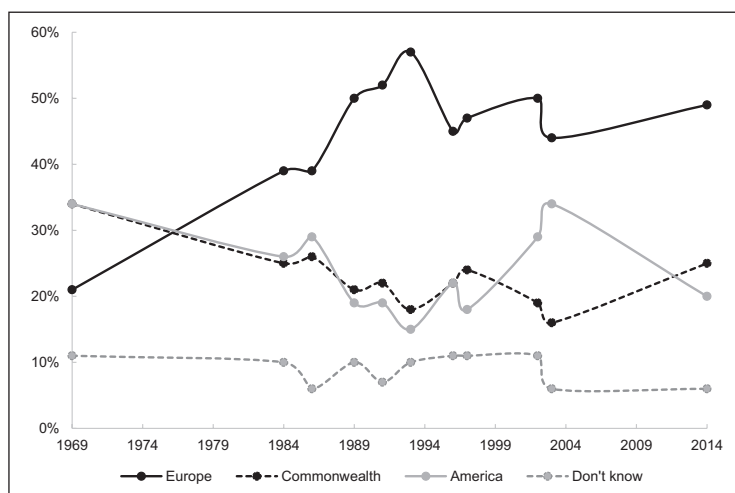


Figure 3. ‘Which of These – Europe, the Commonwealth, or America – Is the Most Important to Britain?’.

Source: Archive of Market and Social Research.²⁰

ones: the high-growth United States, Japan and ‘newly industrialised countries’ (George, 1990: 164), which were repeatedly cited in Thatcher’s ‘Europe, the future’.

Second, although British attitudes had not become more favourable to Europe since joining, they had come to see it as their most important international *community* (Figure 3). Whereas in 1969, 68% of Britons saw either the Commonwealth or the United States as the most important to Britain and only 21% saw Europe as most important, by 1984, those positions had been reversed. Such trends partially reflected American ambivalence during the invasion of the Falkland Islands and the invasion of Grenada – a Commonwealth Realm (BPO, 1983b; see also Howe, 1984) – various business and diplomatic snubs, placing American-operated missiles on British soil, and Reagan’s unpopularity all created the conditions for anti-Americanism that were ‘exacerbated by a closer relationship with [the UK’s] European partners in the EEC (BPO, 1986)’. Late 1985 polling showed that Britons regarded the United States and Soviet Union as posing an equal threat to Europe (BPO, 1985). By contrast, Kohl, in the *Times*, explicitly highlighted European solidarity during the Falklands War and the 1986 Anglo-French Treaty of Canterbury began the construction of the Channel Tunnel.

The following year, 1985, saw a series of Council meetings to draw up a timetable for major changes to *European integration*: the creation of a single market and agreement to achieve its creation by the end of 1992 including by temporarily abandoning the use of national vetoes. In following meetings – and to Thatcher’s opposition and long-term regret (Liddle, 2014: 11) – the single market project was linked to a new treaty, a wider set of reforms including the permanent, partial end to national vetoes and plans for monetary union following ill-tempered Council meetings decided on by majority voting (e.g. Young, 1993).

However, by 1986, *the British government in the Community* appeared as a more ‘normal’ member state: more established than the Iberian newcomers, less peculiar and troublesome since Fontainebleau, and now able to frame issues such as CAP reform in

Community-wide rather than adversarial terms. Moreover, Britain had proposed and, under the leadership of the UK's Commissioner Lord Cockfield, was establishing the Community's new flagship policy of a Single Market. A project so 'Thatcherite in its essentials' (Dyson and Featherstone, 1999: 534) led British elites to believe that Europe was 'moving our way' (Grant, 1994: 89).

A September 1987 poll on membership showed an eight point lead for 'stay in' over 'get out' – the largest since the aftermath of the 1975 referendum (Figure A2). That it was the first Mori poll on the question since June 1984 underlines how much of a *non-issue* Europe was at this point. Between 1985 and early 1988, the 'Common Market' was deemed as an unimportant issue to Britons (Figure 2). At no general election before or after was less of the Conservative and Labour manifestos dedicated to Europe than that of June 1987 with the latter party taking on a quiet and ambivalent stance to the project after their 1983 drubbing and the in-fighting that followed (Table 1). Indeed, although 1986 had seen public opinion on whether membership was a good thing continued its long positive rally since the nadir of 1980 – a rally driven, at least since 1984, by those planning on voting Labour – 1987 saw stability (Figure 1). In late 1987, however, retrospective calculations regarding the benefits of memberships for the first time were net positive in the United Kingdom (Figure 4).

1988-1992: *Europhoria!*

As recently as 1985 there was the widespread impression that Europe was going nowhere fast. The Community had no real achievement except the limited one of the European Monetary System, and the public associated it with an endless and sterile internal budgetary dispute. Then came the Single European Act, and '1992' – Boris Johnson, *Daily Telegraph*, 17 April, 1989.

[Entering the Exchange Rate Mechanism] could help bring down the British rate of inflation . . . it would indeed be a disaster if Mrs Thatcher's desire to play de Gaulle left Britain on the sidelines as the superpower of the next century, the United States of Europe, came into being – *Daily Mail*, '1992: Why it has to be all or nothing', 2 August 1988.

'I got it wrong' – Trade Union Congress president Clive Jenkins on his opposition to EEC membership in the 1975 referendum, 8 September 1988.

