

Trump is threatening havoc

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There is a theme in this morning's news.

The [FT has named Donald Trump as their person of 2024](#).

What is apparent is that 2025 is the year in which he intends to wreak havoc.

Overnight, [he indicated](#) he does not wish the US Congress to make further progress with a bipartisan Bill that was expected to pass which would unlock further funding for the US Federal government, which was facing closure of some programmes this weekend unless the Bill was passed. Now, it seems likely that it will not be. As a result, some US armed forces will not be paid. I am not sure that they voted for that. But will Trump care? I very much doubt it. What does he care about functioning government?

New legal cases, against the media in the first instance, are suggesting Trump will use intimidation as his weapon of choice. He [has launched](#) legal action against a newspaper in Iowa for publishing an opinion poll suggesting he might not win the state in November. His allegation is that this had malicious intent. He won the state. The message is very clear. He wants a compliant press.

Other [reports suggest](#) that the actions he plans against those who sought his prosecution over the last four years are ready to roll. This could get very nasty, and is a straightforward threat to democracy and the rule of law.

And the ripples are spreading. The [stress of managing](#) the fallout from Trump is helping destabilise the Canadian government, although I am aware it is not the only issue in play.

And here, the [threat of Musk](#) might destabilise our political system, to not put too fine a point on matters. Unless Labour acts to prevent this - and I am not convinced they will - the likelihood that our democracy will finally collapse looks to be high to me.

Threats, intimidation, disdain for the rule of law, government - except as an instrument

for personal advancement - and indifference to people have all been a part of the far-right agenda for a long time. Let's not pretend they will not be used anymore. It is obvious that they will be. The question now is, what can be done to stop this?

The answers are fairly obvious:

- 1) Controls in party funding.
- 2) Tight election spending limits.
- 3) Electoral reform to end the chance of majority government based on low levels of electoral support.
- 4) People, rather than finance, focussed government - because that is, very obviously, what we need.

This is deliverable. But will we get it and so prevent the threat from a toxic USA? I really do not know. But I have to live in hope.