The political system in London’s Parliament has experienced dramatic changes in recent years, culminating in the general election of May 2010, when none of the major parties secured enough support to form a government. As a result, the UK’s first Coalition government for more than 60 years must now take controversial steps to reduce the country’s largest ever post-war deficit, try to maintain an international presence despite cuts to its defence capability, and deal with a changing relationship with the rest of Europe. This talk will explore how the UK’s political system reached this point, the implications for its domestic policy making and what the future holds on the world stage for America’s closest European ally.

Greig Baker served with the Military Intelligence Corps of the British Army before working in the UK parliament as an advisor to the Conservative Party’s Defence Team. He then spent five years working on defence issues, foreign affairs and national campaigns. In 2005, Greig helped establish a political polling and research company, operating in Westminster, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Europe and internationally. Greig now runs an international political consultancy from London.