Not long ago, it was fashionable to diagnose Eurosclerosis. Now we have something like Europhoria . . . People in Europe feel a fresh start is being made . . . At last, 30 years after the European Community was founded . . . The idea of European integration is gaining momentum – *The American Banker*, 'Is there a place for Americans in post-1992 Europe?', 3 February 1989.

1988 saw a rapid uptick in British pro-Europeanism, from an 18 percentage point net positive belief that membership was a good thing to 34 percentage points in 1989 and from 0 percentage points to 33 for Labour voters. An additional smaller rally would see positivity peak at an overwhelming 46 percentage points in 1991 (see also Figure A2). Less overwhelmingly, positive retrospective evaluations quickly spiked up to a large plurality in the mid-1980s but stayed stubbornly stable there until 1992 failing to rise with other attitudes, while negative retrospective evaluations continued their long fall from the early 1980s (Figure 4).

Prospectively, in 1987 – and to a larger extent in 1988 – there was widespread popular support for various proposals for *European integration* in terms of legal, judicial, defence,

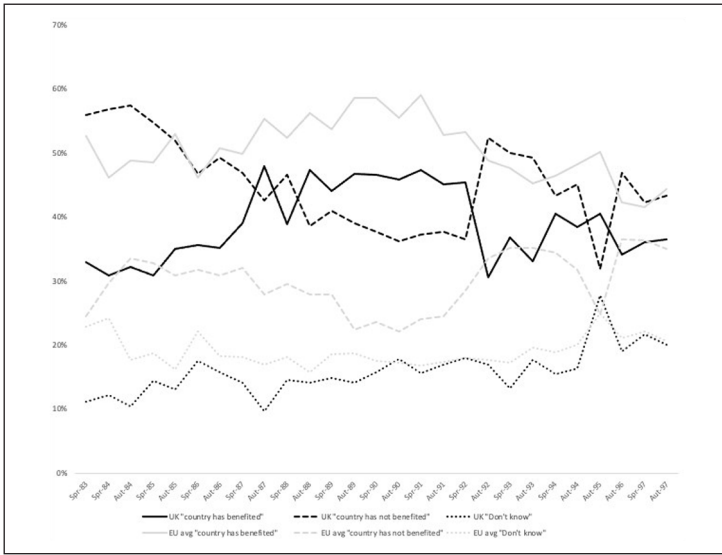


Figure 4. Retrospective Calculations of the Effects of Membership in the United Kingdom and Across the European Union.

Source: Eurobarometer trend file.² 'Taking everything into consideration, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) has (would) on balance benefited (benefit) or not from being a member of the EU?'

foreign policy and tax integration, majority voting in the Council and enlargement (Table 3). Notably, and partially in line with Thatcher's vision, popular opinion remained opposed to empowering the European Parliament and initially opposed British membership of the European Monetary System, though by 1989 had become in favour. A June 1989 poll showed that 58% of Britons saw the protection of the environment as a matter to be decided at Community level, compared with just 38% for the British government (BPO, 1989). High support for common protection for workers – as well as worker participation – and defence integration put British attitudes well within the European mainstream (Figure 5). A December 1989 poll showed that an overwhelming 85% of Britons supported UK membership of the EC Social Charter, with just 10% opposed (BPO, 1990b). Similarly, a February 1991 poll, in the wake of the Gulf crisis, showed that 78% of Britons favoured a European Community defence body, compared with 'just' 71% across the EC (BPO, 1991).

Britons' *prospective, emotional calculations* to the Single Market were overwhelmingly more 'hopeful' than 'fearful', and more so than respondents in Germany or France (Figure 6). *Government cueing* actively encouraged business – though not popular – support for and engagement with '1992' with a flurry of campaigns in the late 1980s (Smedley, 2021). Nine years before becoming Prime Minister, Tony Blair wrote in *The Times* in March 1988 that such campaigns were 'belated' given that 'closer cooperation is desirable and inevitable'.⁴ By October, the same newspaper stated that 'For months ministers have been attempting to instil into Britain's corporate mentality a kind of "Europhoria"'.⁵ The 1988 'Europe Open For Business' campaign was not only kicked off with a conference of British CEOs with speeches from Thatcher and Delors (see introduction) but also featured television advertisements in which Richard Branson and Alan Sugar – two of Britain's most famous businessmen – emphasised that 'the opportunities coming up for

Table 3. Support for Various Proposals for European Integration.

	1987		1989		1990		May 1991		Nov 1991		1993		1996	
	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose
Common system of legal practices	58	26	59	26							43	34		
Fully integrated armed services to defend Europe	58	29	57	32			61	31			55	28	36	50
European passport instead of individual country passports	51	38	53	41										
Supreme Court of Europe should be introduced	52	26	51	31									35	48
Britain should become a member of the European Monetary System	31	32	46	30										
A common system of taxes	41	38	44	33							43	34		
Customs checks between member states should be abolished	27	63	34	58										
More power should be transferred to the European Parliament from national parliaments	28	50	28	55	30	56	32	53	18	70	20	59		
Fixed standards of workers' rights							74	19						
EC countries should coordinate their foreign policies more							74	13						
Decisions made by the Council of Ministers should be passed by majority voting, to get rid of the right of one country to veto decisions	57	28												
East European countries, such as Poland and Hungary, should be allowed to become members of the EC			74	14			42	31						
A European Central Bank should be established							53	31					31	54
A single, coordinated European foreign policy											37	36	29	49
Sterling should rejoin the European exchange rate mechanism											18	55		
A single European currency											29	56	32	58
A United States of Europe													27	57

