



## BRIEFING PAPER

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# Brexit reading list: Global Britain

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1. Committee reports
2. Ministerial Statements and Speeches
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## Introduction

**'Global Britain' has become a [rallying cry](#) for those who want to see the UK stride confidently into a post-Brexit future. Opponents of Brexit [say](#) that this perspective ignores the damage being done to the UK's national interests by leaving the European Union.**

Some of those willing to give the idea of 'Global Britain' a chance have had their doubts too. In a March 2018 report, the Foreign Affairs Committee [argued](#) that the term:

has not been precisely defined by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, which has also appeared reluctant to respond to our requests for basic information about the objectives of Global Britain and the resources to be devoted to it.

The time is right to take stock of the UK's role in the world, not only in the light of domestic developments but also in the light of long-term changes in the international system and global balance of power. The UK has a wide range of attributes that have traditionally made it a global player, but it remains unclear what the Government believes the UK should do with these resources and assets in the post-Brexit environment, and how the UK should exercise leadership on the most urgent and complex issues facing the international system. For Global Britain to be more than a worthy aspiration, the slogan must be backed by substance. The FCO should place online, in one place, all the statements and speeches that Ministers have made about Global Britain, and all other Government documents in the public domain that set out what Global Britain means, translated into the world's ten most-used languages. If it comes to be perceived as a superficial branding exercise, it risks undermining UK interests by damaging our reputation overseas and eroding support for a global outlook here at home.

However, in June the Government launched a [webpage](#) collecting together the main official documents about 'Global Britain'. Soon afterwards, the FCO [responded](#) to the Foreign Affairs Committee's report, arguing that "Global Britain is already backed by substance." It went on to say that it had established a "new cross-HMG Global Britain Board, chaired by an FCO Director General, Deborah Bronnert", as well as an FCO Global Britain Taskforce "to implement the expansion of the diplomatic network, take forward policy development and devise metrics for measuring progress." Government ministers have continued to invoke the term regularly since then – for example, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab in an August 2019 [speech](#).

This reading list draws together a wide range of material on the theme of 'Global Britain'. It is not, of course, comprehensive. We have included some sources that we thought might be relevant even though the phrase itself is not invoked. Under each heading, the most recent item is set out first. It is one of several reading lists on Brexit-related issues published by the Library.

# 1. Committee reports

[\*\*Global Britain and the British Overseas Territories: Resetting the relationship: Government response to the Committee's Fifteenth Report\*\*](#), Twentieth Special Report of Session 2017–19, 13 May 2019

[\*\*Global Britain and the British Overseas Territories: Resetting the relationship\*\*](#), Fifteenth Report of Session 2017–19, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 1464, 21 February 2019

[\*\*Delivering Global Britain: FCO Skills: Government response to the Committee's Fourteenth Report of Session 2017-19\*\*](#), Nineteenth Special Report of Session 2017–19, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 1937, 8 February 2019

[\*\*Delivering Global Britain: FCO Skills\*\*](#), Fourteenth Report of Session 2017–19, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 1254, 28 November 2018

[\*\*Global Britain: Human rights and the rule of law: Government response to the Committee's, Thirteenth Report\*\*](#), Sixteenth Special Report of Session 2017–19, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 1759, 23 November 2018

[\*\*Global Britain: The Responsibility to Protect and Humanitarian Intervention: Government response to the Committee's Twelfth Report\*\*](#), Fifteenth Special Report of Session 2017–19, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 1719, 19 November 2018

[\*\*Global Britain and the Western Balkans: Government Response to the Committee's Tenth Report\*\*](#), Fourteenth Special Report of Session 2017–19, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 1572, 14 September 2018

[\*\*Global Britain: Human rights and the rule of law\*\*](#), Thirteenth Report of Session 2017–19, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 874, 11 September 2018

[\*\*Global Britain: The Responsibility to Protect and Humanitarian Intervention\*\*](#), Twelfth Report of Session 2017–19, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 1005, 10 September 2018

[\*\*Global Britain and the 2018 Commonwealth Summit: Government response to the Committee's Seventh Report\*\*](#), Eleventh Special Report of Session 2017–19, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 1427, 13 July 2018

[\*\*Global Britain and the Western Balkans\*\*](#), Tenth Report of Session 2017–19, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 1013, 6 July 2018

[\*\*Global Britain: Government Response to the Sixth Report of the Committee\*\*](#), Tenth Special Report of Session 2017–19, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 1236, 20 June 2018

[2017 elections to the International Court of Justice: Government response to the Committee's Fourth Report](#), Seventh Special Report of Session 2017–19, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 1012, 9 May 2018

[Global Britain and the 2018 Commonwealth Summit](#), Seventh Report of Session 2017–19, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 831, 5 April 2018

[Global Britain](#), Sixth Report of Session 2017–19, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 780, 12 March 2018

[2017 elections to the International Court of Justice](#), Fourth Report of Session 2017–19, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 860, 28 February 2018

## 2. Ministerial Statements and Speeches

[A truly global future awaits us after Brexit: article by Dominic Raab](#)

**Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
11 August 2019**

As we strive for a better deal with the EU, we need to view that relationship in the context of our wider vision for the UK after Brexit. Fifteen years ago, when I was posted as a Foreign Office lawyer to The Hague, I remember my counterparts from Japan, Australia, South Korea and Brazil lamenting the introverted perspective of the EU and the UK – at the expense of the rest of the world.

It was a salutary warning. Today, the UK wants a strong relationship with our European partners. But Brussels isn't the only game in town. It's time we broadened our horizons, and my first visits as Foreign Secretary – to the US, Canada, Thailand and Mexico – have shone a light on the opportunities for a truly global Britain.

In the US, President Trump told me how much America values its close friendship with Britain, his high regard for our Prime Minister, and his enthusiasm for a free trade deal with the UK. How serious are they? After our meeting, secretary of state Mike Pompeo told reporters that the US was poised "at the doorstep, pen in hand", ready to sign a deal – which would boost business and enhance consumer choice on both sides of the Atlantic.

I also met vice president Mike Pence and national security adviser John Bolton, reflecting the fact that our relationship goes far beyond trade. Crucially, we work together to defend our shared values and to respond to security threats – whether by protecting international shipping from the menace of Iran's Revolutionary Guard or striving to secure North Korea's denuclearisation.

Few countries have been a better friend than Canada, which I visited earlier in the week. I spoke to business representatives, who committed

to investing more in the UK, and discussed with Canadian foreign minister Chrystia Freeland the need for a smooth transition on our trade as we leave the EU.

Our vision for global Britain also involves promoting values. Ms Freeland and I pledged to work together to protect media freedoms globally. I heard about Canada's experience of adopting a Magnitsky Act to impose visa bans and asset freezes on those responsible for gross human rights abuses. Once we've left the EU and regained control of our own sanctions rules, this government will implement the 'Magnitsky' provisions of the UK Sanctions Act. That means human rights abusers anywhere in the world will face consequences for their actions, with any assets they hold in the UK frozen and a ban on travelling here. We will ensure that global Britain is not a safe haven for those who profit from torturing others.

Beyond old friends, we must deepen our ties with the world's growth markets – from Asia to Latin America. So last week, I was delighted to take up an invitation from the Association of South-East Asian Nations to attend their meeting of foreign ministers in Bangkok. In fewer than 20 years, the total GDP of the 10 nations in this club has expanded almost sixfold to nearly \$3 trillion today. Scarcely anywhere in the world could match this rate of growth. Now is the time to bolster our commitment to the Asia-Pacific region, develop stronger trade, and work together to ensure the stability that allows us all to prosper.

The final leg of my trip again reflects the opportunities of the future. Mexico has a population of 126 million and an economy of over \$1.2 trillion. UK exports to Mexico totalled £2.3 billion in 2017, up 18% in 1 year. Red London buses, built by a Scottish manufacturer, now ride along Paseo de la Reforma in Mexico City.

But we can do better in Latin America. Here's one example. Two thirds of Mexicans have no bank accounts – but half of them have a smartphone. That's a great opportunity for innovative British businesses. With a bright future outside the EU, we will help Mexican firms trade more freely with the UK.

Wherever I travel, I take the Prime Minister's message of optimism. We will remain strong European partners. But there is a wider world out there for us to re-discover. By the end of my first fortnight as Foreign Secretary, I have met the foreign ministers of 22 countries across the world. I am struck by how much they want to strengthen their ties with us. They too see the great benefits offered by Brexit to deepen our partnerships around the world.

Together there is more that we can and will do to enhance global prosperity and stability and defend our shared values of freedom, democracy and tolerance. So, let's raise our game, rediscover our national self-confidence, and grasp the tremendous opportunities that lie ahead.

**Foreign Secretary crosses the Atlantic to expand post-Brexit opportunities for Global Britain**

**Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

**6 August 2019**

The Foreign Secretary and First Secretary of State Dominic Raab will travel to Canada, the United States of America and Mexico this week to ensure the UK seizes the global opportunities of the future. This North America tour follows the Foreign Secretary's visit to Bangkok last week where he met 20 foreign ministers from the Asia-Pacific region and more widely.

