

## Keir Starmer's embraced cakeism

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Keir Starmer embraced the spirit of Boris Johnson last night. As [the FT reports](#):

*Sir Keir Starmer has rejected “utterly” the idea that Britain will have to choose a side between Donald Trump’s incoming US administration and the EU, in a set-piece foreign policy speech in the City of London.*

*Speaking at Guildhall, the UK prime minister vowed to strengthen relations with Washington, Brussels and Beijing, as he promised to put foreign policy at the service of his government’s main mission: economic growth.*

Apparently Starmer can reject all the EU stands for but have good relationships with it. Reconsideration of the single market, free movement and the custom union is not required.

We can also achieve a good relationship with the EU despite embracing all that Trump will have to offer, even though trade war with Europe is clearly on his agenda. We quite emphatically will not need to pick sides.

Meanwhile, China is our friend. None of the stresses that Trump might create with it will have impact on us.

There will be no fallout from Ukraine of any consequence.

And Starmer obviously had so little to say on the situation in the Middle East, or what Israel might be up to, that the FT forgot to mention his comments. I doubt that was oversight or neglect on the FT's part. The Guardian made the same omission. It is, instead, indicative of something much more significant, which is the fantasy land in which Starmer appears to be residing.

In Starmer's world view the UK is obviously so important to everyone that whatever disputes the other countries in the world might have, they will want us to be their friend. Whilst offering such friendship, these countries will be so aware of Starmer's goal of economic growth in the UK that they will do nothing to disrupt the possibility of

him delivering on that promise. All, in other words, will be well in the world with Starmer in charge. There is nothing to worry about.

My problem is that I have heard this all before. It became so well known for a short period of time that a word was created to describe it. That word was cakeism. This is, of course, the philosophy of Boris Johnson. It is based on the idea of English exceptionalism, the reality of which must, according to its exponents, be so apparent to the rest of the world that they will do nothing to upset it.

And every single element of this idea is utter nonsense.

Nonsense it might be, but it would seem that Starmer has fallen for it. All was well in the Guildhall last night. It was just in the world outside it that one or two little issues existed that might disrupt that view, but Starmer was quite confident that none of those involved would in any way wish harm to the UK, Starmer or Rachel Reeves' desire to balance her budget. In summary, we really do have nothing to worry about. We can have our cake and eat it. And the sadly deluded are still in charge.