

Funding the Future

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Every day it seems that we learn more about Trump.

Yesterday, Vice President JD Vance gave us a clear insight into how he thinks conflicts should be resolved. The solution is, apparently, simple. The aggressor should be rewarded for their efforts. Those who have suffered and been abused should, it seems, accept their fate. US diplomacy now, in that case, extends to a declaration of “take it, or leave it.” So much for the supposed “art of the deal”.

In fairness, this is nothing more than the transactional world view that we might expect of Trump, who has never revealed any real understanding of what concluding a deal might actually involve, but when it is applied to world politics the consequences are pretty horrible.

The reality is that Ukraine is being told to surrender its territory to Russia.

No doubt, in due course, Trump will endorse the annexation of Gaza, and maybe the West Bank, by Israel.

There is nothing diplomatic about this.

There is nothing that respects the rights of people, states, or international law implicit in any part of this.

Instead, this approach endorses the right of the far right thug to impose their will on whomsoever they wish.

This is not the world I wish to live in.

I am also quite sure that it is not world in which the majority of people wish to live.

I also very strongly suspect, that this is an approach that most of us thought had, long ago, been consigned to history.

And, despite this, Rachel Reeves is in Washington seeking to plead special favours from the thugs that have told Ukraine to surrender who they still apparently think to be the

UK's best buddy.

Why, oh why, oh why?