

EU angers UK by calling Gibraltar a 'colony'

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via David Stanley on flickr.com

The United Kingdom has objected to the European Union's use of the word "colony" to describe the island of Gibraltar. The European Council (a body that defines the EU's political direction) produced a document

regarding UK nationals travelling to the EU after Brexit. It says in a footnote: "Gibraltar is a colony of the British Crown. There is a controversy between Spain and the UK concerning the sovereignty over Gibraltar, a territory for which a solution has to be reached." A UK government spokesperson said: "Gibraltar is not a colony and it is completely inappropriate to describe it in this way. She added: "Gibraltar is a full part of the UK family....This will not change due to our exit from the EU."

Gibraltar is a British Overseas Territory located in the Mediterranean Sea between Spain and Morocco. It is home to over 30,000 people. In 1704, Anglo-Dutch forces captured it from Spain during a war. Spain handed Gibraltar to Great Britain in a 1713 treaty. However, Spain still asserts a claim to the territory. It wants Gibraltar excluded from all post-Brexit agreements between the UK and the EU. Gibraltar rejected proposals for shared UK-Spanish sovereignty by 99% to 1% in a 2002 referendum. Gibraltar's Chief Minister has accused Spain of bullying. He said: "No one will be surprised to hear the Spanish government making provocative statements in respect of Gibraltar."

Sources: bbc.com / reuters.com / wikipedia.org

Writing

All colonies should be given independence or returned to historical owners. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

United Kingdom / colony / political / document / controversy / solution / family / exit / territory / war / treaty / agreements / proposals / sovereignty / referendum / respect

True / False

- a) The European Council is responsible for the EU's political direction. T / F
- b) The word "colony" was written at the top of an EU document. T / F
- c) The EU said the solution for Gibraltar's sovereignty was reached in 1704. T / F
- d) The UK said Gibraltar was part of the EU family. T / F
- e) The UK said Gibraltar is a British Overseas Territory. T / F
- f) Spain handed Gibraltar to the UK in 1317. T / F
- g) Ninety-nine per cent of Gibraltarians voted against joint UK-Spanish rule. T / F
- h) A Gibraltarian politician suggested Spain was a bully. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. objected | a. unsuitable |
| 2. body | b. dispute |
| 3. controversy | c. seized |
| 4. solution | d. regarding |
| 5. inappropriate | e. organization |
| 6. located | f. vote |
| 7. captured | g. protested |
| 8. excluded | h. situated |
| 9. referendum | i. answer |
| 10. in respect of | j. left out |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about Gibraltar?
- b) Do you think Gibraltar is a colony?
- c) What do you think of the idea of colonies?
- d) Why is the UK leaving the EU?
- e) What will happen in the UK after the UK leaves the EU?
- f) What controversies are there in your country?
- g) What countries does your country have with disputes with?
- h) Should all colonies get their independence?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. objected to the European Union's use | a. to our exit from the EU |
| 2. It says in a | b. treaty |
| 3. a territory for which a solution | c. statements |
| 4. it is completely | d. over 30,000 people |
| 5. This will not change due | e. has to be reached |
| 6. It is home to | f. of bullying |
| 7. in a 1713 | g. Brexit agreements |
| 8. excluded from all post- | h. inappropriate |
| 9. accused Spain | i. of the word "colony" |
| 10. making provocative | j. footnote |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What is the difference between an 'overseas territory' and a colony?
- Should the UK return Gibraltar to Spain?
- What do you think of the 2002 referendum result?
- Are you surprised that Spain wants Gibraltar back?
- What advice do you have for Spain's government?
- What will the EU be like in ten years' time?
- What questions would you like to ask the governor of Gibraltar?

Spelling

- The United Kingdom has jtbddeoc
- a body that ndfesei the EU's political direction
- There is a ntoerscorvy
- the ieyvetrogsn over Gibraltar
- a lnousoti has to be reached
- it is completely ptanreoppaii
- toacdle in the Mediterranean
- Anglo-Dutch forces pretuadc it from Spain
- asserts a claim to the yitretorr
- Gibraltar rejected lpoasospr
- making vtrvpoacoei statements
- in ersetcp of Gibraltar

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. b	4. i	5. a
6. h	7. c	8. j	9. f	10. d

Role Play

Role A – Borders

You think borders are the biggest potential source for disputes between countries. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as likely to cause anger. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these (and why): water, religion or pollution.

Role B – Water

You think water is the biggest potential source for disputes between countries. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as likely to cause anger. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these (and why): borders, religion or pollution.

Role C – Religion

You think religion is the biggest potential source for disputes between countries. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as likely to cause anger. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these (and why): water, borders or pollution.

Role D – Pollution

You think pollution is the biggest potential source for disputes between countries. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as likely to cause anger. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these (and why): water, religion or borders.

Speaking – Anger

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest possibilities for anger between countries at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------|---------------------|
| • borders | • pollution |
| • history | • religion |
| • water | • natural resources |
| • sport | • business |

Answers – True False

a T	b F	c F	d F	e T	f F	g T	h T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.