

Global Britain: The Role of the Commonwealth in the Reorientation of the United Kingdom's International Position

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The slogan 'Global Britain' was coined in an attempt to evoke nostalgia for the former power of the British Empire and the belief that the country could prosper without the support of the European Union. It was intended to emphasise the self-sufficiency and uniqueness of the United Kingdom. However, its creators failed to take into account contemporary geopolitical realities – in the era of globalisation, maritime dominance has lost its significance, while geographical proximity, rather than historical ties with distant nations, has become crucial in economic and trade relations.

The aim of this thesis is to analyse the concept of 'Global Britain' as a foreign policy strategy of the United Kingdom after Brexit, with particular emphasis on the role of the Commonwealth as a potential instrument for redefining the country's position on the international stage. The dissertation assesses the extent to which the Commonwealth can realistically support the 'Global Britain' policy and whether it can replace the lost ties with the European Union.

Chapter I presents the theoretical foundations, discussing key geopolitical concepts such as maritime and continental power, soft and hard power, and global governance, which help to explain the phenomenon of British imperialism.

Chapter II outlines the origins and development of the idea of 'Global Britain' in the context of the history of the British Empire and the evolution of the Commonwealth.

Chapter III analyses the importance of the Commonwealth in British foreign policy, internal issues (Scotland and Northern Ireland), and the actions of prime ministers from Cameron to Johnson. It also considers the reactions of selected European countries to Brexit.

Chapter IV examines contemporary economic, political, and cultural relations between the United Kingdom and Commonwealth countries after Brexit — particularly with the United States, Australia, India, China, and Barbados — and considers whether the concept of 'Global Britain' can be realised through this organisation.