Source: Archive of Market and Social Research.³

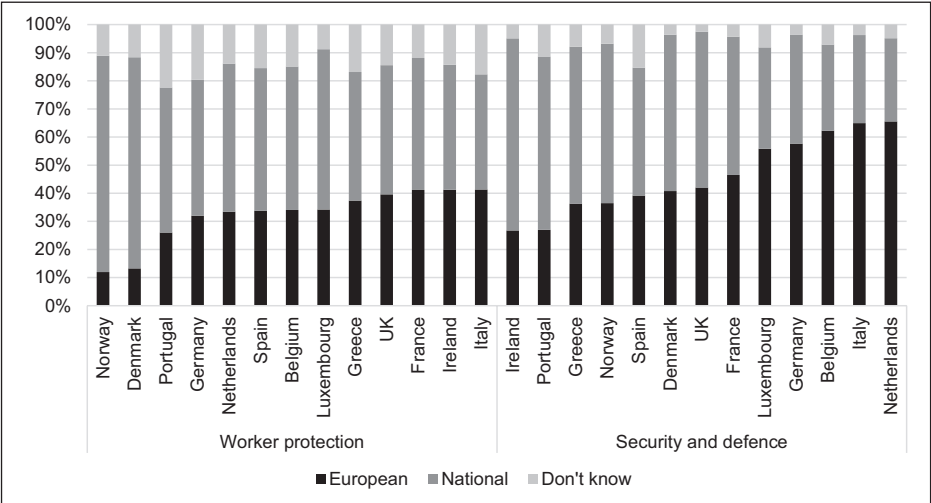


Figure 5. Support for Single European Policy on Workers Protection and Security and Defence. Source: Eurobarometer, 1990. 'Which Of The Following Areas Of Policy Do You Think Should Be Determined By The Government, And Which Should Be Decided In Common Within The European Community As A Whole?'

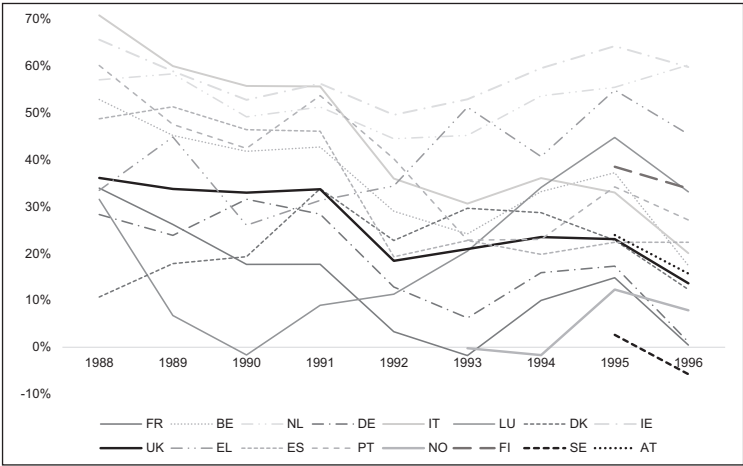


Figure 6. Hope Minus Fear as Emotional Reactions to the Single Market, by Country 1988–1996. Notes: Eurobarometer. 'Personally, would you say that the Single European Market which will come about by 1992 makes you feel very hopeful, rather hopeful, rather fearful or very fearful?'

British business can't be stressed enough' and viewers were encouraged to 'seize the opportunity' and call '01-200-1992' for a 'Single Market information pack'.⁶ *Media cues* informed popular *prospective calculations* with constant articles on the glut of financial investment to Europe that the plan for a single market and, later, the fall of the Berlin Wall and its promise of CEEC markets heralded. Domestically, *The Guardian* headlined 'Time to invest in Europe's renaissance' reasoning 'The discovery of a large

scale, generally skilled and reasonably educated workforce on the fringe of the EC [and] the possibility of bringing Western consumer goods and services to Eastern Europe, as currencies gradually become more convertible, seems too good to miss'.⁷ While across the English-speaking world, newspapers argued 'Investors are grabbing their cheque-books and heading for Europe'⁸ as 'Euroclerosis has changed to Europhoria on the strength of 1992 [and] Eastern Europe being added to the economic picture',⁹ and 'The number of European stock funds nearly doubled last year [1989] from 11 to 19 as eager investors rushed to profit from communism's collapse and the prospect of a free market stretching from Greece to Ireland by 1992'.¹⁰ Financial advertisements encouraged would-be investors to make '1,000% in the 1990's' in Europe as 'the investment opportunity of the decade!'¹¹

Simultaneously, the United Kingdom was falling behind its high-growth European peers, informing *international benchmarking* (Figure 7). One OECD official argued that 'Europhoria has definitely whipped Euroclerosis off the ground' due to 'terrific dynamism', a 'continued investment boom' and 'wage moderation . . . except in Britain, Portugal and Spain'.¹² Most famously, however, was *Il Sorpasso* – 'the overtaking' – in 1987 and again in 1992, in which the Italian economy overtook the British economy to become the fifth largest worldwide. Future Labour minister and then Economics Editor for the *Guardian*, Chris Huhne, already wrote in 1986 one of several favourable comparisons between the high achieving Italian socio-economic model and Britain – 'the real laggards these days' – while *The Economist* joked in 1988 that 'the Romans conquer Britain' and *The Telegraph* in December 1990 still mentioned 'much swaggering talk about *il sorpasso*'.¹³ Thatcher commented that she was unconcerned because it meant a higher Italian contribution to the EC budget (Begg, 2016: 42–43).

