

I was not alone in thinking Fiona Hill's arguments make...

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I reproduce [this letter from The Guardian](#) because I recently [took quite a lot of flak here](#) for suggesting that Fiona Hill wrote some very odd arguments in [The Guardian](#) concerning potential relations between the UK and Russia in the context of the Strategic Defence Review. It seems I was not alone in thinking this:

Fiona Hill's assessment of the Russian threat to Britain is a classic example of how a seemingly rational argument based on a false premise and scanty evidence can lead to a mad conclusion ([Russia is at war with Britain and US is no longer a reliable ally, UK adviser says, 6 June](#)). It is especially alarming that this conclusion was reached by one of the three principal authors of the recent strategic defence review.

The false premise is that Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine is the first step to make Russia "a dominant military power in all of Europe". Evidence that Britain is already under attack is provided by "the poisonings, assassinations, sabotage operations ... cyber-attacks and influence operations ... sensors ... around critical pipelines, efforts to butcher undersea cables". It follows that Britain's economy and society must be geared up to resist the Russian menace. Deny the premise, and the argument for a "whole society" mobilisation against Russia collapses. What it reveals is the strength of the warmongering mood of official Britain.

This is not to deny that we have to take precautions against the real danger of a significant US pullout, perhaps amounting to rendering Article 5 of the Nato treaty meaningless, and that the Russians can be quite ruthless in exploiting an advantage if they think they have one. But this is a far cry from proposing, as the strategic defence review does, a national mobilisation in the face of an immediate and pressing Russian threat.

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I would have happily signed that letter.