# The dangers of unchecked executive power: lessons from Trump's return to the White House



In the first 100 days of Donald Trump’s return to the White House as the 47th president of the United States, his administration has embarked on an aggressive and disruptive assault on American governance, wielding executive power with reckless abandon. This unprecedented expansion of executive authority mirrors the dangerous overreach we vigilantly oppose here at home, where safeguarding the constitutional balance remains paramount against such authoritarian impulses.

One glaring early incident was Vice-President JD Vance’s brazen dismissal of the judiciary’s role in limiting executive actions, asserting that “Judges aren’t allowed to control the executive’s legitimate power.” This blatant contempt for the separation of powers undermines fundamental democratic principles, echoing concerns we’ve raised domestically about unchecked government. Such reckless posturing leads to friction between branches, as seen in the US where courts have stepped in to halt immigration crackdowns and other unilateral moves—a necessary corrective to prevent government from grinding itself into dysfunction.

Elon Musk’s self-appointed role as a bureaucratic axe-wielder further exemplifies this drive to dismantle institutions under the guise of efficiency. Shutting down vital agencies like USAID and attempting to gut the Department of Education mirrors attempts here to slash essential public services, disregarding the very real impact on vulnerable groups. While touted as cutting “waste,” these measures risk eroding support systems for social security, veterans, and healthcare, a pattern we vehemently oppose as it threatens the social fabric and public wellbeing.

Trump’s economic policies, declaring new tariffs as a supposed “Liberation Day,” have triggered turbulence in global markets, soaring interest rates, and warnings of recession—a cautionary tale for our own leaders who must avoid such reckless economic brinkmanship. Though protectionist rhetoric appeals to some working-class voters, the damaging consequences on growth and employment serve as a stark reminder of the perils of isolationist economic experiments.

The administration’s harsh immigration actions, deporting hundreds under sweeping wartime powers with scant judicial oversight, parallel unacceptable measures witnessed here, where due process is too often sacrificed. The targeting of migrants, students, and protestors under broad security pretexts represents a dangerous slide towards authoritarianism and social division—developments we resist by championing sovereignty paired with fairness and lawfulness.

In academia, the assault on institutions perceived as ideologically unfriendly—freezing federal funds and exerting political pressure—mirrors efforts to stifle independent thought and debate, which have corrosive implications for intellectual freedom worldwide. Similarly, the rollback of diversity and inclusion programmes under baseless accusations undermines hard-won progress toward equality, jeopardizing social cohesion for political point-scoring.

As this White House continues to flaunt traditional governance norms, relying heavily on fragile majorities and an embattled judiciary to sustain its agenda, it paints a stark warning. We must remain vigilant against such authoritarian tendencies that threaten democratic checks and balances. The emerging chaos south of the Atlantic only sharpens our resolve to offer a robust alternative—championing transparent governance, respect for institutions, and policies that protect the welfare and freedoms of all citizens rather than pursue destabilising, unilateral power grabs.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.hklaw.com/en/general-pages/trumps-2025-executive-orders-chart> - Supports claims about Trump's aggressive use of executive orders in 2025, detailing the scope and focus of his executive actions.
* <https://www.hklaw.com/en/general-pages/trumps-2025-executive-orders-updates-and-summaries> - Corroborates the administration's restructuring of regulatory agencies and expansion of presidential control over independent bodies.
* <https://www.bakermckenzie.com/en/insight/publications/2025/03/new-executive-orders-independent-federal-regulatory-agencies> - Directly addresses the Agency Accountability Order (Feb. 2025) seeking White House oversight of independent agencies, aligning with claims of eroding institutional checks.
* <https://www.federalregister.gov/presidential-documents/executive-orders/donald-trump/2025> - Documents the high volume of executive orders (137 in 2025), supporting claims of unilateral executive overreach.
* <https://www.ncsl.org/in-dc/2025-administration-actions-key-executive-orders-and-policies> - Provides context on states' responses to federal executive actions, relevant to judicial and intergovernmental tensions described.
* <https://www.bakermckenzie.com/en/insight/publications/2025/03/new-executive-orders-independent-federal-regulatory-agencies> - Reiterates specific focus on weakening independent agencies (SEC, EPA, FTC, etc.), corroborating claims of institutional dismantling.
* <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cly1n7jz587o> - Please view link - unable to able to access data