Although much as has been made of the *party cueing* effect of Thatcher's turning against Europe during the late 1980s – her 1988 'Bruges Speech' most obviously – any effects on public attitudes were certainly not immediately visible. Positivity to the EC among Conservative voters continued to rise during this period (Figure 1). This may have been due to other, stronger countervailing effects, but it is just as likely that, first, the Euroscepticism on display within the speech has been overplayed perhaps due to the contrasting 'Europhoria' abroad at the time, and, second, Thatcher's increasing Euroscepticism did far more to isolate her from the public and her party than it did to turn either against Europe, at least prior to 1992. Indeed, one poll from December 1989 showed that 60% of the public viewed her as hostile to Europe and only 29% as friendly, with the same poll showing widespread support for Eastern enlargement, near universal support for the Social Charter, rapidly widening poll leads for Labour and disapproval of Thatcher's government (BPO, 1990a).

Tellingly, in April 1989, future pro-Brexit Prime Minister Boris Johnson contributed to the *Daily Telegraph's* 'Countdown to 1992' series by describing the 'Bruges Group' as 'grouches', 'super-nationalists' and 'people with a prejudice against anything that sounds vaguely foreign', characterising the 'Bruges Speech' as having only 'a bit of scepticism from Mrs Thatcher about peripheral aspects of the 1992 programme'. However, he also warned that 'powers of hype have allowed it ["1992"] to become a sacred cow' and that the pro-marketeers must drop their 'oppressive idealism . . . [i]f they want to win the argument – and it is they who must'.¹⁵ One July 1990 poll showed that a plurality of the electorate and Conservative voters and a majority of Labour voters agreed that 'Britain should become a member of the Exchange Rate Mechanism before the end of the year', which it did in October (BPO, 1990a).

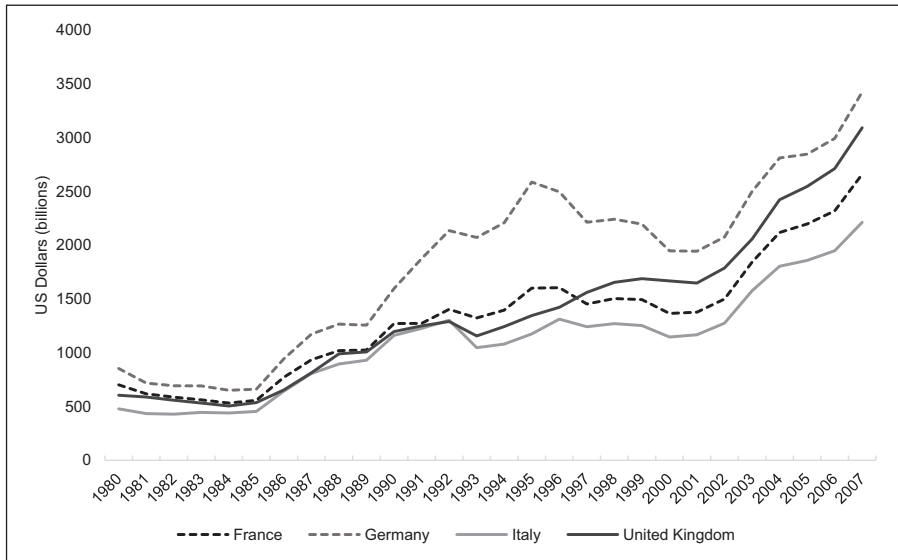


Figure 7. *International Benchmarking. GDP, Current Prices, by Major EU Economy, 1980–2007.*
Source: International Monetary Fund.¹⁴

The improved Conservative poll ratings after Thatcher's November 1990 removal by pro-Europeans within her cabinet seemingly ended the Europe debate and changed the role of the *UK government in the Community* (Bale, 2010: 36). Early reports in *The Times* noted a 'more pragmatic approach' and determination to 'not repeat the 11-1 confrontations of the Thatcher era'¹⁶, while, by March 1991, the same newspaper reported 'With Mr Major striking up such a good personal relationship with Herr Kohl, there is already talk in official circles of rapid progress towards a Europe in which all three countries share the responsibility for leadership'.¹⁷ Whereas Thatcher's Euroscepticism had been side-lined, her shrewd public appeals for a referendum on the single currency – rather than outright opposition – received widespread support. Meanwhile, the Conservative's 1992 election manifesto stated that the United Kingdom should be at the 'heart of Europe'.¹⁸ That year's election would be the only in British history in which *both* major parties had more good to say about European integration in their manifesto than bad (Table 1).

