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Research Guide Series

The Future of the Royal Navy

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The future of the Royal Navy

At the beginning of the 1990s, the Royal Navy was a force designed for the Cold War. With its three small aircraft carriers and a force of ASW frigates and destroyers, its main purpose was to search for and destroy Soviet submarines in the North Atlantic. The Falklands War (1982) proved a need for the Royal Navy to maintain a blue water capability. However, between 1982 and 2002, the Royal Navy has had to carry out an ever increasing number of commitments while at the same time seeing the size of its surface fleet gradually shrink.¹ Over the past ten years, the Royal Navy has shifted its role away from large scale maritime warfare and ocean operations in the North Atlantic. Its primary focus has become littoral operations and force projection as part of a joint force, as displayed in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.² As of early 2011, the Royal Navy is still adjusting to the 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review.

This bibliography has been designed to provide a guide as to where to find information on the future of the Royal Navy. Please note that the list of references below is a selection of the more relevant titles and information on the subject. The list is not intended to be exhaustive or definitive but is an introductory guide to some of the resources available.

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¹ Taken from *Wikipedia*, Future of the Royal Navy.

² Taken from *The Strategic Defence Review*

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