# Nigel Farage's Candidacy for Reform UK and Insights into Russia-Ukraine War Debate



**Nigel Farage's Political Stance and Scholarly Debate on Russia-Ukraine War**

Nigel Farage, former leader of the UK Independence Party, recently announced his candidacy for the leadership of Reform UK. This move has attracted significant attention and criticism from various political factions. Farage's stance on immigration has long been contentious, particularly among the liberal-Left, who also continue to hold grievances related to Brexit. On the other hand, the Tory Right is concerned about losing voters to Farage's party.

Farage has faced scrutiny over his remarks about the Russia-Ukraine war. In a statement, he clarified that he holds Vladimir Putin accountable for the conflict. "Of course it’s [Putin’s] fault," Farage stated, emphasizing that Putin used conditions created by the West as an excuse for his actions. Farage's comments align with views held by some respected scholars and diplomats within the academic community.

Professor John Mearsheimer has argued that Western actions, particularly those by the United States, played a significant role in the crisis that began in 2014. Professor Stephen Walt echoed similar sentiments, suggesting that attributing sole responsibility to Putin oversimplifies the issue. Additionally, Professor Joshua Shifrinson's archival research indicated that the U.S. had offered informal assurances to the Soviet Union against NATO's eastward expansion, which he believes is crucial to understanding the current situation.

As of today, July 14, 2023, the Russia-Ukraine war has entered its 849th day, with ongoing developments continuing to shape the geopolitical landscape.