# Farage Faces Backlash for Controversial Ukraine War Comments



**Farage Criticized for Ukraine War Remarks**

Nigel Farage, the leader of Reform UK, has stirred controversy with his comments regarding the Ukraine war. During a BBC Panorama interview, Farage suggested that the West "provoked" Vladimir Putin’s invasion of Ukraine by expanding NATO and the European Union. The interview aired on Friday, and Farage reiterated his stance in a Saturday column for the Daily Telegraph, insisting he had been right in his warnings for a decade.

Politicians from various parties condemned Farage's comments. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak described Farage’s view as "completely wrong," adding that it plays into Putin's hands and equates to appeasement. Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer labeled the remarks "disgraceful" and emphasized the need for clarity that Russia is the aggressor. Lib Dem leader Sir Ed Davey and Scottish First Minister John Swinney also criticized Farage, with Swinney going so far as to call him a "traitor."

Farage defended himself, stating that his opposition to Putin and his invasion of Ukraine remains clear, but maintained that NATO and EU expansion provided Putin with a pretext for the conflict. Conservative former defense secretary Ben Wallace mocked Farage as a "pub bore" with simplistic answers to complex problems.