

Funding the Future

Never doubt that dangerous ideas are a threat to humankind.

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Donald Trump [posted this](#) on his so-called Truth Social media account last night:



This might be an event without precedent. An attack on civilian installations such as electricity power generation units and desalination plants is, by definition, a war crime when committed against a civilian population for military gain, and Trump has announced that he is actively considering undertaking such crimes in advance of undertaking them.

Whether Trump will ever stand trial for his crimes, just as Benjamin Netanyahu should for his, is open to doubt. There are still countries, including the UK, that appear to have problems recognising those who perpetrate such crimes and instead accommodate them. How else are we meant to interpret the planned state visit by King Charles to the USA in April? Being an accomplice to war crimes, as Keir Starmer appears determined to be, is not a good look, or a recognised mechanism for creating a positive political

legacy.

Let me, however, leave aside the political dimensions of this and look at the reality, which is that it has become apparent that some people who like to think of themselves as world leaders, as Trump and Netanyahu undoubtedly do, have reached the point where they consider imposing death and other harms on civilian populations is something that they are permitted to do in pursuit of their own agendas, even though international law makes it clear otherwise.

This is the consequence of neoliberal thinking. When, as that philosophy does, you reduce people to being cogs in a machine, those cogs become expendable. Margaret Thatcher treated people in this way when managing the UK economy with supreme indifference to its population in the 1980s. Donald Trump is treating the people of Iran in this way when managing his maniacal war agenda in the 2020s. There is a difference in the scale of the contempt shown, but the indifference to human suffering that underpinned both courses of action is similar.

The fact is that the courses of action required to fulfil the neoliberal agenda of ever-increasing the wealth of a few in society at cost to many have been presumed by all those who subscribe to this ideology as justification for their contempt for their fellow human beings, and as an excuse for the suffering that their ideology has caused to billions around the world.

Will Trump do what he is threatened? As ever, we do not know. He is notoriously unreliable, but he does not always chicken out, and so the risk is real.

It is neoliberalism that has brought us close to this point of Armageddon, and it is the perverted religious fervour of some who subscribe to both neoliberalism and a debased form of the Christian faith that has created this possibility. Never doubt that dangerous ideas are a threat to humankind.