Like the 'Bruges Speech', in terms of *European Commission* cues, President Delors' speech to the TUC – in which he assured his audience that its social chapter – including the likes of the right to collective bargaining – would be 'vital' to *changing European integration* – has been widely studied (Cole, 2020; Cowles, 1995; Mitchell, 2012). Its power is reflected in the instant U-turn on support for membership by the TUC president and prospective Labour voters – and, with them, the British public as a whole. Similarly, favourability to the European institutions among Britons also increased. Whereas in 1987 only 25% of Britons had a 'generally favourable' – rather than neutral or unfavourable – attitude to the Commission, by 1990, it had risen to 53%, just shy of the 56% among the other 11 as a whole and ahead of 4 member states (Schmitt et al., 2008). Labour under Kinnock had already been setting out a more active stance towards Europe, earlier in 1988 stating, 'our non-engagement would mean the unimpeded movement to the complete economic and political domination of Western Europe by market power' and calling

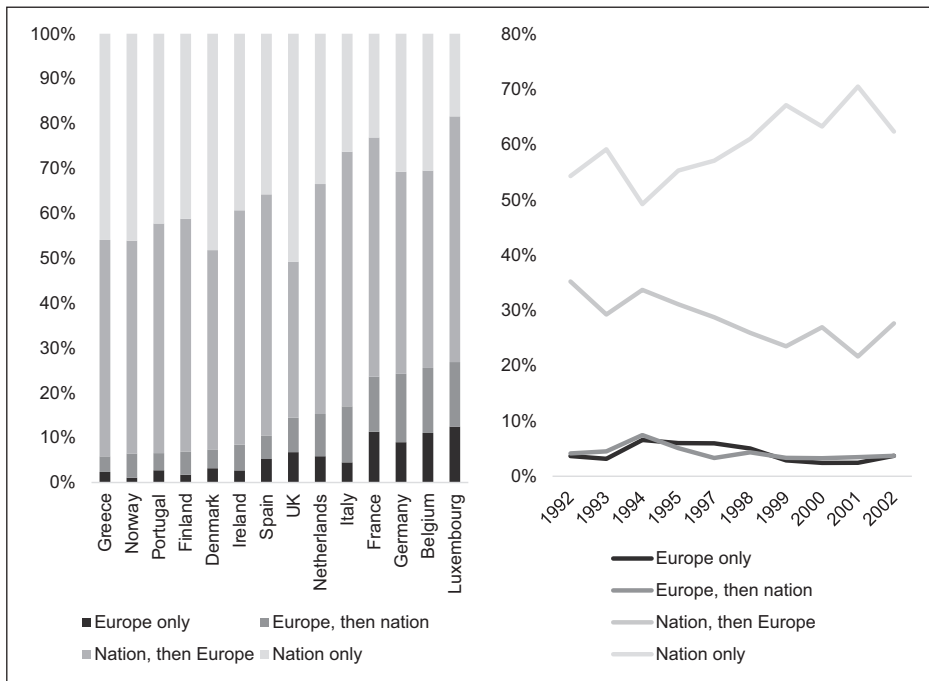


Figure 8. Feeling European (Left, 1994 by Country; Right, United Kingdom 1992–2002). Source: Schmitt et al. (2008).

for something like the forthcoming Social Chapter. One month after the TUC speech, the Labour Party's annual conference committed the party to implement a social programme whereby 'the benefits of the unified market are shared by all people in the EC' (Cole, 2020: 434). The following year, *The Economist* reported that the Labour Party had a 'new zest for Europe' after that Delors's speech 'confirmed their new faith. It has also to be said, though few in the party admit as much, the Labour's thinking includes a strong anti-American strand'.¹⁹ Indeed, on the heels of the Falkland and Grenada snubs of the early 1980s, polling showed widespread British disapproval of America's involvement in Nicaragua (BPO, 1987) in 1987 and Panama in 1990 (BPO, 1990a).

During this period, 'Europe' was rapidly increasingly seen as a more far important *international community* than the United States or the Commonwealth to Britain with the former reaching its peak of 57% and the latter each hovering around 20% in 1993 (Figure 3). In terms of *European identity*, in 1992, 45% of Britons identified themselves at least to some extent as European rather than only British (Figure 8). Comparatively, although Britain retained an unusually high proportion of individuals who identified as 'British only', it also had a relatively high proportion of those who either identified as 'European only' or 'European, then British' and considerably higher than the Nordic countries, southern European countries (bar Italy) and Ireland.

This high-water mark of European identity saw an unprecedented production of British *European-framed cultural output* across the arts, sports and media (Figure 9). Musically, major British artists drew on 'continental' electronic influences, culminating with indie band's Carter USM's album '1992: The Love Album' reaching number 1 in the album



Figure 9. Cultural Artefacts of *Europhoria*. Clockwise, Starting Top-Left: UK no. 1 Album '1992: The Love Album'; 'The European' Weekly Newspaper vol. 1. 83; 'Eurotrash' Promotional Still; 'Gazetta Football Italia' Promotional Still.

charts; 'The European Union flag providing the cover and [its] title refers to the then-groundbreaking fusion of governments and policies in the continent',²¹ achieving critical acclaim. The period saw British football clubs banned from European competition from 1985 to 1990 due to hooliganism resulting in the outflow of dozens of top British players to continental European clubs which 'went up another notch following Italia 90'.²² The 1992 transfer of Paul Gascoigne to Lazio cemented British interest and led to terrestrial coverage of the – then far wealthier and higher quality – Italian league's games and a weekly 'Gazetta' magazine programme set in Italian cafes and *piazze*, 'winning British hearts'.²³ Other television programmes of the period included the high-budget *Eurotrash*, co-presented by French fashion designer Jean-Paul Gaultier, which provided British viewers with a surreal and smutty taste of culture from across the continent from 1993. Perhaps most notable of all was the May 1990 launch of weekly *The European* newspaper, self-described as 'Europe's first national newspaper', which would run until 1998 and had an initial circulation of around 180,000, over half of which was in the United

Table 4. Attitudes to Europe Before and After 'Black Wednesday'.