Ahead of the visit, the Foreign Secretary said:

"In my first fortnight as Foreign Secretary, I'm travelling East and West to underline that the UK is determined to strengthen our friendships with countries across the world and raise our international horizons.

I'm determined that we fire up our economic relationships with non-European partners. That means working with them now to ensure a smooth transition of our trading arrangements after Brexit and means quickly moving to wide ranging trade deals that boost business, lower prices for consumers and respect our high standards.

I also want to build a stronger alliance to uphold international rule of law and tackle the issues that threaten our security whether that's Iran's menacing behaviour or Russia's destabilising actions in Europe, or the threat from terrorism and climate change.

Last week in Thailand, I met 20 Foreign Ministers from across Asia-Pacific and more widely to make the case for Global Britain. They were consistent in the warmth for Britain and desire to work more closely with us. This week I will cross the Atlantic to some of our oldest allies and a dynamic emerging market."

On his second major visit in as many weeks in office, the Foreign Secretary will visit: Canada - a close foreign policy partner that continues to invest heavily in the UK economy; the US - the UK's greatest ally and the country we trade with most; and Mexico - a fast growing emerging economy where the UK sees huge potential for intensified cooperation. Collectively the three represent £224.8 billion of annual bilateral UK trade with enormous potential for future expansion.

In Toronto (Tuesday 6 August), Washington (Wednesday 7 August) and Mexico City (Thursday 8 August) the Foreign Secretary will reiterate the UK Government's commitment to expanding existing collaboration on the global stage, including our joint commitment to the rules-based international order and greater coordination across our shared foreign policy priorities.

**[Britain has been shaping the world for centuries. That won't change with Brexit: article by Jeremy Hunt](#)**

**Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

**29 March 2019**

The 18th-century Scottish poet Robert Burns was perhaps the most gifted wordsmith of his age. Every foreign minister should ponder one of his lines: "Oh, would some Power give us the gift / To see ourselves as others see us!"

When I picture how others see Britain right now, I suspect old friends are shaking puzzled heads. The clash and thunder over Brexit is not an appealing spectacle. Some may feel that British politicians are acting out Monty Python sketches in real life.

So please put aside the doom-laden commentary and accept my assurance: We British are neither abandoning our neighbours nor retreating from the world. We have not taken leave of our senses.

True, our Parliament can be exasperating. But in a democracy that is also its job. The mother of parliaments is proud, fiercely independent and sovereign. If the British government must fight for every vote on something as crucial as our country's place in Europe, that is as it should be. If we lose sometimes, that too is democracy. For all the pressure it puts me under personally, I take pride in answering to a parliament that is impossible to suborn.

In some countries, disputes of this kind might spill violently onto the streets. In Britain, our national debate on Brexit has been contained within our democratic institutions. We have been through worse - the repeal of the Corn Laws, for instance, poisoned British politics for a generation after 1846. We have also shown resilience in the most supreme of tests – maintaining parliamentary democracy and removing a respected prime minister even as the country fought for its life during World War II. Having survived such tests, British institutions will overcome this one too.

Look beneath the surface and Britain's international position remains unchanged. The United Kingdom is a small archipelago, with rather less than 1% of the world's population. Alongside the United States we have done more to shape the world we live in than any other country and remain in the global top five of most important leagues.

We have the fifth-biggest economy in the world, the No.1 financial centre in our hemisphere and the second-biggest military budget in NATO.

We reliably supply three of the world's top 10 universities in surveys and are often ranked at or near the top for 'soft power'. When it comes to innovation, we are fourth in the global league, according to an annual index compiled by organizations including Cornell University and the World Intellectual Property Organization. And we continue to rank highest for business-friendliness.



Don't forget that Britain also possesses a nuclear deterrent, globally deployable armed forces and two new aircraft carriers. We like to believe we are the most capable ally America has. We've been with you in Afghanistan from the beginning in 2001; our servicemen and women have helped you to take apart the Islamic State in the Middle East.

And we do more for European security than any of our neighbours. Right now British soldiers are the single biggest contingent of NATO's deployment in Poland and the Baltic states.

It might seem odd that we are protecting these European Union members in the middle of Brexit negotiations. In truth, it's entirely logical. Britain is leaving the structures of the EU, which we joined as recently as 1973, as that organization moves from economic cooperation to political union. But our unconditional commitment to the security of our continent long predates our EU membership and will not waver after we leave.

In fact, one of the few things that unites British politicians of all parties and our European counterparts is that we plan to work hand-in-glove on foreign and security policy after Brexit. Our vital interests and values are going to stay aligned, just as they will with the United States.

So once Brexit has happened, be in no doubt that Britain will retain all the capabilities of a global power. You may be the superpower but our worldwide network of alliances and friendships places Britain among the handful of countries with genuinely global reach. We want to put it at the service of the democratic values both our countries share.

As the country steps up to our global destiny, I follow in a remarkable tradition. The first foreign secretary, Charles James Fox, abolished the slave trade. Another, George Canning, reshaped South America by helping its countries to achieve independence.

Outside my office stands a bust of Ernest Bevin, who was an architect of NATO exactly 70 years ago and arguably did as much for European security as any other post-war European politician. Bevin also ensured that Britain stayed out of the supranational body that came before the EU. He saw no contradiction between those two positions – and he was right.

Britain has been shaping the world for centuries and we're here to stay.

**[Foreign Secretary Hunt: Britain's role in a post-Brexit world](#)**  
**Foreign and Commonwealth Office**  
**2 January 2019**

I'd like to thank the International Institute for Strategic Studies for giving me the huge honour of delivering this Fullerton Lecture and I'm delighted to be here in Singapore and to renew Britain's ties with one of our closest and oldest friends.

Our 2 countries are joined at the hip not just by common interests and our shared dedication to the rule of law, but by a shared history that has bound our two peoples together for 200 years - almost to the day.

Just over a century ago, the great naval strategist, Admiral John Fisher, identified Singapore as one of "5 keys" of the world.

The sights and sounds of this remarkable city vindicate his judgement today as then.

From the cranes in the world's second busiest container port to the towers of a thriving financial centre, Singapore exemplifies the dynamism and vitality of Asia.

And as the natural junction between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific, Singapore has turned itself into the greatest artery for trade in the world, transited by cargo ships 84,000 times in 2017 alone.

Alongside this prodigious development, nearly half of Singapore remains green and lush, including the Botanic Gardens, your first World Heritage Site, and home to a rain forest forming part of Her Majesty the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy.

For a relatively new British Foreign Secretary there are few better sources of wisdom than the late, great Mr Lee Kuan Yew, who served as prime minister of Singapore for three decades and influenced a generation of leaders, including Henry Kissinger and Margaret Thatcher.

So let me start by turning to his lecture on the 'Fundamentals of Singapore's Foreign Policy', delivered in 2009.

"Friendship in international relations is not a function of goodwill or personal affection," he said. "We must make ourselves relevant so that other countries have an interest in our continued survival and prosperity."

Words we in Britain should heed in this momentous year in our history.

Thanks to that history, the UK probably has better connections across the globe than nearly any other country. But we cannot depend on sentiment or affection to be relevant to others. Nor should we assume that because of past achievements others will have an interest in our future success.

Not unless we are able to link our success to the success of others – or, as Lee Kuan Yew would have said, make ourselves relevant – and today I want to discuss exactly how we do that.

### **Singapore's example**

Like Britain on 29 March this year, Singapore too faced an extraordinary challenge back on 9 August 1965 when it separated from its larger neighbour.

In Lee Kuan Yew's famous words: "Some countries are born independent. Some achieve independence. Singapore had independence thrust upon it."

Yet his memoirs record how not everyone shared his anguish, least of all the investors who swiftly decided that "independence was good for the economy". By the second day, the value of almost all of Singapore's industrial stocks was climbing.

And over the next 5 decades, Singapore's real per capita GDP would multiply fifteen-fold to reach \$58,000 a head.

Today, Singapore has risen to become the eighth richest country in the world per capita, surpassing Germany, France, Sweden and – though I whisper it softly – the United Kingdom.

As we leave the European Union, Britain can draw encouragement from how Singapore's separation from the Peninsula did not make it more insular but more open. In Lee Kuan Yew's phrase, 1965 marked the moment when Singapore "plugged into the international economic grid".

The transformation of a territory measuring only 26 miles from east to west – wholly devoid of natural resources – was based on unleashing the boundless talent and ambition of Singapore's people, including by creating schools with the best results in the world.

What was right for Singapore won't always be right for Britain. We are committed to our social model and as a former Health Secretary I am particularly proud of our National Health Service with universal provision, free at the point of use, and in which my counterpart, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, worked with great dedication for two years.

But there is much we can learn from Singapore, not least the excellence of its education system, the long term investment in infrastructure and a strategic approach to how a nation sustains competitive advantage in the world.

### **The international order under threat**

Britain and its allies were instrumental in setting up the international order that has broadly existed since 1945.

