

## Trump's fall from his self-made pedestal

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As the [Observer](#) has noted this morning:

*Donald Trump's presidential administration has exempted smartphones and computers from the 125% levies imposed on imports from China as well as other "reciprocal" tariffs, which experts had cautioned might cause electronic consumer prices to spike dramatically in the US.*

*The announcement was made late on Friday in a US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) notice that said the devices would be excluded from the 10% global tariff that Trump recently imposed on most countries, along with the much heftier import tax on China.*

Let's not beat about the bush about this. What this means is that Trump has capitulated. He has been forced to concede that his 'beautiful' tariffs cannot work. The disruption they would cause is too much for the US economy and the American voter to bear. The edifice he tried to create has collapsed.

The suggestion Trump made that tariffs would make the US rich again has been shown to be a lie. Stock and bond markets have proved that.

Tariffs have not made the US great again. Confidence has been lost in it, and the dollar, instead.

The idea that every American would pay less tax because foreigners would do so for them has been shown to be absurd. The average iPhone was going to increase in price because of tariffs from around \$1,200 to about \$2,100. The difference was tax, in its entirety, paid by people in the USA. Trump has been exposed as a liar.

And the price for all this has not been paid as yet. With Trump in office for almost another four years, no one is going to be lining up to do deals with the USA. They'll be looking at how to work around it instead.

Trump has had his moment when he thought he ruled the world. Now he will have to

face the ignominy of being the President who claimed he could do just that, and who claimed the world would kiss his arse, only to find out that none of that was true. He will forever be, instead, the President who made a mockery of that office and the nation that elected him.

At least, that's what is possible unless the likes of Starmer remain in sycophant mode, which in his case is entirely possible.