



The Domestic Impact of Geopolitical Shifts

Roundtable briefing note.

Thank you for agreeing to join this Progressive Britain and Foundation for European Progressive Studies roundtable. We are discussing the many, and rapidly developing, ways in which events and policy decision around the world impact the economies, lives of voters, and politics in Britain and Europe.

Venue

Westminster Room, Church House, Dean's Yard, SW1P 3NZ (closest underground Westminster)

Themes

The observation that the world is an ever-more connected place is so common as to be trivial. But while economic and cultural integration has continued to deepen, tensions around the planet have risen to the point where the same channels of sharing and trade we all benefit from are bringing international conflicts to our domestic spheres.

German economic cooperation with Russia caused serious problems for its energy infrastructure, and therefore poorer voters, when the war in Ukraine broke out. The USA is a friend and partner of Europe and Britain but its IRA and massive spending on green infrastructure risks our continent losing its edge in green manufacturing, and the attendant jobs. The war in Gaza has nothing to do with the British Labour party but poses serious challenges to elected Labour officials at both a local and national level.

It is impossible for progressive governments anywhere in Europe now to treat conflict, whether outright or simmering, almost anywhere around in the world as a purely foreign policy issue. But how do they respond? This private discussion is intended to gather informed views and help progressive thinkers and policymakers grapple with this new reality.

Suggested pre-reads

Some documents which help illustrate where we are coming from with this discussion. No obligation to read to participate in the event.

[Welcome to Age of Unpeace](#) – Mark Leonard. Mark sets out his thesis that the modern age is marked by conflict through connectivity in an accessible short piece. The book itself is a major influence on our thinking.

[A Progressive Politics of Work for the Age of Unpeace](#) – FH Pitts and Harry Pakes. Our joint analysis of how geopolitical shifts are affecting the politics of work.

[Taking forward Labour's internationalism](#) – Wayne David MP. Here Wayne sets out Labour's perspective on managing rising risks and discusses some of the impact of past crises on domestic politics.

[Israel-Gaza: Read 250 Muslim councillors' letter to Starmer backing ceasefire](#) – LabourList. Worth reading for a sense of how many local Labour politicians have defied the party's position on the ceasefire. The party has lost control of at least three councils over this issue.

[The Real Reasons Why Europe Is Concerned by the US Inflation Reduction Act](#) – Georgina Wright. A balanced discussion of the potential impacts of actions by an ally, and how Europe can respond.



Running Order

8.45am	Arrival, coffee
9.00am	Welcome from Gerard Rinse Oosterwijk, Policy Analyst FEPS
9.05am	Scene setting and importance of this discussion from Frederick Harry Pitts, University of Exeter
9.10am	Discussion chaired by Emily Wallace, Managing Director, Inflect Partners and Progressive Response from Wayne David MP, Shadow Minister for the Middle East and North Africa
9.15am	Discussion
10.00am	Close