This assembly of rules and institutions – including multilateral bodies like the United Nations, the World Bank and the World Trade Organisation - has combined with an American-led security umbrella to create the conditions for peace, stability and trade, allowing more human beings to lift themselves out of poverty than ever before in history.

Singapore symbolises what is possible with a peaceful and stable international order.

Yet as we look around at the start of 2019, all is not well.

## 12 Brexit reading list: Global Britain

What is wondrously called the rules-based international system is under greater strain than for many decades – and the evidence is all around us.

In Europe, Russia has annexed 10,000 square miles of Ukraine, seizing the territory of another member of the United Nations by force of arms, in breach of the first principle of international law.

Then, last March, the Kremlin deployed a Novichok nerve agent in Salisbury, the first time a chemical weapon has ever been used on British soil.

In 2017, VX nerve agent was employed in this region to assassinate a North Korean citizen in Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

In the Middle East, the Assad regime has used chemical weapons against its own people in Syria, defying a global ban on these instruments of death that dates back to the Geneva Protocol of 1925. At the same time, Iran has continued its highly destabilising interference in Yemen, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq.

In Asia, we saw the expulsion of over 700,000 Rohingya refugees from their homes in Burma, alongside horrific mass killings and rape by the Tatmadaw, the Burmese army, in a brutal act of ethnic cleansing.

And across the world, we can see that far from advancing – as it did when the Berlin Wall fell – democracy is now in retreat. Freedom House reports that 71 countries suffered net declines in political rights and civil liberties in 2017 and by 2030, for the first time in our lifetimes, the world's biggest economy won't be a democracy – or even want to become one.

### **Britain post-Brexit**

So where does post-Brexit Britain fit into this picture?

We need to begin with a realistic assessment of our global position. That means not overestimating our strength but not underestimating it either.

We are not a superpower and we don't have an empire.

But we do have the fifth biggest economy in the world, the second biggest military budget in NATO, the third biggest overseas aid budget, one of the two largest financial centres, the global language, highly effective intelligence services and a world class diplomatic network, including permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council.

We also have immense reserves of soft power, with three of the world's top ten universities, 450,000 students from overseas in higher education, 39 million visits by tourists in 2017, and a global audience for our media, especially the BBC, measured in the hundreds of millions.

Most importantly, in a world where it is rarely possible for one country to achieve its ambitions alone, we have some of the best connections of any country – whether through the Commonwealth, our alliance with the United States or our friendship with our neighbours in Europe.

Those connections mean that, in this part of the world, Britain is amongst only a handful of European countries with an Embassy or a High Commission in every member of the Association of South-East Asian nations.

Later this year, we will open a new mission to ASEAN headquarters in Jakarta, as we seek to strengthen our relationship with ASEAN after we leave the EU.

The global centre of economic gravity has been shifting eastwards towards Asia for decades - and this trend shows no sign of abating. In 1980, Asia comprised less than 20 percent of the world economy; today the figure has climbed to over a third.

In his new book 'The Future is Asian', Parag Khanna writes that of the \$30 trillion in extra middle class consumption expected by 2030, only \$1 trillion will come from the West. Power always follows money, so the rise of Asia will have a profound impact on the global balance.

Now Britain is already the biggest European investor in South East Asia, with ASEAN trade of nearly £37 billion, and over 4,000 British companies employing more than 50,000 people in Singapore alone.

And those connections are why Britain's post-Brexit role should be to act as an invisible chain linking together the democracies of the world, those countries which share our values and support our belief in free trade, the rule of law and open societies.

That doesn't mean being dogmatic or forcing our values on others. And of course we recognise that every country is different.

But it does mean speaking out for those fundamental principles to our friends, as well as those who set themselves up in opposition to them.

It means being active where we have special responsibilities, such as securing peace in Yemen.

And it means working with others where we can be most effective, such as with the French in Libya, NATO in Afghanistan and the United States and Australia in Asia.

That is why I was proud to announce in October the biggest expansion of Britain's diplomatic network for a generation, with another 335 overseas positions and 14 new Posts around the world and a doubling of the number of British diplomats who speak a foreign language in the country where they serve.

Those nations who share values are going to need to stand together to defend them.

And as happened after the Salisbury nerve agent attack, when 28 democracies came together and expelled 153 Russian spies that was the biggest coordinated expulsion in the history of diplomacy. And sent out a very powerful message.

But we also need to stand together as we reform the multilateral institutions whose noble purposes are all too often compromised by over-heavy bureaucracies and ineffective decision-making.

They were set up in the 20th century but they need to be fit for the 21st century – not least to make sure they operate fairly for the United States which is not just the largest and most powerful democracy but also, in nearly every case, their largest donor.

### **Conclusion**

So to conclude, on 27 January 1819, Sir Stamford Raffles and William Farquhar landed here – and the bicentenary of that event falls in just over three weeks.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong explained its significance in these words: “Had Raffles not landed, Singapore might not have become a unique spot in South East Asia, quite different from the islands in the archipelago around us, or the states in the Malayan Peninsula. But because of Raffles, Singapore became a British colony, a free port and a modern city.”

The British legacy of the rule of law, clean administration, independent courts and the English language have all been part of Singapore’s success.

The people of Singapore have built magnificently on that legacy and our relationship has developed to a point where our countries work side-by-side in almost every field.

Last year Prime Minister Lee attended the Commonwealth summit in London; trade between us rose by 7% to nearly £14 billion; and three Royal Navy ships visited Singapore.

As we renew our friendship with Singapore for the next 2 centuries, I’m delighted that on Friday, Foreign Minister Dr Vivian Balakrishnan and I will launch our new Partnership for the Future, focused on the digital economy, education, innovation, security and defence.

But as we cooperate in all these areas, let us also remember a higher purpose, namely our joint responsibility to modernise and safeguard an international order that has led to unparalleled peace and prosperity for both our nations.

The United Kingdom will always be ready to work alongside likeminded countries - and few in Asia are more likeminded than Singapore.

So, as Lee Kuan Yew said, let us “seek a maximum number of friends” and “seize opportunities that come with changing circumstances”.

The scale of the challenge demands no less. Thank you very much.

**An Invisible Chain: speech by the Foreign Secretary**  
**Foreign and Commonwealth Office**  
**31 October 2018**

In 1826, my predecessor Foreign Secretary George Canning described the global balance of power as a “standard perpetually varying, as civilisation advances, and as new nations spring up and take their place among established political communities”.

This was an era when South American countries were seizing independence from Spain and Portugal. The New World was beginning to upset the balance of the Old and Canning saw an opportunity for Britain. An opportunity to rethink British diplomacy, to seek new allies across the Atlantic, and thwart old foes France and Spain.

Canning had his own bed in the Foreign Office and when not lying in it complaining about his gout, he ordered British emissaries to sign trade agreements with Mexico and Colombia.

Times have changed. I have no bed in the Foreign Office and I am happy to inform you that I don't have gout either. Well, at least not yet.

But this country is at a pivotal, historic moment. The global balance of power is shifting once more and Post-Brexit, our place within it as well.

And whilst at the same time our democratic values are arguably under greater threat than at any time since the fall of the Berlin Wall, I want to argue today that we can use our influence, our reach and power to defend our values by becoming an invisible chain that links the world's democracies.

**Why we should reassess Our global role**

With the backdrop of Brexit, there is no doubt that our role has to change.

It is a legal and structural change it will have a profound impact on our foreign policy and whilst our commitment to European security remains unbreakable, the nature of our relationship with our closest neighbours will naturally change and we need to ensure this is a change for the better, not the worse.

But it isn't just Brexit that's causing change, other events are even more significant. Let's just take 3 examples:

First: the rise of China and the Asian powerhouse economies. Their growth alters the balance of power with all the speed Canning foretold.

In 1980, China comprised just 2% of the world economy. Today its 15%. By 2030, China is set to overtake the United States as the biggest economy in the world. By 2050, the combined economies of China and

India will exceed the GDPs of the entire G7 – the US, UK, Japan, France, Germany, Canada and Italy – put together.

Power always follows money so we must not underestimate the profound impact this will have.

Secondly there is a growing threat to democracy and democratic values. It's now clear that the spread of democracy has slowed, gradually come to a halt, in some respects even gone into reverse.

We may be suffering what the scholar Larry Diamond described as "a democratic recession". Last year, according to Freedom House, 71 countries suffered "net declines in political rights and civil liberties" and this is a reversal of what seemed like the inevitable onward march of democracy and democratic values after the lifting of the Iron Curtain.

It is of more than symbolic importance that by 2030, for the first time in our lifetimes the world's largest economy will not be a democracy and then we have to factor in something else, the growing threats to the long-established, rules-based international order.

It is not just within countries that we see change taking place. The interaction between countries is changing too.

Having a rules-based international order has made us more prosperous and successful than ever before in the history of humanity. But it is now openly questioned.

Chemical weapons have been used to lethal effect in Syria and for the first time in our history, they have been used on the streets of Britain too.

