Funding the Future

The odds-on bet is that the royal's days are numbered

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Five days is like a decade in politics right now. Yesterday, the likelihood that the royal family will be dragged into real peril by Andrew Montbatten-Windsor (AMW) became very clear. That is because the criminal investigation into his conduct as trade envoy is now becoming very uncomfortable for the palace, but as I wrote only five days ago:

* There has been no apparent investigation of AMW's behaviour by the King or his staff of which we have been made aware, or the findings of which have been made public, indicating:

* A curious lack of curiosity on his part.

* A desire to cover matters up.

* A wish to hide the late Queen's involvement in all this, given that she provided the £12 million settlement AMW paid with regard to this matter.

* A desire to maintain the pretence that there is a perfect "royal family", which we can very clearly see is utter nonsense.

* All of this suggests that the King is revealing incompetence on this issue to a degree that matches that of Keir Starmer's.

* Charles has no viable successor. The monarchy is an institution, the eugenic foundation of which is repugnant and which can only have contributed to the attitude of AWM (and maybe others within it) that there are "disposable people" who were available to be exploited.

The bizarre announcements from the Palace and the office of the Prince of Wales yesterday only reinforced the sense that they are deeply detached from reality.

How long can royalty last, given this? Longer than Starmer, I admit. But how much longer? Not that much more, unless they offer a truly radical transformation.

The old line of "no apologies, no explanations" and, let me add, only "voluntary transparency" has to go.

Unless they become truly accountable, they cannot survive now. And the problem is, with transparency, the myths that sustain them will be shattered. It's an each-way, heavily odds-on bet that their days are numbered.