

# Country Briefing – United Kingdom

## *Political Briefing*

### **National Strategy**

While geographically distant from East Asia, the United Kingdom hold several concerns in regard to China's attempted annexation of Taiwan, particularly in regard to the UK-US alliance. Diplomatically the UK is part of AUKUS, a trilateral security agreement between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Diplomatic ties with local powers such as Japan and Korea are also quite good, and the UK, through the UK-Japan Reciprocal Access agreement are already allowed to base forces in Japan.

The United Kingdom both possess a strong (though numerically limited) navy, comprising several modern frigates, destroyers and submarines allowing the prosecution of air, sea, and land targets. The UK can also count on the Royal Navy's *HMS Queen Elizabeth*, providing remarkable capabilities of force projection. For air power the UK operates modern fighter aircraft such as the F-35 Lightning

Finally, while the intrinsically naval/amphibious nature of a conflict limits the applicability of most conventional ground forces, some specific units are well-adapted to these environments. Special forces, including the UK's Special Boat Service, provide remarkable versatility, and can be used for infiltration, sabotage, and battlefield intelligence collection. The UK has, in the best British wartime fashion, pieced together a larger brigade formation that can be moved to the Pacific to provide additional combat power if need be.

### **Strategic Objectives**

The UK must aim to prevent the collapse of Taiwan; economically, politically, but most importantly, militarily. With our choice to enter this conflict we have staked our identity as a great power on its outcome, and to retreat back in shame would echo the 1956 Suez Crisis, ending the government and the UK's identity as a great power.



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