Free trade is under threat with the World Trade Organisation facing the most severe challenge in its history. If new trade barriers were to appear after Brexit, that would make things even worse.

The international order that has existed since 1945 was, in large measure, a creation of Britain and its allies.

At its heart was a simple credo: namely that the best way to create stability was to build a system where might is not automatically right, and one where every country, large or small, lives under the protection and security of the UN Charter.

By and large, it succeeded: for the first time in history, the bleak vision of Thucydides, that "the strong do what they can and the weak suffer what they must", was no longer always automatically valid. The United Kingdom with its Empire declining and the United States in its ascendancy determined to find a better way. And through a pattern of alliances and multilateral organisations, that vision came into plain sight.

But today that system is under threat. A new order is rising alongside the old. The democratic values that once bound us together are threatened. The post-war international order that we built to defend



them is being questioned. And people are turning to its architects and asking: “what now?”

In Britain, we’ve got to ask ourselves the same: what’s our plan? What’s our role? How can we strengthen and defend our way of life and the values we believe in?

### **Britain’s future role**

To start, we must build on the strengths that are rooted in our national character.

We are the home of parliamentary democracy. We have a profound belief in this country’s institutions that allow the peaceful transfer of political power.

As an outward-looking, seafaring nation, we have long known how to build alliances in every corner of the globe. As a country endowed with the best universities, scientists, engineers, artists and authors – alongside, of course, the world’s language – we have immense reserves of soft power.

We have kept our promise to spend 0.7% of national income on overseas aid, giving this country the third biggest development budget in the world and our history has also created special bonds with the most powerful democracy, the United States, and the world’s largest democracy, India.

We have the closest of relationships with other parts of the English-speaking world, from Ireland to Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

The success of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting this year in London, one of the biggest ever gatherings of its kind, also shows the enduring strength of our friendships within the world’s most important north-south alliance.

Our network of friendships is unparalleled. But it’s underpinned by something more than shared history, shared language or shared culture.

Those friendships are underpinned by the values – democracy, the rule of law, separation of powers, respect for individual civil and political rights, a belief in free trade – bind us. And when those values are under threat, Britain’s role – I would argue – is to defend them.

Which is why to do so, we must become an invisible chain linking the world’s democracies.

And we can have confidence that such an approach will work because alliances built on shared values are always more durable than those based on transactional convenience.

We must remember that the impressive progress of modern history has happened not by accident but by design. Its continued success can’t be taken for granted. So it is up to us to strengthen our resolve, make the

most of our unique position and forge an unbreakable chain that will hold those vital values that link our countries.

### **Raising our diplomatic game**

So how do we do this?

First, we must reinvigorate and expand British diplomacy. In the past you may have heard of retrenchment and retreat. Not any more.

Today, I am announcing the biggest expansion of Britain's diplomatic network for a generation, including 12 new Posts and nearly 1,000 more personnel.

I can confirm that by the end of next year, we will open six new High Commissions in Lesotho, Eswatini (formerly Swaziland), the Bahamas, Tonga, Samoa, and Vanuatu.

We will base new Resident Commissioners in Antigua & Barbuda, Grenada, and St Vincent & the Grenadines (nice job for someone).

We will upgrade the British Office in Chad to a full Embassy and establish a new British mission to the headquarters of the Association of South-East Asian Nations in Jakarta.

Thereafter, we will open new British embassies in Djibouti and Niger.

By the end of 2020, we will send 335 more British diplomats overseas, and reinforce the Foreign Office in London with another 328 personnel. We will hire another 329 locally-engaged staff in our embassies around the world.

In total, our network will gain 992 extra people, meaning we are represented in 160 countries – of the 192 countries of the UN, that's the same as France and only marginally less than United States and China.

At the same time, we will also strengthen our skills and expertise.

Over the next 5 years we will build on William Hague's far-sighted decision to reopen the Foreign Office Language School by increasing the number of languages taught from 50 to 70. The 20 new languages will vary from the Central Asian tongues of Kazakh and Kyrgyz, to Shona in Zimbabwe and Gujarati in India.

Within the next 10 years, we will double the number of British diplomats who speak a foreign language in the country where they serve from 500 at present, to 1,000, meaning that getting on for half of our overseas postings will be staffed by linguists.

We will also broaden the pool of talent we tap into for our Ambassadors.

As we regain control of our trade policy, it makes sense to open up applications to external candidates, so that 1 or 2 positions every year

might be filled by people with important experience from outside the civil service, especially the world of commerce.

The strength of our network is its professionalism, and that's what I think has given us what I believe is the finest diplomatic service in the world. But we must never close our eyes to the approaches and skills of other industries.

I am sure there are experienced, multi-lingual businesspeople who would welcome the chance to enter the service of their country at this critical time and the Foreign Office of the future will welcome them to some of our key Ambassadorial posts.

We will also ensure that those who champion Britain abroad better represent the country they serve.

So this year we launched a new university outreach programme, visiting every part of Britain, to encourage applications from under-represented groups. This includes not just women and BAME candidates, but also those from backgrounds that have not traditionally felt comfortable applying for a career in the service.

Finally, a small but I think important detail, is something that indicates how I intend our diplomacy to develop. When I arrived, we had secure phone connections in my office to the US, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. I have now added Japan, France and Germany to the list.

It means a lot more technology in my office than in Canning's day – but also allows for the strengthening of important alliances that he would have thoroughly approved.

### **Diplomacy with a purpose**

Taken together, this amounts to a considerable investment in our service, its capacity and its future. Adding links to the chain that will allow us to play our part in uniting those countries who share our values.

Now we must use that network to get to work.

First, we must redouble our efforts to defend the rules-based international order. To do that, we need multilateral organisations that are fit for purpose. Reforming out-dated and bureaucratic structures is the best way to make sure the institutions they serve do not collapse.

That means delivering UN reform, as advocated by UN Secretary General Guterres.

It means fairer burden-sharing in NATO, which continues to be the bedrock of European security.

It means WTO reform, so that we succeed in warding off the dangerous temptations of protectionism.

It means reforming the World Bank, so its governance reflects the changing balance of the global economy.

And it means reforming the structures of the Commonwealth, so there is proper accountability for the Secretariat and a more effective decision-making process.

To strengthen that invisible chain between the democracies, we must also ensure we are better at acting in concert when we face real and present threats.

That was shown to great effect after the nerve agent attack in Salisbury. Then, far from buckling in the face of Russian aggression, 28 democracies came together and expelled 153 Russian spies. The biggest coordinated expulsion in the history of diplomacy.

When we act in concert, we are strong. When we act together, the price for transgression becomes too high for the perpetrator.

But this nimbleness of response often eludes us. So I want our fine diplomats to find a way to do this more effectively. And that means going beyond traditional diplomacy focused on other governments and creating new partnerships, including with the private sector.

Nor is it solely when we face security threats that we should strengthen the chains that connect like-minded countries.

We must be better at standing together to defend the values we share. Whether that is: the prevention of sexual violence in conflict, the struggle against the illegal wildlife trade, or threats to freedom of expression.

Because access to fair and accurate information is also something we should remember is the lifeblood of democracy.

For that reason – and prompted in no small part by the tragic killing of the journalist Jamal Khashoggi – I am placing the resources of the Foreign Office behind the cause of media freedom. This campaign will be marked by a major international conference on media freedom that I will host in London next year.

And finally, as we strengthen our diplomatic efforts, we must never forget the importance of speaking from a position of strength.

Soft power matters but it is immensely more effective when backed up by hard power. In the last resort, we need to be able to call on our fine armed forces, whose importance was recognised by new funding in the Budget this week.

So we will continue to spend at least 2% of GDP on defence, and we will replace our independent nuclear deterrent. And we will continue to call on others in NATO to play their part too.

## **Conclusion**

Almost 200 years on, Canning's law still holds: new nations rise and the global order changes. The apparently inevitable progress of democracy since the fall of the Berlin Wall is no more.

Like Canning we must seize the opportunities that present themselves within the tumult. We must work to strengthen and defend our values across the globe.

And as we face our post-Brexit future, Britain has a role to play. It is one that we are uniquely suited to deliver. Remembering our responsibilities. Not overstating our strength, but not understating it either. Because right now our history, our networks and our unique combination of soft and hard power gives us a real ability to shape the course of history in line with our values.

So let's play our part helping to build that invisible chain between those who share our values. And make it as strong and resilient as it needs to be as new nations rise and the world order is challenged anew.

### **[PM visit to Africa](#)**

#### **Prime Minister's Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office 28 August 2018**

The Prime Minister visited South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya for the first time with senior ministers and a wide-ranging trade delegation.

The three-day trip to Africa was her first visit to the continent as Prime Minister.

This is a time of enormous change across Africa with a unique opportunity, as the UK moves towards Brexit, for a truly Global Britain to invest in and work alongside African nations, with mutual benefits.

