

Government by evil

Published: January 13, 2026, 10:36 am

As the [New York Times](#) has noted:

Trump administration lawyers have determined that an 18th-century wartime law the president has invoked to deport suspected members of a Venezuelan gang allows federal agents to enter homes without a warrant, according to people familiar with internal discussions.

The disclosure reflects the Trump administration's aggressive view of presidential power, including setting aside a key provision of the Fourth Amendment that requires a court order to search someone's home.

The same wartime-only law called the Alien Enemies Act of 1798, which Trump has claimed permits him to expel Venezuelans without following due process, is now apparently to be sued to permit authorities to enter US homes without warrants.

For the 227 years since that Act was passed, no one thought it did away with the need for warrants in the USA. Now, Trump's lawyers think it does, totally undermining US human rights in the process, which is no doubt their aim.

Either US legal history is right, or Trump is. Both cannot be. The balance of probabilities - given that Trump is already in a deep battle with the Courts over his first use of this Act, which a Federal judge has decried as illegal - is that Trump is in the wrong.

But then, he's also wrong about education, where he is planning [to close down the Federal Education Department](#) without the approval of Congress, which he cannot do, and [closing down all social security payments](#) in the USA, which he is threatening to do unless usk can have access to all the personal details of every person being paid a benefit in the USA, including all retirees, even though Musk and his team have been unable to present a single reason to Court as to why they need this data for legitimate purposes. In both cases, large numbers of his own supporters would be hit hardest, and it seems he just does not care.

This is government gone beyond rogue now. This is government by evil. When

governments cease to care about the consequences of their actions, that is what it becomes.