

Britain's foreign policy regarding the Ukraine war: The dream of a global Britain

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Article Info	Abstract
<p>Case Study</p> <p>Main Object: International Relations Scope: Britain, Ukraine War</p> <p>Received: 04 November 2024 Revised: 01 December 2024 Accepted: 02 December 2024 Published online: 14 December 2024</p> <p>Keywords: British-centered pluralism, Global Britain, great power revival, Ukraine crisis.</p>	<p>Focusing on the importance of the "Global Britain" approach in the British foreign policy in the post-Brexit period, this article seeks to examine the British foreign policy towards the Ukraine crisis during the two periods of the beginning of the crisis in 2014 and the Russian military attack on Ukraine in 2022. The main question of the research is, what is the impact of the "Global Britain" approach in the British foreign policy in the post-Brexit period regarding the Ukraine crisis? The hypothesis of the article, which was examined with a qualitative approach through the concepts of the theory of the English school of international relations and the method of thematic analysis, is that the adoption of the "Global Britain" approach plays an important role in the formation and activation of the British foreign policy in relation to the Ukraine crisis, especially in the post-Brexit period. By adopting a theoretical approach and using the library method, this article evaluates the impact of the "Global Britain" approach on the British foreign policy towards Ukraine based on the theory of the English school. This paper discussed that the United Kingdom has moved from European solidarity to British-centered pluralism, from secondary Europe-centered correlative institutions to primary institutions and as a result of playing a leadership role in the Ukraine crisis, it has moved in the direction of reviving the great power and harmonizing positions with the United States within the framework of the "special relationship". Britain's response to the Ukraine crisis has shown Britain's commitment to the "Global Britain" approach and its leadership role in shaping the international order and promoting the values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law in the post-Brexit period, especially in response to the Ukraine crisis.</p>

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Extended Abstract

Introduction

Focusing on the importance of the "Global Britain" approach in the British foreign policy in the post-Brexit period, this article seeks to examine the British foreign policy towards the Ukraine crisis during the two periods of the beginning of the crisis in 2014 and the Russian military attack on Ukraine in 2022. The main question of the research is, what is the impact of the "Global Britain" approach in the British foreign policy in the post-Brexit period regarding the Ukraine crisis? The hypothesis of the article, which was examined with a qualitative approach through the concepts of the theory of the English school of international relations and the method of thematic analysis, is that the adoption of the "Global Britain" approach plays an important role in the formation and activation of the British foreign policy in relation to the Ukraine crisis, especially in the post-Brexit period. By adopting a theoretical approach and using the library method, this article evaluates the impact of the "Global Britain" approach on the British foreign policy towards Ukraine based on the theory of the English school. This paper discussed that the United Kingdom has moved from European solidarity to British-centered pluralism, from secondary Europe-centered correlative institutions to primary institutions and as a result of playing a leadership role in the Ukraine crisis, it has moved in the direction of reviving the great power and harmonizing positions with the United States within the framework of the "special relationship". Britain's response to the Ukraine crisis has shown Britain's commitment to the "Global Britain" approach and its leadership role in shaping the international order and promoting the values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law in the post-Brexit period, especially in response to the Ukraine crisis.

Aims and Objectives

The aim of this article is to examine Britain's global approach in its foreign policy and its impact on the Ukraine war. The central question here is: What international effects has the "Global Britain" approach had on the UK's foreign policy regarding the Ukraine war? Theoretically, this article is based on the English School in three areas of tension between the concepts of "pragmatism-solidarity of the international community", "the role of primary and secondary institutions", and "Britain's great power aspirations".

Methods

This research is basically a theoretical and analytical research and was not subject to any specific data collection method.

Discussions and Results

Based on the core concepts of the English school, such as solidarity-pluralism, primary-institutions-secondary institutions, and great

powers, we can better and more practically assess Britain's global approach in relation to the Ukraine war.

The tendency towards pluralism and a move away from European cohesion is the main goal of the UK in its Global Britain approach post-Brexit regarding Ukraine, aiming to integrate this country into the international community and prevent it from falling under Russia's umbrella. In the post-Brexit period, the Global Britain approach has viewed the Ukraine crisis through a pluralistic lens and from outside the European Union, so the UK has acted independently and within the framework of pluralism in engaging with the issue and making decisions regarding it.

Focusing on primary institutions and striving for independent institution-building after Russia's attack on Ukraine in February 2022, and considering the Global Britain approach in UK foreign policy, the country has made significant efforts to bolster primary institutions to maintain an international order based on rules. During this period, the UK has also been working to create new security arrangements to contain Russia and address the challenges in Eastern Europe and the Black Sea as secondary institutions under its leadership.

The pursuit of great power and a special relationship with the U.S. has led to a stronger position within British foreign policy regarding the Ukraine war, allowing London to take a firmer stance in support of Kyiv. Britain's role in the global response to the crisis has been enhanced due to its close ties with the U.S., and in fact, the "special relationship" has strengthened a shared sense of responsibility to address the Ukraine crisis, resulting in increased joint efforts and commitments.

Conclusion

Since Brexit, the UK has responded practically and promptly to Russia's attack on Ukraine in 2022 by adopting a "Global Britain" approach in its foreign policy. In fact, the idea of "Global Britain" has played a significant role in the UK's international engagement and in restoring its status as a great power in the post-Brexit era. Based on this concept, the UK's approach to the Ukraine war has been increasingly proactive and effective. The adoption of the "Global Britain" strategy has been crucial in shaping and activating the UK's foreign policy concerning the war in Ukraine. Considering the main components of the English school of international relations and the UK's "Global Britain" approach in its post-Brexit foreign policy regarding Ukraine, it can be said that the UK has shifted from European solidarity towards a British-centric pluralism, moving from secondary European institutions focused on cohesion to primary institutions with security functions and broader roles, thus playing a leadership role in the Ukraine crisis in line with a revival of great power status and aligning positions with the U.S. under the framework of the "special relationship".

Conflict of interest

The authors declared no conflicts of interest.

Authors' contributions

All authors contributed to the original idea, study design.

Ethical considerations

The authors have completely considered ethical issues, including informed consent, plagiarism, data fabrication, misconduct, and/or falsification, double publication and/or redundancy, submission, etc. This article was not authored by artificial intelligence.

Data availability

The dataset generated and analyzed during the current study is available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

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