Rt Hon Boris Johnson former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Leader of the Conservative Party, Foreign Secretary and Mayor of London.

Suggested topics from:  John Defterios

1. **Given Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and Xi’s consolidation of power in China, with dozens of countries subject to their influence and interference, are we living through a new global age of autocracy that in the end will prevail sooner rather than later?**

democracy goes crazy - worst system in the world apart from all the others

   but it will prevail

on the whole the best way of stopping stupid mistakes - putin xi

  freedom to choose your leaders goes with other freedoms

 like free speech and freedom to live your life as you please

  and that means innovation and that means commercial success

london tech sector london financial services

* vaccines -
* teslas iphones satellites

  music - no one wants to listen to chinese rock

  no one wants to listen to russian techno -funk

1. **In that spirit, the BRICS group of nations are making a strong move for expansion, with Argentina, Ethiopia, Iran, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and UAE invited to join in 2024.  Is this a direct challenge to the leadership of the G7 and can it have the desired impact?**

in a way this brics thing is mad

 it’s the result of a single column in the ft by jim o neill

but it also reflects people’s desire not to be in a unipolar world

  i don’t see any harm in it at all but can you remember what came out of the brics summit

   it’s all brics and no mortar

  the affluent and intelligent people in the brics countries

 will still want to send their kids to the best universities in the G7 countries

1. **Turning to Ukraine, is military victory possible for the Ukrainians and is there a fundamental problem here that no one wants to tell the Ukrainians they perhaps cannot win back all the territory, especially Crimea?**

we can’t be more ukrainian than the ukrainians

 they have just made a breakthrough at bakhmut

we always underestimate ukraine

  they are winning in the south

 and we have a superstitious belief in the invincibility of putin

look at what has happened to prigozhin

  he has been forced to assassinate his most loyal henchman in broad daylight

its like the moment in scarface when tony montana shoots his best buddy

1. **Tell us about your personal relationship with President Zelenskyy and how do you see his leadership abilities to sustain western commitment to the cause?**

he is the winston churchill of ukraine

 he has kept the americans in

1. **Is Vladimir Putin buying time and hoping a Republican leader, perhaps Donald Trump, comes in and supports an end to fighting with the current territorial structure?**

that would be insane - because there is just no way the ukrainians will accept the current territorial arrangements

  i saw trump and asked what the deal was - i don’t think there is a deal

1. **Do you find it extraordinary that Donald Trump is, by a long margin, the leading candidate for the Republican party despite four ongoing cases against him?**

he’s an amazing communicator

  i didn’t like what happened - it was wrong

 when you lose an election you should accept it

but the us system is very robust - there was a peaceful and orderly transition of power

 these cases just boosting trump

ukraine matters a great deal but don’t want to damage either candidate by offering my support

1. **The UK has been going through an extraordinary period of political turbulence with three Prime Ministers in the recent past. What is the way forward for the Tory party and is Rishi Sunak capable of securing victory or is it time for a party re-set?**

uk going gangbusters - fastest growth coming out of covid

1. **A recent Times poll showed that 60 percent of Britons would prefer to re-join the European Union, that Brexit is not serving their interests.  Do you have regrets in pushing through the referendum?**

it won’t be reversed

  it was the right thing to do - eu a federalising process

  the mass of people who were in favour

 eu vs us growth figures

1. **What would it take to economically unleash the U.K. outside of Europe and see a payback for businesses and consumers?**

1 look at singapore and us - we can’t keep going as we are

 we need to cut taxes and personal taxes

 we have far too many regulators

 2 have a different attitude to wealth creation… it’s all about mindset

   the negativity

  in america they admire wealth creation and they

 3 level up - get private sector in

level up and the uk the biggest economy in europe

1. **A huge change for the UK and the world was the death of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. You had many meetings with her over the years, can you tell us what you think about the impact of her passing and the accession of King Charles to date?**

her greatest triumph was the way the crown was passed

* there is just zero appetite for any change

1. **The global economic situation is at front of mind - not only for businesses but for families - particularly in Europe given the ongoing challenge of high inflation, high interest rates and uncertainty over energy prices this winter. If you were in office now, what would you do differently**

inflation coming down now - about the same as france

 the answer is fixing our energy markets

   ridiculous that no nuclear

 we need to transition

but let’s be clear - we are going to get to net zero and we can do it with technology

 there’s a massive future for hydrocarbons

 plastics but also hydrogen