

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

“Britain’s role in the world has changed significantly over the past few decades. Instead of concerning ourselves with securing peace, British forces have been deployed around the world in a series of conflicts that seem to have worsened, instead of improved, our security situation.”

NIGEL FARAGE MEP

UKIP Leader

Since 1997, Labour and the Conservative/Lib Dem Coalition have deployed our Armed Forces to conflicts in Afghanistan, Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Libya and Iraq, while maintaining the ‘War on Terror’. They proposed military action in Syria. More recently, Parliament approved air strikes over Iraq on Islamic State. Latest deployments include deterrent exercises in Poland and the Baltic States and a little-publicised, but substantial, deployment to Nigeria.

These interventions have stretched the UK’s Armed Forces to the limit and damaged our reputation in the international community. They have caused social problems here at home and jaded the British public’s attitude towards involvement in future conflicts.

Iraq is a much more dangerous place today. So is Libya. Britain’s increasing involvement with European Union expansionism is putting us increasingly, unnecessarily, at loggerheads with Russia. The MoD recently told Ukraine it can count on ‘any possible assistance’ in maintaining its territorial integrity. It is yet another sign that our political leaders are willing to put our troops in harm’s way at the behest of other country’s political agendas.

We have to be clear: we should stand firmly alongside our allies around the world, but cannot continue committing troops into conflict at the drop of a hat – often under-resourced – and with a veterans policy that lets down those returning from the horrors of war.

Our commitment to NATO must be upheld and we will not shirk our responsibilities towards our allies, but UKIP believes our parliamentary democracy should be consulted at every opportunity, before committing any taxpayer resources, or our forces, to combat situations.

UKIP acknowledges there are real, existential threats around the world. The rise of Islamic extremism is at the forefront of this and, indeed, is possibly the most important battle of our generation. But the fight with and against this ideology is not best fought on a battlefield 3,000 miles away, but at home, where we have significant problems of radicalisation and incitement to terrorism.

In Europe, UKIP would push for commitments from our European neighbours, as well as multi-national organisations, to guarantee the British sovereignty and territorial integrity of Gibraltar and its waters.

In the South Atlantic, we must not ‘negotiate’ or kowtow to Argentine aggression over the Falkland Islands, but uphold and respect the islanders’ decision – through the self-determination of a recent referendum – their overwhelming desire and right to remain British.

In the Middle East, UKIP wants to see nations at peace, but acknowledges that sectarianism, fuelled by historical Western involvement, has rendered this all but impossible within a generation. We want to see a peaceful, two-state solution in Israel and the Palestinian territories.

Britain is not merely a European country, but part of a global community, the Anglosphere. Beyond the EU and even the Commonwealth are a network of nations that share not merely our language but our common law, democratic traditions and global trading interests. From India to the United States, New Zealand to the Caribbean, UKIP would want to foster closer ties with the Anglosphere.

Around the rest of the globe, UKIP’s policies, including opening up from a small, Euro-centric view of the world – wherein we are bound by EU membership not to negotiate our own trade deals – to becoming a sovereign nation that can trade with other countries, would once again inform our foreign policy.

Once unbound from the EU, Britain would once again take her place in the family of nations as an independent, sovereign state, free to negotiate her own trade deals and determine her own foreign policy objectives. We believe nations which trade with one another are less likely to go to war with each other and, it is on this basis, that we would seek to create a more global Britain, fully able to pursue her own interests.

BELIEVE *in* BRITAIN