The triumph at Berlin following the victory in securing the Empire’s interests in Egypt would suggest that Disraeli was in fact leading a series of unbroken successes in his foreign policy. However there are definite instances when the chain of success is broken.

Disraeli’s foreign policy has been criticized as, “Deliberately designed to stifle liberty and progress.” With his concerns strictly limited to “the protection of British interests.” Disraeli’s foreign policy was frequently successful for Britain because Britain’s security was always his foremost concern. In spite of this, his fixation on British interests has, on occasion, caused more bad than good. Disraeli’s concerns over Russia’s presence in Afghanistan directly led to the Second Afghan War 1879-81. This demonstrates how Disraeli’s headstrong approach to the defense of the British Empire was not always consistently successful. Worsening matters was Disraeli’s announcement of victory in 1879, which Tomsen rightly labels as, “premature.” Although there was some positive outcomes from the Second Afghan War, the presence of a conflict at all negates the possibility of the whole issue being labelled a success. Lynch summarizes the conflict well: “a British success militarily but one which offended Liberal opinion and led to renewed denunciations of Disraeli’s disregard for morality in state affairs.”

Although Disraeli instigated many of his acts with foreign powers with intent to benefit the British Empire, and in many instances did in fact succeed, it is inaccurate to declare his international political career as being ‘consistent’ in their successes. It would be more appropriate to define his foreign policy as being irregular.

---

7 Lynch Michael. Nineteenth-Century British History 1800-1914. Pg. 225