

BM Political Highlights

Week Beginning 08/07/19

Top 3 Political Stories This Week

- Labour Party [clarifies](#) its Brexit policy; Boris Johnson emerges from TV debate [relatively unscathed](#)
- [Leaked cables](#) showed that the UK Ambassador to the US labelled Pres Trump 'inept' and 'insecure'
- The Greek election ended in [victory for the conservative New Democracy Party](#), ousting Tsipras

BlondeMoney View

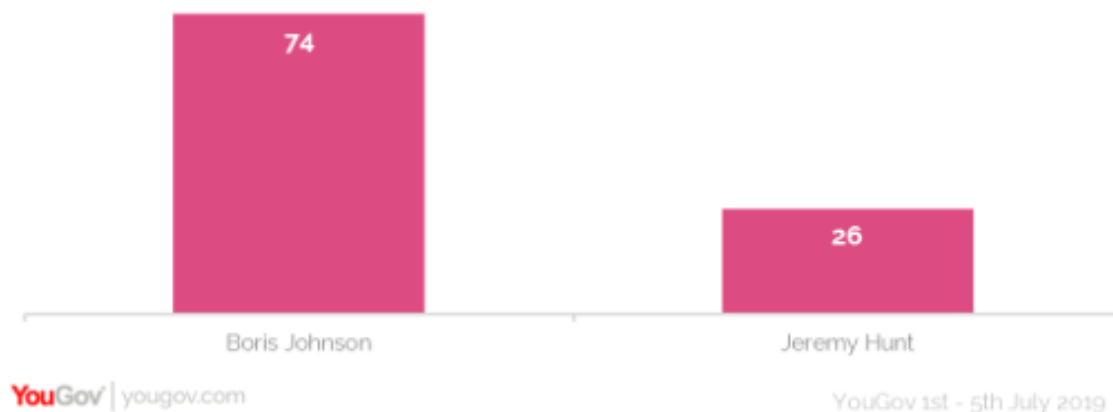
- With around two weeks to go in the Tory Leadership contest, both of the candidates faced off in a live TV debate. The discussions covered [more than just Brexit](#) but the two Oxford-educated debating-savvy senior politicians unsurprisingly failed to land a knock-out blow on the other. Meanwhile [Labour's Brexit Policy](#) becomes clearer even if it remains a tortuous attempt to please everyone. Corbyn promised to back a 2nd referendum if the Conservatives remain in power, but to pursue Labour's own Brexit deal if they were to win at the next General Election. Discontent within the ranks persists as [three peers resigned the whip](#) over the ongoing anti-Semitism saga. The clock ticks down to No Deal and therefore, we believe, a General Election.
- Another week, another set of insults tweeted, another international relationship strained, and another Trump administration internal spat. [Leaked cables](#) showed the UK Ambassador to the US labelled Pres Trump 'inept' and 'insecure', prompting Trump to tweet that he was a '[very stupid guy](#)'. Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney [called for Trump's Labour Secretary to be fired](#), after his dealings with alleged paedophile Jeffrey Epstein were revealed. The Trump administration is as chaotic as ever, but the truth is that the UK and US remain allies, and Trump's team remains embattled by infighting. Ignore the noise.
- The presumptive next EU Commission Pres sought to [build political alliances](#) this week, as she pursued the support of the Green Party in an attempt to strengthen her democratic mandate. Although von der Leyen should be able to achieve a majority among MEPs without the support of the Greens, she can't be sure that all of the 444 MEPs of the three biggest groupings (EPP, S&D, ALDE) will back her. She needs 375 votes, so the 74 Green MEPs would provide her with a more commanding grip on the European Parliament. Elsewhere, the Greek election ended in [victory for the conservative New Democracy Party](#), as they ousted PM Tsipras with 39.6% of the vote. As the European Parliament becomes more fragmented, Greece shows how putting anti-establishment parties in charge ultimately leads to a restoration of the elite.

Chart of the Week:

Source: [YouGov](#)

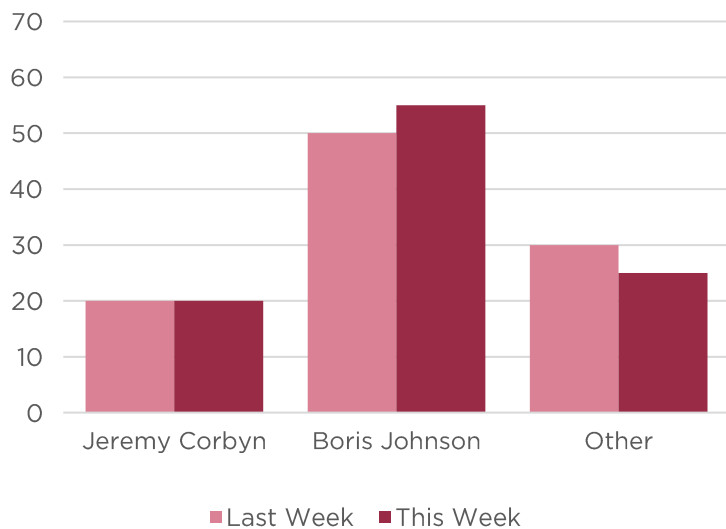
Johnson holds 48 point lead over Hunt in leadership election

