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## UK Parliament Election : Victory of the Conservative Party

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On the May 7, 2015 UK parliament election, the Conservative Party led by Prime Minister David Cameron won 331 seats out of 650 and a working majority, which meant that David Cameron will continue as Prime Minister. In the UK, after WW II , the parliament moved back and forth between the two major parties, the Conservative Party and the Labour Party but in the last election of 2010 neither party gained majority (a hung parliament), so the first party Conservatives teamed up with third party Liberal Democrats to become the ruling coalition. Before the election public opinion surveys predicted that this time would also be a hung parliament and because of the rapid progressing leftist Scottish National Party (SNP), it would be difficult to team up to set up a coalition. The current UK economy is steadily growing in comparison with the Euro Zone which cannot wipe out the worries of deflation. This was also a tail wind for the ruling Conservatives.

The largest opposition party, the Labour Party, totally lost its strong hold in Scotland to the SNP. The SNP, even though had lost last September's referendum on Scotland's independence by no's 55 and yes's 45, won strongly by winning 56 seats out of Scotland's 59 and replacing the Liberal Democrats as the third party. For Prime Minister Cameron's second regime, the issue on transfer of power to, not only Scotland, regional governments will continue to be important.

The Result of the UK Election 2015

	Seats	Vote share	
		±	±
Conservative	331	+27	36.9 +0.8
Labour	232	-26	30.4 +1.5
Scottish National Party	56	+50	4.7 +3.1
Liberal Democrat	8	-49	7.9 -15.2
Green Party	1	0	3.8 +2.8
UK Independence Party	1	-1	12.6 +9.5
Others (*)	21	-1	3.7 -2.5
Total	650		100%

(Note) \* includes parties which had less than 1% vote. (Sources) Financial Times, BBC

Cameron's government will re-negotiate Britain's place in the EU by the end of 2017 and would like to hold a referendum on whether to stay or leave the EU. According to public opinion surveys, voices of remaining in the EU is still strong but in response to the turmoil surrounding the rescue of Greece, frustration towards the EU are rising amongst people in the UK. Even in this election welfare policy towards European immigrants was one of the key issues. Also, the UK Independence Party (UKIP), which is targeting separation from the EU, even though in the 2014 European Parliament elections suppressed the two major parties and became the first party, this time due the single-seat constituency system only won one seat, had a vote share of 12.6% and came in third. This shows that there is a certain amount of anti-EU voices amongst the voters and attention should be paid to the possibility that the future issue of referendum will cause instability for Europe.