

UK defence policy is in a total mess

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I cannot help but think that in the wreckage of international relations that now exists, UK defence policy is in a total mess.

First, there is Trump's order that defence intelligence may no longer be shared with Ukraine. Ignore the bigger dimensions of this for a moment - like the massive risks that this exposes millions of people to, about which he is indifferent. Instead, be narrow-minded and realise that what this means is that much of UK defence intelligence, which is almost wholly integrated with US systems, is rendered unusable as a result.

Then consider our nuclear strategy. This is dependent on US missiles, which we cannot fire without their permission. Ignore for a moment questions about the desirability of nuclear powers. The simple fact is that right now our nuclear deterrent is under the control of a Russian agent and we cannot use it without, in all likelihood, the Kremlin's permission. This part of our defence strategy is rendered utterly meaningless and totally irrelevant as a result. Ending spending on it, straightaway, would make complete sense.

Then there are our two, quite farcical, aircraft carriers. Ignore the fact that these are not watertight. Ignore as well the fact that it seems their engines do not work. Ignore, too, that they could be destroyed in combat in seconds by a concerted drone attack - which the war in Ukraine is showing to be deadly. Instead, just appreciate that they can only fly US made F-35 jets, and the US is, with an isolationist policy, unlikely to make these available to us for much longer. These ships are also a complete white elephant as a result.

In fact, large parts of our whole defence strategy are now meaningless, partly because those we need to defend ourselves against have changed, and now very obviously include the USA, but also because our systems are under the control of those who now threaten us.

My question that follows from this is one that I have not heard asked, which is why are

we simply increasing our defence spending whilst letting it continue to be expended on systems that are now so dysfunctional that they may actually prejudice us, when the actual task is to start planning our defence again from scratch, starting with how we wage drone warfare to best effect, and moving on from there?

It's really not hard to work all this out. Why is nothing being done about it?