Thinking about the upcoming Conservative leadership election, who will you vote for? (Excluding those who don't know, would not vote, or are not eligible to vote.) 1076 Conservative Party members

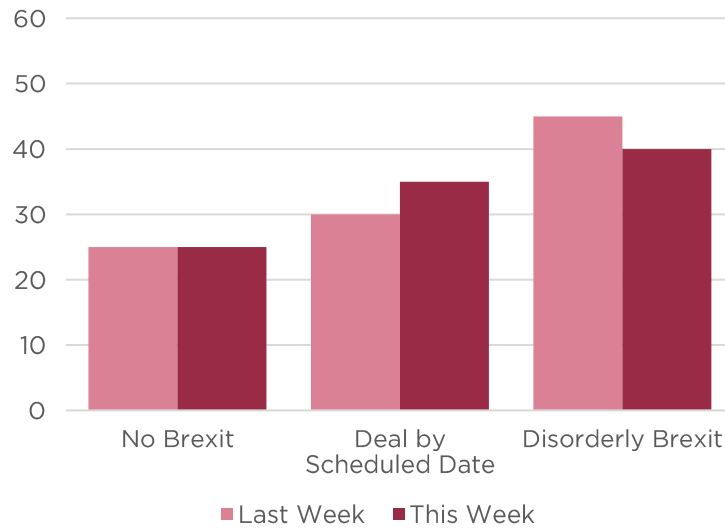


BlondeMoney Probabilities:

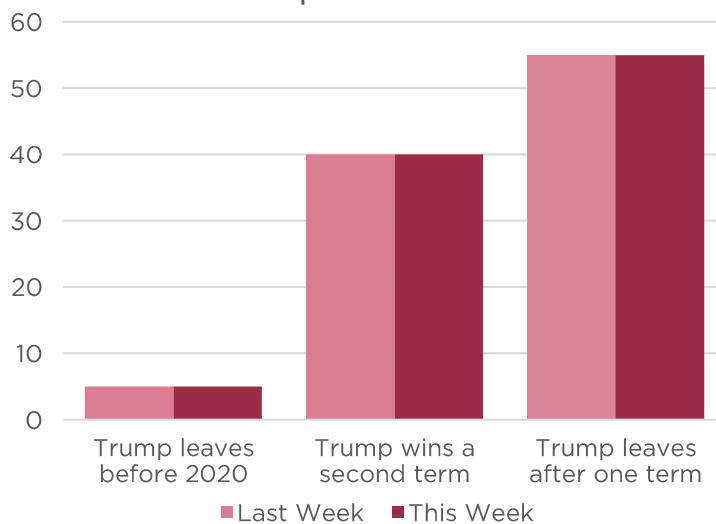
UK PM in Jan 2020



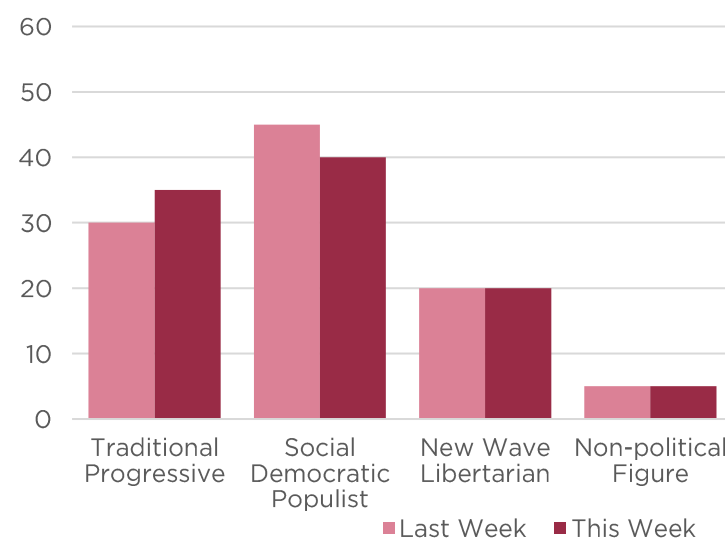
Brexit Outcome



Trump Re-election



Democrat 2020 Nominee



- UK PM Jan 2020: After coming out of the live TV debates relatively unscathed, Boris Johnson remains the clear favourite to become the next PM.
- Brexit: This week saw Jeremy Corbyn back a 2nd referendum, but only while the Tories remain in power. The Labour leader reaffirmed his desire to pursue a Brexit deal if he were to become PM.
- Trump: President Trump continues to struggle in national polling when up against his potential 2020 opponents, although election day remains a long way off.
- Democrat Nominee: Campaigning continued this week in the race for the Democratic nomination, as Joe Biden recovered somewhat following his dismal debate performance in Miami.