# Challenges Abound for UK Government Post-2024 Election



The first half of the 2024 UK general election campaign has seen the Conservative party struggling, with political commentators attributing this to factors like a desire for change, a failure to deliver, internal chaos, and the state of public services and the economy. A significant point of divergence is the stance on higher education, where the Conservatives argue for reducing university education, contrasting with other parties that generally see universities as beneficial for society and the economy.

The Conservative manifesto criticizes universities for offering "poor-quality" courses and being obstacles rather than assets. In contrast, Labour and other parties propose enhancing higher education to support innovation, local economies, and national productivity. The Labour manifesto suggests a need for higher education reform, including financial viability, increased research funding, and strengthened regulation.

Concurrently, the new UK Prime Minister faces significant international challenges post-election. Shortly after taking office, they will attend a NATO summit in Washington and host the European Community Summit, emphasizing the global nature of governance. The NATO discussions will likely center on further supporting Ukraine and potentially its membership, amid varying opinions from member states.

In the Middle East, the new government will navigate decisions on aid to Gaza, arms sales to Israel, and potential backing for a peace settlement in the region. Relations with China will also require careful positioning on economic ties, strategic competition, and cooperation on global issues, with the looming possibility of conflict over Taiwan.

Domestically, the presidential election in the US poses another layer of complexity, potentially forcing the UK to balance its alignment between US and European stances on major global issues. Nationalist success in upcoming European Parliament elections may also affect the UK’s ability to renegotiate its relationship with the EU, impacting future cooperation on security and trade.

This intricate mix of domestic and international concerns places the UK at a critical juncture as it navigates the election and beyond.