



A small money problem

Britain's political system is exceptionally vulnerable to corruption by foreigners, because it's cheap to buy, under-regulated, conducted in the global language and worth buying. The UK is still the world's sixth-largest economy, sixth-biggest military spender and a soft-power superpower. No wonder Britain has hit an all-time low in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index.

British politics has a small-money problem. Whereas an Abu Dhabi royal paid \$500mn into the Trump family's crypto venture, Epstein sent Mandelson \$75,000. The fall in ministerial salaries by about a quarter since 2010 helps keep Westminster cheap.

Even buying into the royal family's prestige is affordable. Before Charles became king, Qatar's former prime minister handed him €3mn in legal donations for his charities, in cash.

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No heavy lifting. All indoors

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