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Nigel Farage, leader of Reform UK, has faced widespread condemnation from political counterparts for suggesting the West provoked Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. During a BBC Panorama interview, Farage attributed the conflict to NATO and EU expansion, claiming, "It was obvious... that the ever-eastward expansion of NATO and the European Union was giving [Putin] a reason... to go to war."

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer strongly criticized Farage’s statements. Sunak asserted that Farage's remarks "play into Putin’s hands" and likened them to dangerous appeasement, stressing the threat to Britain’s security. Starmer labeled the comments "disgraceful," emphasizing that Russia is the clear aggressor in the conflict.

The backlash included remarks from former Defence Secretary Ben Wallace, who dismissed Farage as a "pub bore" with simplistic views on complex issues. Lib Dem leader Sir Ed Davey and Labour’s shadow Defence Secretary John Healey also condemned Farage, with Healey calling him a "Putin apologist."

Farage defended his position, reiterating on social media that while Putin was wrong to invade, the West’s actions had provided an excuse for war. Farage, a former member of the European Parliament, seeks a parliamentary seat in the upcoming general election, focusing his campaign on issues like immigration and Brexit.

Concerns over Farage’s comments have been voiced amid ongoing political discourse, reflecting the broader tensions and differing perspectives on the causes and responsibilities relating to the Ukraine conflict.