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## **ROLE OF FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH OFFICE IN UK FOREIGN POLICY FORMING PROCESS (DURING W. HAGUE'S TERM OF OFFICE)**

This article is devoted to the key factors that determine the level of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office's (FCO) influence on British foreign policy process. Authors analyze various aspects of the FCO functioning such as its mission, system of goals and priorities, organizational structure, key decision-makers, budget, department's place in the cabinet etc. Authors highlight that the role of the FCO depends on the attitude of the Prime Minister (PM) and conclude that the current Foreign Secretary William Hague returns FCO to the policy forefront despite the previous tendency of reduction of participation of this department in the foreign policy decision-making process.

*Keywords:* foreign policy, diplomacy, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Foreign Secretary William Hague, Great Britain.

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