Scottish independence is not new in British politics; it has been part of public discourse for decades but gained significant momentum since devolution started in late 1990s. The Scottish National Party (SNP), advocating for Scotland's self-governance, won an outright majority in the Scottish Parliament election in May 2011, which led to a historic independence referendum on September 18th, 2014. In spite of their campaign efforts though, Scots chose to stay as part of UK with a margin favoring unionists by roughly ten points (55% against versus 45% for). However post-Brexit realities have reignited these debates around independence given that many Scots feel they are being dragged out against their will from EU through Brexit.

Examination of the Devolution Process in Scotland

Brexit has fundamentally challenged this status quo by raising questions about where ultimate sovereignty lies. It is notable that while England and Wales voted for Brexit in 2016 referendum (53.4% & 52.5% respectively), Scotland overwhelmingly voted against it (62%). This divergence gave rise to claims that devolution is flawed as it doesn't fully protect Scottish interests from decisions taken at UK level - such as Brexit - where English votes often dominate due to sheer population size difference. It also reignited calls for further independence; if key decisions like EU membership affecting Scotland are taken without its consensus then perhaps complete self-governance would be more suitable than partial one offered by devolution.

Brexit's Influence on the Devolution Debate

The influence is not just rhetorical but practical too. Post-Brexit power repatriation process from Brussels has been complex and contentious because many areas previously under EU jurisdiction fall within competencies devolved to Scotland (e.G., agriculture, fisheries). Instead of these powers going directly to Edinburgh post-Brexit, they were initially returned to Westminster for establishing common frameworks across UK before any further devolution. This approach was perceived as 'power grab' by SNP as it encroached upon their domain; thereby exacerbating existing tensions around sovereignty issues.

Impact of Brexit on Scottish Independence Aspirations

The SNP argues that if Scotland were independent, it could decide its own foreign policy, including possibly rejoining EU or forging closer ties with other European bodies like Nordic Council. Their case is also bolstered by the argument that since circumstances have significantly changed after 2016 (i.E., Brexit), prior mandate from 2014 doesn't hold; hence requiring fresh public consultation on question of self-governance. Thus, what started as an issue around devolution and power repatriation post-Brexit has escalated into a full-blown sovereignty debate in Scotland.

Consequences of Scottish Independence for UK Devolution

Scottish secession could prompt other regions to reconsider their own position within the UK union. For instance, calls for Welsh independence might intensify or Northern Ireland may seek reunification with the Republic of Ireland. This could destabilize not just existing devolved structures but also threaten constitutional integrity of UK itself by fuelling separatist sentiments elsewhere. Henceforth, while an independent Scotland could serve as an inspiration for some regional nationalist movements; it equally holds potential for creating unprecedented challenges around redefining governance norms post-devolution.

Future Implications for Devolution in the Light of Brexit and Potential Scottish Independence

If Scotland were to gain independence following another referendum, this could potentially lead to a complete overhaul of devolved powers in what remains of the UK. With Northern Ireland also voting against Brexit, there may even be calls for increased self-governance there too. All these point towards a future where devolution processes might have to become more nuanced and flexible - accounting not just for regional identities but also their distinct political preferences - rather than having one-size-fits-all approach like currently.