

# Is the constitutional settlement failing?

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For those not aware of it, yesterday's attempt by the Royal Family to pretend all was well with the Princess of Wales backfired pretty spectacularly.

As should be apparent from this blog, I am not much into royal tittle tattle, unless it matters. But even I could not fail to notice three things.

The first is the absence of Kate's wedding ring. For a person who secured her status through marriage, that is extraordinary. I really doubt that this is an accident.

Second, as even [the Daily Mail](#) has noted, Charlotte's hand had been photoshopped in the picture, which was pretty weird. The major photo agencies have [withdrawn the picture](#) as a result.

Third, there is the fact that the Mail has noticed this when it is usually their job to be sycophantically loyal.

I am commenting because there might be something going on here. I am hoping all involved are well, but if the Royal Family is falling apart, as seems possible, then a part of the supposed constitutional settlement of the UK might be failing too.

What I will note is that this is happening at the same time as the Tory establishment is very obviously collapsing. So too, though, is Labour which has abandoned everything it seems to stand for, leaving the much of England, at least, without any realistic left-of-centre option available in elections at present. This threatens the idea of democracy itself.

I am not suggesting that the country is in any way dependent on the Royal Family. In a very real sense it is not. But, it's not the family as such that I am referring to here, but rather more the constitutional relationships in the UK. If too many of these fail at the same time, what happens? It seems to me that this is a risk that we face, and I think that matters.

A missing wedding ring appears insignificant. But, if the constitutional settlement fails

there is a real issue to consider, and I am not sure many are thinking about it.