		United Kingdom			EC II		
		Mar to Apr	23 Sept to 16 Oct	Mar to Apr	Mar to Apr	Sept to Oct	Mar to Apr
EC membership is a ...	Good thing	1992 58.8	1992 46.9	1993 50.0	1992 70.7	1992 67.4	1993 66.2
	Neither	27.1	26.5	23.2	19	23	10.5
	Bad thing	14.4	26.6	26.8	10.3	9.6	23.3
Common currency	In favour	40.0	33.5	34.4	69.6	66.5	64.5
	Not in favour	60.0	66.5	65.6	30.5	33.5	35.5
Maastricht effect on country	Positive	69.2	49.2		73.1	61.0	
	No effect	14.9	8.4		8.7	7.1	
	Negative	16	42.4		18.2	31.9	
European unification	For very much	26.4	18.7	20.5	34.9	31.5	29.6
	For to some extent	51.5	45.1	47.7	50.0	51.5	53.6
	Against to some extent	14.9	21.5	20.7	10.4	12.2	12.1
	Against very much	7.2	14.6	11.2	4.6	4.9	4.7
Country has benefitted from EC	Benefitted	55.4	36.9	42.4	67.1	64.5	60.1
	Not benefitted	44.6	63.1	57.6	33.0	35.5	39.0

Kingdom.²⁴ Its first issue featured contributions from Thatcher, Wilfried Martens, Jacques Santer, Mário Soares and the President of the Bundesbank as well as polls showing majority support for a single currency (in the United Kingdom and others, but not Germany or Denmark), soft anti-Americanism, new pan-European Ecu-denominated financial indices and coverage of the disintegration of the eastern bloc. These artefacts reflect socio-cultural enthusiasm towards and integration into Europe, besides purely political and economic considerations. By the April 1992 General Election, net belief that British membership of the EC was a good thing hit an all-time high of 44.4 percentage points (Table 4).

1992–1997: After Europhoria

First it was Eurosclerosis . . . Then, Europhoria . . . Now this week's EC summit in the Dutch city of Maastricht suggests that the 33-year-old Community has entered a more difficult stage. Call it Eurorealism. – *Newsweek*, 'All together now – sort of', 16 December 1991.

Until last week, Britain seemed to have decided that its future lay wholeheartedly with Europe . . . Before the currency mayhem and France's wafer-thin *Oui* to Maastricht – *The Economist*, 'Time to Choose?', 26 September 1992.

A year later, it is hard to find anybody in Britain . . . who admits that they ever supported sterling's membership of the ERM . . . Britain's first year outside the ERM has left the economy healthier than the rest of Europe, and healthier than it might have been. – *The Economist*, 'Whitewash Wednesday', 18 September, 1993.

While the federalists hurl their energies into organising a single European currency, as the *pièce de résistance* of European integration, the single market . . . lies unfinished, and littered with hidden barriers. – *The Daily Telegraph*, ‘Single but not fancy free’, 17 February 1996.

After the 1992 general election, British attitudes to European integration spent the rest of the 1990s becoming increasingly negative. The likelihood that this resulted from *party cueing* seems fairly slim given, first, the downwards trajectory of Labour and Conservative voters was highly similar – at least until 1997 – and, second, the trajectory of non-British Europeans was *also* highly similar, albeit from a higher constant (Figure 1; Figure A1 for country trends), reflecting the transition of public opinion on *changing European integration* from a ‘permissive consensus’ to a ‘constraining dissensus’ (Hooghe and Marks, 2009) and in contrast to earlier bouts of British Euroscepticism, which were largely unique to Britain. *Government attempts to cue* voters with another pro-European information campaign with a pamphlet published in November 1992 – ‘Britain in Europe: The European Community and Your Future’ – and an information pack for secondary schools had no obvious immediate effect.

This is not to say that uniquely British events did not matter, but more that following initial shocks they tended to be absorbed into broader trends. The effects of Britain’s chaotic and damaging exit from the Exchange Rate Mechanism, ‘Black Wednesday’, on 16 September 1992 were a sudden and marked increase in Euroscepticism across various metrics (Table 4, Figure 3 on *retrospective calculations*). However, there was some degree of rebound in the following 6 months and the other members of the EC saw a steady increase in Euroscepticism during the same period. As such, whereas the full year following April 1992 saw a nine-point reduction in the percentage of Britons seeing EC membership as a good thing, the same period *also* saw a five-point reduction across the rest of the EC. By Spring 1993, around a quarter of both groups saw membership as a bad thing, but with far less ambivalence in the rest of the EC (see Figure 6 on *emotional calculations*). Similar trends are visible across the other metrics, such as the still-high favourability to unification, but with a notable dip in the United Kingdom in the weeks after ‘Black Wednesday’.

Indeed, other member states – both at elite and popular levels – saw major resistance to at least some degree of the Maastricht Treaty and, particularly, the single currency, even across countries such as Germany and those in southern Europe that remained highly supportive of the project. One commentary argued that the decline in public favourability was because of the treaty itself: ‘complex, obtuse, in parts unreadable, with little thought for how it would “play in Peoria” and apparently no consideration for the adoption process to ensure its passage, ignoring its impact on public opinion . . . [which] was mismanaged to the point of neglect’.²⁵ Commission favourability dropped across the newly fashioned EU at a similar rate to in Britain. Feeling ‘national only’, as opposed to European, rose in Britain and across the EU up until 1997, thereafter diverging as other Europeans refound their Europeanness presumably as a result of single currency membership (Schmitt et al., 2008).

