

UK Foreign Policy 2025

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The Labour leader, Keir Starmer was elected with a huge majority in July 2024 but the rest of the year did not augur well for the new government. In domestic politics the government took unpopular decisions and strife in Downing St gave the impression that whilst Labour had a plan to win the election, it had none to govern. At the end of 2024 personal tragedy struck the Starmer family when his younger brother died of cancer.

The mood soon turned at the beginning of 2025. In foreign policy the Labour leader was to show his strengths and with Donald Trump in the White House, he became a leading light in mounting continued support for the fight of Ukraine against Russia. In this he turned to an old ally, France with whom relations had not always been so cordial. President Macron however brought experience to the partnership and together the two men were able to mobilise more countries for a so-called Coalition of the Willing to assist Ukraine after the war.

Starmer's plan to beef up defence necessitated making painful cuts in overseas development aid and disability benefits and with the prospects of tax rises and further stringent measures the discontent on the Labour Left was palpable.

The Opposition parties for the most part welcomed Starmer's policies.

Here some articles by Dr Sully or with inputs:

March 2025: In Kurier the dilemma of Starmer as a bridge builder between the USA and the EU.

<https://kurier.at/meinung/gastkommentar/keir-starmer-larry-trump-europa-katz-und-maus-spiel/403022857>

March 2025: Report in the Kleine Zeitung on Starmer's domestic politics, the US and the EU.

<https://www.kleinezeitung.at/politik/aussenpolitik/19448294/uebernimmt-sich-der-britische-premier-mit-seinen-plaenen-fuer-europa>

March 2025: Report in Kurier on Starmer's surprise rise on the World stage

<https://kurier.at/politik/ausland/keir-starmer-weltbuehne-profiliert-brueckenbauer-europa-ukraine/403020123>