

Trump is unfit for a state visit

Published: January 13, 2026, 1:18 am

Donald Trump arrives in the UK today on a state visit – and Keir Starmer has exposed his complete lack of political judgment.

Why did Starmer invite Trump? Why is Trump unfit for such treatment? And what does this say about the state of democracy in both the UK and the USA?

In this video, I argue that:

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Trump promotes genocide, economic warfare and racism.

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Starmer has embarrassed Britain by aligning with Trump.

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Both leaders are products of failing democracies that no longer reflect the will of their people.

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We urgently need electoral reform, a credible foreign policy, and accountability for leaders who normalise the far-right.

This isn't just about one state visit. It's about whether democracy can survive when opportunism replaces principle.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MyRrUkvImGU?si=9kbD49dU5vhnT6JN>

This is the audio version:

https://www.podbean.com/player-v2/?i=3wrpc-1966200-pb&from=pb6admin&share=1&download=1&rtl=0&fonts=Arial&skin=f6f6f6&font-color=auto&logo_link=episode_page&btn-skin=c73a3a

This is the transcript:

Trump is arriving in the UK today on a state visit. As a result, Keir Starmer has exposed his complete lack of political judgment.

He should never have invited Donald Trump in January because he's a man who supports genocide, promotes economic warfare, flouts world trade norms, and is a harm to the UK as a consequence. So why are we having a state visit?

There are three dimensions to this question. First of all, why did Starmer invite Trump? Secondly, why is Trump unfit for this treatment? And thirdly, what is it that connects the UK and the USA with regard to these two men? Could it be that we are both seeing our democracies falling apart?

Let's start with Starmer. You'll recall that in January - it seems like a lifetime ago, but I promise you it was this year - Starmer went to Washington with a letter in his pocket, which he dramatically pulled out while sitting in the White House and gave it to Trump and said, "The king would like you to come on a state visit. This is unprecedented. It's not happened to any other leader ever, and you are going to get the special privilege of having a second state visit to the UK."

It was a bizarre political act on Starmer's part.

What is now clear, and which Starmer should have been able to predict at the time, but apparently couldn't, is that Trump is pursuing economic warfare.

He's supporting genocide in Israel.

He's delivering not just racist rhetoric, but he's delivering racist policy. He's building internment camps in the USA.

And he's disrupting the world order by bullying to enrich a few Americans.

What happened was that Starmer showed that he had a massive lack of political

judgment when he gave that invitation without checking out the facts about Trump in advance.

He should have realised that Trump was going to violate the norms of human rights that exist in the UK.

That he was going to violate international law.

That he was going to violate trade norms.

And he was going to try to bring down diversity, equality, and inclusion, which has become normal in the UK, but which Trump is trying to make abnormal everywhere.

The result is that Starmer has embarrassed himself, his government, parliament, the royal family, and the UK as a whole. And perhaps worst of all, Starmer has indicated that he aligns his interests with those of the far-right as represented by Trump.

Unsurprisingly, he's alienated a very large number of people in the UK.

And he's invited a man, let's be clear, who's arriving today, who is unfit to be treated as the recipient of a state visit.

On genocide, he's preventing the United Nations from recognising what is happening in Gaza and is offering US complicity.

He's corruptly seeking to gain from the ethnic cleansing that is going on in Gaza with his grand plans to make it a US protectorate, which he and his friends will then redevelop for their own personal profit.

He's courting Putin on and off, but regularly, and as a result, he's a threat to UK and global security.

His rhetoric is warlike. He's renamed the Defence Department as the Department of War. That is not the act of a person who's coming in peace to London today.

Those make a state visit, and the privileges that go with it wholly inappropriate.

And let's be clear, the world has noticed what Trump is up to. His approval ratings in the US are plummeting. He's profoundly unpopular in the UK, and Starmer's own favourability is weak. He's lost at least 10% of the support he had when he was elected to office last July, that is July 2024, and that's a massive swing away from his Labour Party.

The point is neither of these men, both of whom were elected in 2024 - although it does seem much longer ago - really reflects the genuine public will of their countries.

And nor did they win the hearts and minds of most in those countries to lead them.

They are, in fact, the products of failing democracies working with first-past-the-post electoral systems that produce outcomes that cannot, will not and never can do, and now never will reflect what people really want in the countries in question.

Their elections failed to reflect people's preferences. We need to restore democracy and not play with royalty.

There is deep embarrassment from this, but it's being created by these political failures.

We risk normalisation of the far-right, genocide and militaristic politics.

The irony of trumpeting Trump whilst imprisoning people for opposing genocide cannot be lost on anyone.

And the erosion of democratic values is obvious for all to see.

There's a trade-off here between the elite and the people, and what's very clear is that Starmer is supporting Trump in his opposition to the interests of the people at large.

We are looking incredible in the sense that UK foreign policy is simply not looking credible as a consequence of what is happening.

Starmer has shown severe misjudgment, but the symptoms of deeper democratic failure in the UK and the USA may be even more significant.

Actions are required. We need to reassess when visits are provided to the leaders of other states. There is no automatic right to a state visit to this country, and when somebody is violating human rights, they definitely should not be given one.

We need to push for electoral reform and proportional representation.

We need to hold leaders accountable via the media.

And we need to demand a foreign policy that aligns with national values and not opportunism.

In this world of distorted values, Trump and Starmer are together, seeking to declare that black is white this week with their support for odious policies, most especially in Gaza, but elsewhere as well.

What this visit proves is that we've gone a long way towards political depravity. We might not be there yet, but we are on the way.

Recognise this moment. Recognise it for what it is. This is a point where we realise

things have to change, or they're going to get very much worse indeed.

Trump is a symbol of every one of our nightmares. And yet we're entertaining him here in the UK as if he were a person of virtue when he's anything but that.

Taking further action

If you want to write a letter to your MP on the issues raised in this blog post, there is a ChatGPT prompt to assist you in doing so, with full instructions, [here](#).

One word of warning, though: please ensure you have the correct MP. ChatGPT can get it wrong.

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