### **[Global Britain and the Western Balkans](#)**

Statement on the publication of the tenth report of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Global Britain and the Western Balkans, HC 1013  
12 Jul 2018 | 644 cc1180-5

### **[Global Britain: supporting the Rules Based International System \(Speech\)](#)**

**Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
Mark Field MP  
17 August 2018**

### **[The Great Partnership: Delivering Global Britain \(Speech\)](#)**

**Department for International Development and The Rt Hon  
Penny Mordaunt MP  
20 June 2018**

**[Expansion of UK diplomatic network in the Commonwealth](#)**

**19 Apr 2018 | Boris Johnson | HCWS625**

Global Britain is this government's ambition to increase the UK's national security, prosperity and influence, signalling our resolve to remain a big and influential player on the world stage.

In March, I announced plans to open around 10 new sovereign missions over the next two years, drawing on additional funding granted to the Foreign & Commonwealth Office by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to enhance our diplomatic capability overseas.

During the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London this week, I am announcing the location of nine new missions: six High Commissions in Lesotho (Maseru); Swaziland (Mbabane); the Bahamas (Nassau); Tonga (Nuku'Alofa); Samoa (Apia); Vanuatu (Port Vila); and a further three missions, in Antigua and Barbuda (St John's); Grenada (St George's); and St Vincent & the Grenadines (Kingstown). These new missions will strengthen the UK's diplomatic influence in the Commonwealth and help to deliver the UK's security and prosperity objectives.

This expansion of our diplomatic network in the Commonwealth, which marks the beginning of the UK's two-year tenure as Chair, demonstrates our commitment to making an even greater success of this historic and important network of like-minded friends.

**[International Development Secretary on UK aid - The Mission for Global Britain](#) (Speech)**

**Department for International Development**

**Penny Mordaunt MP**

**12 April 2018**

**[Commonwealth Games 2022](#)**

**09 Oct 2017 | Karen Bradley | HCWS146**

I wish to inform the House that, on 9 October 2017, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport laid a minute recording the submission of a bid by Commonwealth Games England, Birmingham City Council, the West Midlands Combined Authority and DCMS to host the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

Birmingham's bid presents an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the very best of Global Britain to the world, showcasing the UK as a destination for international trade, education and tourism. It has the full backing of government and will not only help grow the economy in the West Midlands and beyond, it would also leave a strong sports legacy by upgrading facilities to benefit both elite athletes and the local community.

The government will provide around 75% of the net budget costs of delivering the Games and an underwrite of the total event budget, as well as a series of further guarantees which the CGF requests accompany the bid. The bid, therefore, creates contingent liabilities for the UK government in relation to Commonwealth Games.

The minute notes these liabilities as government's commitment to provide funding for the Games, underwrite the costs, and provide a number of further guarantees relating to the successful planning and delivery of the event. These contingent liabilities will only take effect in the event of a successful bid and our agreement of a hosting contract with the Commonwealth Games Federation.

The bid was submitted on 30 September 2017 and, due to the much shorter than usual timeframe in which to prepare the bid, I apologise that there was insufficient time to notify Parliament of our intention before the House returned.

Parliamentarians may signify objections by giving notice of a Parliamentary Question or by otherwise raising the matter in parliament by 31 October. Final approval to proceed with incurring the liability will be withheld pending an examination of the objection.

### **[Beyond Brexit: a Global Britain \(Speech\)](#)**

**Foreign & Commonwealth Office**

**Boris Johnson MP**

**2 December 2016**

## 3. PQs

### **[Trade Promotion](#)**

**04 Jul 2019 | HL16484**

#### **Asked by: Viscount Waverley**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Fairhead on 9 January (HL 12726), whether the Trade Commission Regional Trade Plans include recommendations for implementation; if so, how any such recommendations are being implemented; whether they will now publish the Regional Trade Plans; and if not, why not.

#### **Answering member: Viscount Younger of Leckie**

Regional trade plans (RTPs) are internal departmental documents which set out a region's overarching strategy, objectives and priorities. They are developed in collaboration between overseas and UK based officials, and are assessed yearly. Where the Department for International Trade operates, UK overseas posts also have a plan to deliver our vision for a Global Britain, which provides the detail of how an RTP will be implemented in each market.

It is the Department's intention to publish a public version of the plans in due course.

### [Visas: Africa](#)

**24 June 2019 | HL16197**

**Asked by: Lord Judd**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they made of the letter, published in The Observer on 9 June, from 70 senior leaders from universities and research institutes across the UK warning that "visa refusals for African cultural, development and academic leaders ... [are] undermining 'Global Britain's' reputation as well as efforts to tackle global challenges"; and what steps they intend to take in response.

**Answering member: Baroness Williams of Trafford**

All visa applications are considered on their individual merits and on the basis of the evidence available, in line with the immigration rules. We welcome international academics and recognise their contribution to the UK's world-leading education sector.

When we are informed of large academic events, UKVI strategic engagement teams can assist event organisers and attendees with the visa application process.

### [Immigration System](#)

**10 June 2019 | 661 c390**

**Asked by: Stephen Crabb**

I thank the Home Secretary for the support that he has expressed for the amendment drafted by our hon. Friend the Member for Orpington (Joseph Johnson), which has the support of many colleagues on both sides of the House, and which seeks to ease post-study work restrictions on overseas students. Does my right hon. Friend agree that not only is this an economically sensible and useful thing to do, but it will enhance UK soft power as we build global Britain?

**Answered by: Sajid Javid | Home Department**

My right hon. Friend is absolutely right. As he will know, we have already announced steps in that direction in the White Paper, because we want to make it easier for those who come from abroad to study in our universities to stay and continue to lead their lives in the UK. I do believe that we can go further, both for our own economic benefit—indeed, I think, for our cultural benefit—and, certainly, for the benefit of our soft power.

### [Aircraft Carriers](#)

**20 May 2019 | 254778**

**Asked by: Nia Griffith**

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, when she plans to publish her national carrier policy.

**Answering member: Penny Mordaunt | Ministry of Defence**

As I said in my speech on 15 May, the national carrier policy will lay the blueprint for how we propose to utilise our aircraft carriers to deliver global Britain's objectives around the world. This policy is currently under development.



### Educational Exchanges

**16 May 2019 | 253570**

**Asked by: Chi Onwurah**

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what plans he has to promote international programmes of exchange in higher education after the UK leaves the EU.

**Answering member: Chris Skidmore | Department for Education**

The government has made clear that it values international exchange and collaboration in education and training as part of our vision for a global Britain. We are committed to the UK remaining open to the world, and becoming even more global and internationalist in outlook. That is why the Department for Education supports a number of outward mobility and exchange programmes which broaden access to international opportunities, schemes such as Fulbright scholarships and Generation UK China.

Irrespective of the outcome of Article 50 negotiations, the UK and European countries should continue to give young people and students the chance to benefit from each other's world-leading universities following our exit from the European Union. In addition, the UK is an Erasmus+ programme country and the Withdrawal Agreement ensures that UK entities' and students' rights to participate in the current programme will remain unaffected for the remainder of the current EU budget cycle. Following ratification of the Agreement, UK-based organisations and people will be able to bid for funding, participate in and lead consortia, for the duration of the current programmes.

In addition to this, the UK is open to exploring participation in the Erasmus+ successor scheme for 2021-27, which is currently being discussed in the EU. We will continue to participate in discussions on the draft regulation while we remain an EU Member State and are considering options for future participation in the next Erasmus+ programme. However, a decision on UK participation in the next programme is ultimately a matter for wider negotiations about our future relationship with the EU.

As is the duty of a responsible government, we are also preparing for a range of potential outcomes and this includes promoting international mobility through a domestic alternative to Erasmus+.

### Language Teaching

**29 April 2019 | 659 c10**

**Asked by: Sir Nicholas Soames**

Given that catastrophic mistake by the Labour party, I commend my right hon. Friend and his colleagues for the proportion of pupils taking a language GCSE increasing from 40% to 47% since 2010. Does he agree that, given the—so far, unicorn—desire to develop a really global Britain project, it will become more and more important that our students are properly equipped for a fully global world, in which Britain will have to make a new way for itself?

**Answered by: Nick Gibb**

I agree with my right hon. Friend completely. As we enter a new global economy, we want to be able to trade with our European partners and need to speak European languages, as well as languages throughout the world, which is why we believe in the EBacc. I wish the Labour party would support our ambition to have 75% of students taking the EBacc combination of GCSEs by 2022.

**[Diplomatic Service](#)**

**15 March 2019 | 229109**

**Asked by: Emily Thornberry**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, where the funding will come from for the proposed expansion of the UK's diplomatic network; over what period that expansion will take place; and whether that funding will be taken from elsewhere in his departmental budget.

**Answering member: Sir Alan Duncan | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

The funding for the expansion of the diplomatic network is coming from £90 million of additional resource over two years agreed by the Treasury to support the Government's Global Britain ambitions. The expansion is planned to cover a period beginning in 2018 and ending in 2020. This funding will not be taken from elsewhere in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's budget. Expansion beyond March 2020 is subject to the forthcoming spending review.

