

Chaos is not an adequate word to describe yesterday

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What a day, yesterday was.

Trump declared economic warfare on Mexico, Canada and China, imposing tariffs of 25 per cent in the first two cases. and twenty per cent on the last, with minor exceptions on Canadian oil.

Companies associated with Blackrock have said they will buy disputed locations in Panama, making that financial services behemoth an agent of the Trump administration (and note, it probably also manages your pension).

In an act of gross pettiness, Trump denied Ukraine military aid, directly threatening lives.

J D Vance rolled out yet more abuse of Europe, whilst simultaneously demanding that it act.

And in his speech to Congress, Trump promised he had only just begun his programme of wrecking government and the world.

Political incoherence on this scale is unprecedented from the USA, and frankly almost anyone else.

What to make of this? I suggest that the actions support my claims that:

- * Trump wants to break the US federal government.
- * In its place Vance wants to deliver a white, male, Christian theocracy.
- * Trump wants to deliver Ukraine to Russia.
- * Trump is seeking a Russian blind eye to his plan to annex Canada, Greenland and maybe parts of Panama.
- * Trump's administration wants to undermine European democracy as it is a threat to the plans he and Vance have.

We also have to be realistic that these actions make clear:

- * NATO is over.
- * The international financial order is likely at an end. The roles of the World Bank and IMF are likely to be at an end, and that has massive ramifications for developing countries.
- * The World Trade Organisation is also over.
- * The pretence that the UK has a special relationship with the US is meaningless.

There are other consequences:

- * World financial markets will react. It is inevitable.
- * US inflation is likely to rise.
- * The dollar will, in the end, fall in value.
- * US interest rates might well rise, creating massive problems for many developing countries.
- * The dollar's role as a reserve currency must be in long-term doubt.
- * The Trump administration's ability to find itself and its planned tax cuts is threatened: without the dollar being a reserve currency, it may not work.

And let us not forget:

- * Ukraine will find it harder to defend itself.
- * Putin must be laughing himself silly.
- * The rate of change in US support makes a managed European response impossible, and that must be deliberate.
- * Starmer remains all over the place, as is the EU.

Chaos is not an adequate word to describe all this, and I have only scratched the surface with this summary.

Trump is doing what Musk wants: he is seeking to destroy, and right now it looks like he will succeed, especially for the USA itself.