# Nigel Farage's Claims on West Provoking Putin's Invasion Spark Backlash



Nigel Farage has sparked controversy with his claim that the West provoked Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine. The Reform UK leader made the comments during a BBC Panorama interview, linking NATO and EU expansion to the conflict in Eastern Europe. Farage argued that Western actions provided Putin with a pretext for war, a stance criticized by senior political figures, including former Defence Secretary Ben Wallace, who likened Farage to a "pub bore" and dismissed his understanding of complex international politics. Wallace challenged Farage's admiration for Putin, highlighting Russia's actions, such as the Salisbury nerve agent attack.

The reaction from other politicians has been equally critical. Home Secretary James Cleverly condemned Farage's remarks, calling them an echo of Putin’s justification for the invasion. Labour's shadow defence secretary John Healy accused Farage of being a "Putin apologist" and unfit for political office.

In another story, a dispute in Plymouth Moor View has surfaced, where Tory candidate and veterans minister Johnny Mercer accused Labour rival Fred Thomas of inflating his military service. Mercer questioned Thomas's claims of leading combat missions. Thomas, a decorated ex-Royal Marine, rebuffed the accusations, citing the sensitive nature of his service. Labour defended Thomas, emphasizing his seven years of service and promising support.

These controversies surface amidst the upcoming general election, adding to the campaign's increasing tension.