**[Overseas Aid](#)**

**11 March 2019 | 227987**

**Asked by: Andrew Rosindell**

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps she is taking to ensure that aid spending supports the UK's political, commercial and diplomatic priorities.

**Answering member: Harriett Baldwin | Department for International Development**

As set out in the 2015 Aid Strategy, spending 0.7 on aid each year to strengthen global peace, strengthen resilience and respond to crises, promote global prosperity and tackle extreme poverty are all Government priorities and serve in our national interest. This spending is key to the Government's Global Britain vision and makes a strong contribution to the UK's soft power and our ability to influence across the globe.

**[Embassies: Cardiff](#)**

**29 November 2018 | 195046**

**Asked by: Chris Ruane**

To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, what discussions he has had with overseas diplomats about the merits of locating a consulate in Cardiff.

**Answering member: Alun Cairns | Wales Office**

I have regular meetings with overseas diplomats to discuss opportunities to strengthen links between Wales and countries across the globe as the UK leaves the European Union. This engagement supports my ambition for an outward looking Wales as part of a truly global Britain.

**[Brexit](#)**

**26 November 2018 | 192929**

**Asked by: Dr Matthew Offord**

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what responsibilities his Department will have after 29 March 2019 in the event that the House agrees to the EU-UK withdrawal deal.

**Answering member: George Hollingbery | Department for International Trade**

After 29 March 2019, the Department of International Trade's responsibilities will continue to be, as they are now:

- To support and encourage UK businesses to drive sustainable international growth;
- To ensure the UK remains a leading destination for international investment and maintains its number one position for international investment stock in Europe;
- To open markets, building a trade framework with new and existing partners which is free and fair;
- To use trade and investment to underpin the government's agenda for a Global Britain and its ambitions for prosperity, stability and security worldwide.

**[UK Aid](#)**

**21 Nov 2018 | 649 c850**

**Asked by: Patrick Grady**

My hon. Friend the Member for Dundee West (Chris Law) is travelling with the International Development Committee. Will the Minister confirm the Government's policy on the UK's continued membership of UNESCO? Does she accept that the educational and cultural work of UNESCO, both here and around the world, is of immense value and is a perfectly legitimate use of her Department's budget? How would withdrawal from UNESCO enhance the Government's vision of a post-Brexit global Britain?

**Answered by: Harriett Baldwin | International Development**

May I reassure the hon. Gentleman—and perhaps encourage him not to believe everything he reads in the newspapers—that the UK continues to be a member of UNESCO? We continue to look to UNESCO to follow through on the reforms it promised to undertake. We continue to work with it on that.

### [Engagements](#)

**24 Oct 2018 | 648 c274**

**Asked by: Patrick Grady**

How does denying, delaying or disrupting visas for Moldovan and African trade commissioners, Palestinian academics, artists at WOMAD and Celtic Connections, or Malawian priests and pupils enhance the Prime Minister's vision of a global Britain? Does the Prime Minister understand that the visa crisis and perceived travel ban serve only to prove that the "hostile environment" lives on, and that Brexit is a small, isolationist retreat from the world stage?

**Answered by: The Prime Minister | Prime Minister**

The reality is far different from the situation the hon. Gentleman has suggested. There is no travel ban. We remain open to business and to people from around the world, and we will continue to be so under the new immigration system—a skills-based immigration system—that we will be introducing when we leave the EU.

### [Human Rights](#)

**11 September 2018 | 169688**

**Asked by: Hugh Gaffney**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to promote and support human rights internationally.

**Answering member: Mark Field | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

Promoting and defending human rights is an essential aim of the foreign policy of "Global Britain". The Foreign Office's 2017 "Human Rights & Democracy" report demonstrates the breadth of the issues that we campaign on and how we mobilise the diplomatic network to champion universal rights.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office ministers and officials defend and promote human rights in bilateral engagements, in multilateral fora, and by funding projects through the Magna Carta Fund for Human Rights and Democracy.

### [Global Britain Fund: Overseas Aid](#)

**10 Jul 2018 | 159547**

**Asked by: Emily Thornberry**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what the evaluation criteria are for measuring the effectiveness of projects funded by the Global Britain Fund.

**Answering member: Sir Alan Duncan | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) departmental policy programme budget is branded internally as the Global Britain Fund. Projects under this banner provide short-term support for small-scale

tactical interventions to enable wider foreign policy objectives. Progress against FCO country or thematic strategies is evaluated at the mid and end of year points through the FCO's internal business planning process. Performance of individual projects against their original objectives is reviewed annually and at a mid-year point. Additional information on the objectives of our foreign policy programmes is published on [gov.uk](http://gov.uk).

### **[Global Britain Fund: Overseas Aid](#)**

**10 Jul 2018 | 159489**

#### **Asked by: Tom Brake**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what the terms of reference are for the Global Britain Fund; and which projects have received funding from that fund.

#### **Answering member: Sir Alan Duncan | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's departmental policy programme budget is branded internally as the Global Britain Fund. The objectives and summaries of our foreign policy programmes are published on [gov.uk](http://gov.uk).

### **[Foreign Relations](#)**

**03 Jul 2018 | 157610**

#### **Asked by: Sir Nicholas Soames**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, with which other government departments he is coordinating British soft power for global Britain.

#### **Answering member: Mark Field | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

The National Security Capability Review 2018 recommended the creation of a cross-government soft power strategy. The FCO is leading the development of this strategy, working with Departments across Whitehall including Department for International Trade, Department for International Development, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Home Office, Ministry of Defence, Her Majesty's Treasury, Cabinet Office, Department for Exiting the European Union, Department for Education, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Ministry for Justice and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

### **[Exports in Global Markets](#)**

**28 Jun 2018 | 643 c1017**

#### **Asked by: Judith Cummins**

In May it was reported that the Department was to axe hundreds of jobs in trade promotion—up to 10% of the workforce. The Treasury has since hinted that additional funding is available to safeguard such jobs, but we have heard that the cuts are still happening. Surely the Secretary

of State agrees that axing officials whose job is to promote British exports is not the best way to build a “global Britain”. Will he therefore confirm that his Department has not, and will not, cut those jobs?

**Answered by: Graham Stuart | International Trade**

The truth is that the Department is growing. It is less than two years old and it is building its capacity. Today I announced the appointment of a new director general for investment, we recently announced the appointment of a director general for exports, and, of course, we are soon to complete the appointments of eight HM trade commissioners around the world, who will deploy our resources to best effect.

**Topical Questions**

**26 Jun 2018 | 643 c754**

**Asked by: David Warburton**

Does my right hon. Friend agree that Global Britain means that post-Brexit the UK can negotiate trade deals and strengthen relationships with countries such as those in South America, with which we have perhaps not had the closest relationship in the past?

**Answered by: Boris Johnson | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

My hon. Friend is exactly right about that. I was thrilled to be the first Foreign Secretary to go to Peru for 52 years, and the first to go to Argentina and to Chile for 25 years. We will find Governments and populations there who are immensely anglophile and yearning to do free trade deals.

**Global Britain**

**26 Jun 2018 | 643 c746**

**Asked by: Chris Bryant**

I hope that global Britain is also about being extremely robust where there are strategic issues in Europe that we have to address, such as Nord Stream 2. Will the Foreign Secretary make it absolutely clear that Russia has systematically been bullying smaller countries in Europe for years through its energy policy and we will assist the Danes and the Germans if they want to make sure this does not go ahead?

**Answered by: Boris Johnson | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

As the hon. Gentleman knows, the Germans import a great deal of their gas from Russia and they are conflicted in that matter, but we continue to raise the concerns that he mentions with our German friends and of course with all the other states on the periphery of the EU that are threatened, as he says, by Russian gas politics.

**Global Britain**

**26 Jun 2018 | 643 c746**

**Asked by: Bob Seely**

Does my right hon. Friend agree that this is the perfect opportunity for us to fundamentally rethink our foreign policy post Brexit, and that

more work could be done on the idea of global Britain to ensure that we have a foreign policy fit for the 21st century?

**Answered by: Boris Johnson | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

My hon. Friend is absolutely right, and that is why we have responded to the challenges that the world presents us with today by increasing our diplomatic staff by another 250 diplomats, in addition to the 100 that we added to our European strength, and we are opening 10 new sovereign posts in the Caribbean and the Pacific, with more to come in Africa.

### [Global Britain](#)

26 Jun 2018 | 643 cc746-7

**Asked by: Bob Seely**

What progress his Department has made on the Global Britain agenda.

**Answered by: Boris Johnson | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

Global Britain is about being open, outward-looking and engaged with the world so as to maximise our influence, and I give the House the clearest recent example of that: the 28 countries who joined us in sympathetically expelling 153 Russian spies.

### [Equipment Plan 2017 to 2027](#)

11 Jun 2018 | 642 c570

**Asked by: Andrew Bowie**

Does my hon. Friend agree that the arrival of the F-35s on British shores is a signal to the world that “global Britain” is not empty rhetoric, as some would have us believe, but a demonstrable fact?