However, there were important differences, the importance of which would emerge later. The extraordinarily high public salience of ‘Europe’ in 1992 and then from 1994 onwards (Figure 2) reflects two things. First, domestically, the passage of Maastricht and later the debate over the single currency gradually led to the transformation of Conservative party politics. Conservative MPs initially hailed Maastricht as triumph: ‘the handful of anti-federalist MPs on both sides who dared try to spoil the party staged for Mr Major in a crowded House of Commons, were overwhelmed by the tide of Tory relief and delight at what ministers were busy portraying as a victory.’²⁶ Similarly, in terms of *media cues*, the *Daily Mail* celebrated the

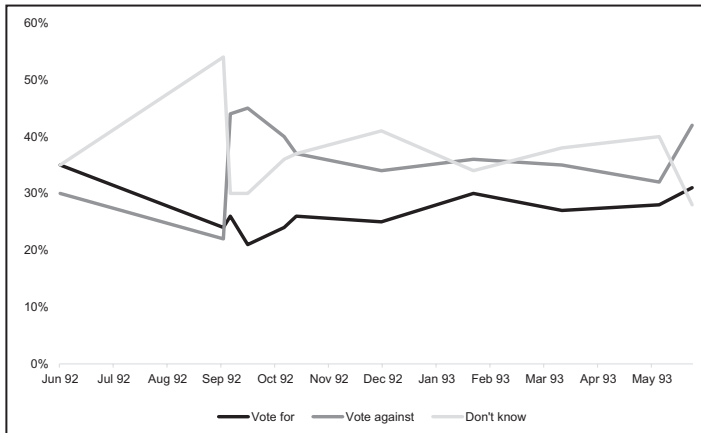


Figure 10. How Would You Vote in a Referendum on the Maastricht Treaty?
Source: BPO (1993).

Maastricht Treaty 'in shaping an ever-closer European union' and still contemplated joining the Single Currency (Young, 1999: 434). However, the party's membership increasingly sided with Thatcher's wing of the party – marginalised as a threat to British centrality in Europe throughout '*Europhoria*' – and eventually became ascendant following the 1997 election defeat (Liddle, 2014: 15). Second, the *UK government in the Community* again became involved in acrimonious Council meetings – a September 1992 meeting ended in a shouting match over German refusal to lower interest rates following conference calls on Black Wednesday in which Bundesbank officials 'suddenly' claimed to not be able to speak English (Liddle, 2014: 40). This contrasted with 'long-standing member countries[']s . . .] years of experience of co-operation' (Inman, 2012). In terms of both relationships and the road to monetary union, Britain was again an outsider and by the 1997 general election, a major party's electoral offer was again Eurosceptic (Table 1).

Perhaps most profoundly, the highly similar trends in Britain and across the continent were enough to damage pro-Europeanism's status as the majority position only in Britain. In Figure 10, we can see how Black Wednesday converted British ambivalence about Maastricht into opposition overnight. Moreover, as Figure 4 and Table 4 show, the event instantly put *retrospective calculations* of the impact of European membership on Britain into negative territory and, with '1992' just around the corner, very little road left for *prospective calculations*, which was perceived to have failed to pan out after 1992 (see *The Daily Telegraph* epigraph above).

This is not to say that Britons had lost all of their *Europhoria*; support for joining the Social Chapter – as happened after 1997 – was high and support for Eastern enlargement – as happened in 2004 – was higher in Britain than many western European members. Indeed, polling in November 1994 showed both support for 'closer European links', a single currency and eastern enlargement to be higher in Britain than Germany – though support for European Parliamentary oversight of a European Central Bank was far considerably higher in the latter (BPO, 1994). Indeed, two of the major *European integration* advances of Maastricht – a single currency and an empowered European Parliament at the expense of the House of Commons

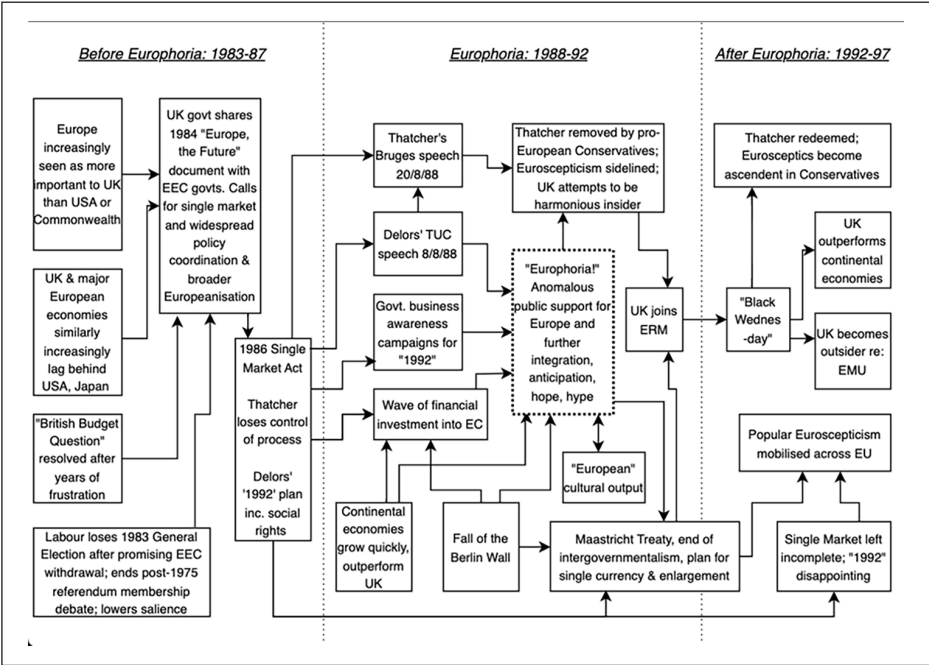


Figure 11. Process Leading to and From 'Europhoria'.

