Funding the Future

Brexit was the wrong answer to a question that did not ...

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I struggle with a conversation with someone who clearly thought Brexit was justified by differing reactions to the coronavirus crisis last week, and that all discussion about the efficacy of the AstraZeneca vaccine was purely politically motivated. I did not agree, but in the light of the underlying tensions the call did not last a lot longer.

As a result I tried to reflect on the differences of view that we had, and did a little research. I found this from an organisation called British Election Study, published in July 2016, less than a month after the Brexit vote. They presented word clouds based on interviews that they hard undertaken with both sides in the debate. As they said:

An easy way to get an initial idea of what respondents are saying is to use word clouds — a visual display of all the text in our respondents answers. These scale the size of the text according to how frequently a word was used. Here we break down the responses into people who, between 14th April and 4th May 2016 (fieldwork dates) said they had decided they would vote leave, vote remain and those who had not yet made up their minds.

This was their word cloud for Leavers:

This was that for Remainers:

And just for completeness, this was those undecided before the vote:

economy
immigration
security
effect
jobs
people
best
make
future
country
facts
rights
control
truth
impact
affect
economic
information
sovereignty
financial
trade
laws
decision
knowing
leaving
leave
effects
workers
money
benefits
getting
britain
democracy
borders
stability
unbiased
implications
right
independence
consequences
decisions
whether
issues
cost
lack
brussels
family
europe
countries
better
need
long
sides
can
know
get
human
employment
making
everything
referendum
terrorism
politicians
movement
informed
understanding
safety
happen
children
benefit
scottish
affects
honesty
european
staying
finances
much
job
vote
working
democratic
protection
relations
terms
keeping
one
stay
pros
freedom
controlling
publication
rules
government
generations
immigrants
feeling
threat
choice
especially
overall
safe
personal
support
made
decide
good
potential
parliament
national
integration
possible
pictures
trading
scaremongering
immigration
tolerance
tolerance
tolerance