**Answered by: Guto Bebb | Ministry of Defence**

I agree with my hon. Friend that that is a statement of our aspiration, and it is also a significant statement on the contribution of defence to our national prosperity. Some 3,500 F-35s will be procured worldwide, and 15% of them will be produced here in the United Kingdom. That is equivalent to 525 platforms, which is a significant vote of confidence in UK industry.

### [Royal Navy Fisheries Protection](#)

11 Jun 2018 | 642 c568

**Asked by: Martin Docherty-Hughes**

Concerning the Royal Navy, SNP Members are most interested to hear whether the modernising defence programme will be grounded in the vacuous “global Britain” speak of Brexiteers, or if it will actually acknowledge the UK’s geostrategic location? Will the Secretary of State assure SNP Members that, unlike the 2010 and 2015 strategic defence and security reviews, the modernising defence programme will explicitly mention the north Atlantic and the high north, and their centrality to the assumptions made therein?

**Answered by: Gavin Williamson | Ministry of Defence**

The programme will mention fisheries, the high north and everything else that I am sure the hon. Gentleman would love to see in it.

**[Commonwealth: Foreign Relations](#)**

**30 Apr 2018 | HL7022**

**Asked by: Lord Taylor of Warwick**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether relations with the Commonwealth are an element of the Global Britain initiative; and if so, how significant an element.

**Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

The Commonwealth is an important element of Global Britain, as evidenced by the recent announcement of 9 new diplomatic posts in Commonwealth countries.

**[Foreign Relations](#)**

**27 Mar 2018 | HL6334**

**Asked by: Lord Taylor of Warwick**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their definition of Global Britain; and what that concept entails in relation to Government policy.

**Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

Global Britain is an ambition and vision that will help secure our national security, prosperity and influence. It is how we adjust positively to a changing world, demonstrating our resolve to remain a big and influential player. It is also how we show that our global engagement and leadership are fundamentally in the security and prosperity interests of the British people.

The UK's influence is based on an array of factors, including: the strength of our economy; our alliances and partnerships; UK military, diplomatic and development capabilities; our permanent membership of the UN Security Council; and, our broad soft-power assets. We will use these in a co-ordinated way to deliver the vision of Global Britain: upholding the essential rules of a peaceful world, working in partnership with old friends and new allies, projecting our values and advancing UK interests.

We are investing in the capabilities we need to drive forward this agenda. Our overseas network underpins our influence and we have recently announced a network expansion of around 10 sovereign missions, and at least 250 diplomats.



### [Topical Questions](#)

**27 Mar 2018 | 638 c645**

**Asked by: Bim Afolami**

In terms of the Commonwealth, will the Minister explain further how Global Britain will lead to furthering economic ties with our Commonwealth friends, and not just diplomatic ones?

**Answered by: Boris Johnson | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

My hon. Friend makes an excellent point. Of course, a large part of the Commonwealth summit is to talk about trade and prosperity and the opportunities that exist. As I said earlier, some of the fastest-growing economies in the world are in the Commonwealth—now growing, though I do not wish to make any invidious comparisons, substantially faster than the EU, though we intend to trade very much with both of them.

### [Diplomatic Service: Funding](#)

**27 Mar 2018 | 638 c635**

**Asked by: Crispin Blunt**

I hope that those 250 posts may have been partly the product of the continued reports of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the previous Parliament about the utter paucity of resources for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, given the task that it now faces in presenting global Britain. How much more revenue money has my right hon. Friend been given to fund those posts?

**Answered by: Boris Johnson | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

I thank the Foreign Affairs Committee, in all its incarnations, for the support that it has given to the cause of more money for the Foreign Office. The figure that my hon. Friend is asking for is £90 million.

### [Foreign Policy: Parliamentary Participation](#)

**19 Mar 2018 | 790 c10**

**Asked by: Baroness Northover**

My Lords, has the Minister seen the Foreign Affairs Select Committee's recent report entitled Global Britain, which asks the FCO to produce a, "coherent strategic direction, supported by adequate resources", and notes that resources are now being moved from embassies in fast-growing Asia to Europe? Given the decisions about going to war or even leaving major trading blocs, would it not be wise to include Parliament far more in working out a foreign policy that is multilateral and realistic?

**Answered by: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon**

I have of course seen the report from the Foreign Affairs Committee. Having been before the committee on three occasions over the last month, I was asked about Britain's position in the global world. Look at our leadership in the area of development—at how we are working hand-in-glove with Commonwealth countries on preventing sexual violence and ensuring reforms in the United Nations. Our membership

of NATO underlines Britain's global position in the world. Of course we will continue to work with parliamentarians. I say to all colleagues across your Lordships' House and in the other place that it is on all of us to ensure that the voice of global Britain is heard in all corners across the world.

**[British Council](#)**

**20 Feb 2018 | 636 c14**

**Asked by: Mr Baron**

I thank the Minister for that response. Given the importance of the British Council to our soft power, what are the implications of possible cuts to non-overseas development aid funding for the council's work? How might they affect the Government's plans for a global Britain?

**Answered by: Mark Field | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

The council has agreed to reduce its non-ODA grant from the Foreign Office to zero by the end of the spending review period in exchange for additional official development assistance funding. As part of our vision for a global Britain, we want a properly funded and effective council that projects British values right across the world. The council will continue to deliver activity in non-ODA countries through the income generated from other sources, such as its commercial income.

**[EU Bilateral Relationships](#)**

**09 Jan 2018 | 634 c158**

**Asked by: Stephen Gethins**

May I take the opportunity to congratulate the Foreign Secretary on surviving yesterday's Downing Street dither? It would appear that Toby Young is the only person to have lost his job.

The Foreign Affairs Committee was told that there were to be cuts to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's work in Asia, Africa and the Americas, as the Minister mentioned earlier. What impact does he believe that will have on his Department's ambition for a global Britain?

**Answered by: Sir Alan Duncan | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

I am confident that, with all the combined efforts across Whitehall—in many Departments, including the Department for International Trade—that will not dent our efforts to be champions of global Britain. Indeed, all Ministers in all Departments are making sure that global Britain is a reality.

**[EU Bilateral Relationships](#)**

**09 Jan 2018 | 634 c157**

**Asked by: Tom Tugendhat**

The Minister has done enormous amounts in reasserting bilateralism across Europe this past year. Can he assure us that the resources that he requires to make sure that

we are ready for post EU membership will not denude the rest of the world, so that we do not rob Peter to pay Paul or build bilaterals at a cost to global Britain?

**Answered by: Sir Alan Duncan | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

My hon. Friend makes a good point. We have created 50 new diplomatic positions in our embassies, but it is not a question of simply reducing the number of staff outside Europe by the same number. The money to fund these changes will come from changing the way we work and adjusting some of our processes, and from some frontline staff savings in Asia, the Americas and Africa. We are also bidding for some extra money from the Treasury to help create over 100 additional new roles to support the process of leaving the EU.

**[Leaving the EU: International Business](#)  
13 Dec 2017 | 633 c384**

**Asked by: Mr Jayawardena**

What is my right hon. Friend doing to encourage Welsh businesses and consumers to seize the opportunity of a global Britain by boosting imports and exports to increase consumer choice and helping businesses to create more good jobs as we leave the EU?

**Answered by: Alun Cairns**

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Trade has established the UK Board of Trade, and I am pleased that Lord Rowe-Beddoe and Heather Stevens sit on it as Welsh representatives—their reputation goes well before them. Businesses are already responding. I have already quoted the encouraging export data, but clearly there is more work to do.

**[Topical Questions](#)  
21 Nov 2017 | 631 c853**

**Asked by: Sir Nicholas Soames**

Does the Foreign Secretary agree that there are several very important preconditions for the successful expression of a global Britain? Does he agree that, quite apart from the need for a better-funded Foreign Office, there needs to be far more effective co-ordination and expression of Britain's truly formidable soft power?

**Answered by: Boris Johnson | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

My right hon. Friend raises the absolutely fascinating conundrum of how effectively the Government could marshal the extraordinary panoply of UK soft power. I never normally disagree with him in any way, but I tend to think that our soft power is so huge that it would not necessarily benefit from any political attempt to co-ordinate it. What I can say is that I believe the work of the British Council is often unsung, although it is hugely important. I think that all Members want to support that organisation and to see properly funded.

**Department for International Development and Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Departmental Coordination**

**23 Oct 2017 | 107845**

**Asked by: Keith Vaz**

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what plans the Government has to improve coordination between her Department and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

**Answering member: Rory Stewart | Department for International Development**

Every day UK aid and UK diplomacy are working together to help millions of people and make a powerful and positive statement about Global Britain's place in the world. The Department for International Development and the Foreign & Commonwealth Office each play their own vital role in Britain's global leadership to build a safer, healthier, more prosperous world, which protects UK interests.

**Foreign Policy**

**18 Jul 2017 | HL305**

**Asked by: Lord Judd**

Her Majesty's Government, in the light of their commitment to a more outward-looking Global Britain, what steps they are taking to ensure that Government departments refrain from anti-internationalist rhetoric.