– were the two that Britain had been most wary of, whereas the likes of defence and foreign policy integration were far more limited in their advances (Table 3).

Whereas Britain still saw its main *international community* as Europe (see also Figure 3) and much Maastricht-inspired negativity was EU wide, the *UK government in Europe* again stood out in terms of more fractious relationship, its outsider position and a governing party's internal moves Euroscepticism (after 1997, at least). Furthermore, for the first time since membership, the United Kingdom outperformed Italy economically from 1993 outperforming Italy, from 1994, France and Germany, which – as shown in the *Economist* epigraph above – was widely credited as the result of withdrawing from a European initiative. Britain's cultural scene from 1992 until 1997 onwards in music, film, television and sport famously reoriented towards highly nationalistic, celebratory themes, leaving little room for the, by now more bureaucratic than idealistic, Europe (Huq, 2016).²⁷

Conclusion and Discussion

What caused British 'Europhoria', the anomalous period of broad British popular enthusiasm for European integration? This article used process tracing of a range of quantitative and qualitative sources and comparison of numerous attitudes to European integration over time and cross-sectionally by country and group. In doing so, a range of causal factors are considered (see summary of variation of each factor in Table A2). More fundamentally, it uncovered the complex and overlapping causal pathways, shown in Figure 11.

Initially, the radical proposals by the British government for 'Europe, the Future' in 1984 were caused by: (1) recognition that Europe was by then more important to Britain than America or the Commonwealth (i.e. 'community'); (2) common stagnation across major European economies in contrast to elsewhere in the world ('benchmarking'); (3) despite negative retrospective evaluations, post-1980 moves towards resolution of the British budget question, leading to lower public salience and a belief that Britain had a better deal ('calculations') and (4) Labour's 1983 election loss delegitimising their electoral offer of withdrawal, ending the debate over membership and framing of Europe in the terms of the 1975 referendum ('cues'). Subsequently, Britain's proposals for reform immediately made its membership appear constructive and led to the central cause of *Europhoria*: the Single Market Act and '1992' plan, which had multiple effects. Immediately it re-associated Europe with prospection and positive emotion, namely anticipation and hope over a wide range of possible forms of integration and a well-publicised wave of financial investment into Europe, reinforced by the post-Berlin Wall promise of eastern European markets ('calculations'). Delors' 1988 TUC speech and addition of a social component led to Labour support for the Community ('cues'). *Il Sorpasso* aided the impression that the European socio-economic model was superior and that 'laggard' Britain should ape it ('benchmarking').

There is no evidence that Thatcher's Bruges speech thereafter had an initial effect; conversely, it led to her removal in 1990, further marginalising Euroscepticism and making Britain seem an even more central and harmonious member ('cues'). These events created a strong European identity, reinforced by Europeanising cultural forces in sports, arts and media ('community'). Thereafter, Maastricht caused a widespread turn towards Euroscepticism across Europe that, particularly initially, was stronger in Britain due to its September 1992 exit from the Exchange Rate Mechanism, which: redeemed Thatcher's marginalised Eurosceptic wing ('cues'); led to faster economic growth than in the rest of Europe ('benchmarking'); made Britain's relationship fractious again and in the long-term made it a policy outsider ('cues').

Theoretically, we can see that several operationalisations of 'calculations, community, and cues' and 'benchmarking' operate differentially over time. First, benchmarking can be internal and regarding other member states – both for the better and worse – but also external relative to other markets. Cues affect attitudes far more via the perceived harmony of European relations, centrality within the Community and popular policy changes to European integration than via domestic politician, party, media cueing or government information campaigns. Calculations are shown to be multifaceted, with prospective hope overriding retrospective negativity, and often regarding multiple, non-economic issues. Finally, 'community' goes beyond feeling European to, on the one hand, the relative importance of various international relationships – for Britain: Europe, the Commonwealth and Anglo-America – and, on the other hand, cultural manifestation of European identity.

Overall, this article contributes to the political science literature by explaining why public opinion to European integration has changed over time beyond 'permissive consensus' and 'constraining dissensus' and to the historical literature by describing the period of 'Britain and Europe' after tumultuous 1970s and early 1980s and before the lead up to the 2016 referendum. Future research should build on this work by expanding its explanatory framework further, by providing additional tests of the above variables either in distinct contexts – in Britain and other member states, and regarding other unions – or with further evidence, and by validating each of the mechanisms with more robust testing.

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Supplemental Material

Additional Supplementary Information may be found with the online version of this article.

Appendix 1: selected uses of “Reluctant Europeans”

Figure A1: Net belief that EU “membership is a good thing” rather than “bad thing”, 1973-2001 by country (yearly averages)

Figure A2: Mori polling on a hypothetical British referendum on European membership

Figure A3: Support for European unification by country, 1990

Table A1: Preferences towards Britain’s role within the European Community in 1991

Table A2: Summary of findings by factor

Appendix 2: Times Ten Years in Europe series

Notes

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