

Britain in the World

Six Pillars of a Better Future

In addition to the revolutions arising from technology, climate and Brexit, we face a fourth major challenge. The invasion of Ukraine has changed the nature of our foreign- and defence-policy priorities, giving a whole new impetus to the need for strong Western and transatlantic cooperation and partnership. Rather than risk being buffeted by geopolitical winds, progressives have a unique opportunity to shape a plan confronting the challenges of our time and charting a new course for Britain.

Global Context

For the past 50 years, the UK has looked out at the world not only as a sovereign nation but also as a member of the European Union, our most significant geopolitical relationship.

Our departure from the EU comes at a critical time. In the context of the emergence of a small number of great powers, a larger number of mid-level powers, complex geopolitics and a conflict in Ukraine that has plunged the world into even greater uncertainty, the UK urgently needs a plan.

A New Plan for “Global Britain”

For Britain the following priorities are uppermost:

Partnerships: To remain a strong and reliable partner in NATO and the broader Western alliance, in defence of democratic values.

Military: To maintain and enhance our military capability.

Europe: To rebuild a relationship with Europe that allows us to work together in areas of mutual interest and advantage, particularly around defence and security.

China: To help devise a common and coherent strategy towards China, based on strength but, equally, engagement. This means the capability to withstand anything that China may do, but not to seek to isolate the country behind a new iron curtain.

Soft power: Rebuild Britain’s soft-power network, from promoting our culture and values through the British Council to backing broadcasting like the BBC and, of course, taking a leading role in aid and development.

New alliances: Embrace new partnerships with emerging powers like India, whose strategic importance will only grow.

Climate: Maintain our position as a climate leader.

The Future of Britain Conference begins the work on delivering a credible plan for Britain’s new role in a changing world.

Further Reading

[Cutting the Cord: Ending Europe’s Energy Dependency on Russia](#)

[Ukraine: A Wake-Up Call for the West on Defence](#)

[The UK’s International Aid Commitment](#)