**Answering member: Lord Young of Cookham | Cabinet Office**

As the Prime Minister said to the UN General Assembly, the United Kingdom has always been an outward-facing, global partner at the heart of international efforts to secure peace and prosperity for all. She also pledged that the UK will be a confident, strong and dependable partner internationally – true to the UN's universal values. Both the rhetoric, but also the policy at the heart of this government's approach, make it clear that our posture must be internationalist as we build a new, deep and special partnership with our European neighbours and seek to strengthen our global role and relations. This sets a clear tone for all Government departments' approach.

**Global Britain Fund**

**12 Jul 2017 | HL307**

**Asked by: Lord Judd**

Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking, if any, to strengthen the role of the Global Britain Fund.

**Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) uses a small proportion of its departmental budget to fund project-based activity globally in support of the policy priorities identified in the National Security Strategy and the Government's Aid Strategy: The Global Britain Fund is the internal working title used to bring previously separate strategic and bilateral programme funds under one umbrella to enable greater central

oversight and strategic direction of all this spend and activity, and to reduce bureaucracy. This small-scale funding is a mix of Official Development Assistance (ODA) and non-ODA, so that it can be spent around the world to promote British interests. The FCO's separate Global Britain Campaign aims to increase understanding, recognition and support, internationally and at home, for the UK's work and role in the world.

## 4. Think tanks

### [\*\*Making Global Britain Work: 8 ideas for revitalising UK foreign policy for the post-Brexit age\*\*](#)

Policy Exchange  
24 July 2019

### [\*\*A power for the future? Global Britain and the future character of conflict\*\*](#)

International Affairs  
Matthew Uttley, Benedict Wilkinson and Armida van Rij  
July 2019

### [\*\*Now is the worst time for 'global Britain'\*\*](#)

Centre for European Reform  
John Springford and Sam Lowe  
27 June 2019

### [\*\*Five Foreign Policy Questions for the UK's Next Prime Minister\*\*](#)

Chatham House  
Thomas Raines  
18 June 2019

### [\*\*Running out of credit? The decline of the Foreign Office and the case for sustained funding\*\*](#)

British Foreign Policy Group  
June 2019

### [\*\*The real meaning of 'Global Britain': a Great Escape from the EU\*\*](#)

LSE Brexit  
Oliver Daddow  
4 April 2019

### [\*\*Global Britain in the United Nations\*\*](#)

United Nations Association - UK  
Jess Gifkins, Samuel Jarvis and Jason Ralph  
February 2019

### [\*\*Britain must decide what kind of power it wants to be after Brexit\*\*](#)

Royal Institute of International Affairs  
Georgina Wright and Matt Bevington  
18 July 2018

**[Tom Tugendhat on Defending the Rules](#)**

Royal United Service Institute (RUSI)  
Tom Tugendhat  
29 May 2018

**[Sir Simon McDonald on Delivering UK Foreign Policy \(Lecture\)](#)**

Royal United Service Institute (RUSI)  
Sir Simon McDonald  
11 May 2018

**[Aid, security and Britain's role in the world: proposals for coherent government action](#)**

Victoria Metcalfe-Hough, Malcolm Chalmers, Alina Rocha Menocal, Hanna Nomm and David Watson  
Overseas Development Institute (ODI)  
April 2018

**[The Brexit Inflection Point: The Pathway to Prosperity](#)**

The Legatum Institute  
Shanker Singham, Dr Radomir Tylecote and Victoria Hewson  
November 2017

**[Realising the aims of 'Global Britain': How can 'Global Britain' create an effective post Brexit trade strategy?](#)**

London School of Economics  
Linda Yueh  
21 September 2017

**[Towards "Global Britain": Challenging the New Narratives of National Decline](#)**

Henry Jackson Society  
James Rogers  
12th September 2017

**[Britain's Global Future: Harnessing the soft power capital of UK institutions](#)**

Respublica  
Phillip Blond, James Noyes and Duncan Sim  
12 July 2017

**[Global Britain, Global challenges: how to make aid more effective](#)**

Policy Exchange  
Jonathan Dupont  
July 2017

**[Global Britain: Priorities for trade beyond the EU](#)**

Open Europe  
Aarti Shankar, Alex Greer, Henry Newman, Stephen Booth and Vincenzo Scarpetta  
25 April 2017

**[A view of "Global Britain" from East Asia](#)**

The UK in a Changing Europe  
9 February 2017

**No free lunch for Global Britain**

The UK in a Changing Europe  
Dr Angus Armstrong  
30 January 2017

**'Global Britain' can be more than a soundbite**

Brexit Central  
Damon Poole  
26 January 2017

**Johnson must keep in line with 'global Britain'**

The UK in a Changing Europe  
Professor Richard Whitman  
13 December 2016

**Going Global: leading the world to tariff-free trade**

Global Britain  
Ewen Stewart and Brian Monteith  
December 2016

## 5. Books and journals

Note: the books are available via the Library Loans Desk (ext 1515). If the links to the journal articles below do not work for some reason, the Library can provide copies for you by request.

Kenny, Michael; Pearce, Nick, ***Shadows of Empire: The Anglosphere in British politics***, 2018  
[Available, 325.3 KEN, House of Commons Library, IA research material Tothill Street]

Halligan, Liam; Lyons, Gerard, ***Clean Brexit: why leaving the EU still makes sense : building a post-Brexit economy for all***, 2017  
[Available, 341.24220941 HAL, House of Lords Library - Palace Dewey Collection]

Hannan, Daniel, ***What next?***, 2016  
[Available, 328.241 HAN, House of Lords Library - Palace Dewey Collection]

Lowe, Sam, **Last Word: Global Britain? The Trade Debate**  
Political Insight, 03/2018, Volume 9, Issue 1 [Full Text Online]

Henning, Benjamin, **In Focus: Could Brexit be a Boon for British trade with the Commonwealth?**  
Political Insight, 06/2018, Volume 9, Issue 2 [Full Text Online]

Adler-Nissen, Rebecca; Galpin, Charlotte; Rosamond, Ben, **Performing Brexit: How a post-Brexit world is imagined outside the United Kingdom**  
British Journal of Politics and International Relations, 08/2017, Volume 19, Issue 3 [Full Text Online]

## 6. Press articles

**[After Brexit, Canada and the UK will become even closer friends](#)**

Globe and Mail  
Dominic Raab  
6 August 2019

**[Message discipline matters. That's why Boris must immediately revive the neglected 'Global Britain' mantra](#)**

Daily Telegraph  
Rory Broomfield  
5 August 2019

**[With Global Britain comes global responsibility – that's why I want to Chair the Treasury Select Committee](#)**

Politic Home  
Mark Garnier  
1 August 2019

**[The Gulf standoff with Iran is more proof that the dream of 'Global Britain' has shrunk before it has even begun](#)**

The Independent  
Mary Dejevsky  
11 July 2019

**[The Brexiteers dreamed of Global Britain, now we have Lonely Britain](#)**

Daily Mirror  
Jason Beattie  
9 July 2019

**[The Post-Brexit Paradox of 'Global Britain'](#)**

The Atlantic  
Sophia Gaston  
10 June 2019

**[What the public really thinks about "global Britain"](#)**

Prospect Magazine  
Bobby Duffy and Anand Menon  
5 June 2019

**['Global Britain' is doing its foreign policy on autopilot](#)**

The Guardian  
Martin Kettle  
8 May 2019

**[Britain should spend more on diplomacy in Africa and less on aid](#)**

The Spectator  
Xan Smiley  
11 August 2018

**[The rest of the world believes in Britain. It's time that we did too](#)**

Daily Telegraph (Subscription or registration required)  
Boris Johnson  
15 July 2018



**[The wrong Brexit: what happened to 'Global Britain'?](#)**

The Spectator (Subscription or registration required)

Frazer Nelson

21 April 2018

**['Global Britain' remains a work in progress](#)**

CAPX

Oliver Wiseman

14 April 2018

**[The past is another country: busting the myth of Global Britain](#)**

New Statesman

Nick Pearce

9 April 2018

**[Even 'Global Britain' will need the EU](#)**

Politico

Vijay Eswaran

28 March 2018

**[Spinning global Britain](#)**

Financial Times

Tony Barber

13 March 2018

**[Foreign Office policy of Global Britain is 'superficial rebranding'](#)**

The Guardian

12 March 2018

Patrick Wintour

**[Global Britain inching towards an 'emerging Anglosphere' post-Brexit](#)**

Business Standard

Andrew Mycock and Ben Wellings

18 May 2017

**[What is 'global Britain'? A financier and arms merchant to brutal dictators](#)**

The Guardian

Nick Dearden

5 April 2017

**['An Historic Moment' - Brexit And The History Of Global Britain](#)**

Huffington Post

Robin Bunce

31 March 2017

**[The Anglosphere: new enthusiasm for an old dream](#)**

Prospect Magazine

Duncan Bell

19 January 2017

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