

Andrew Bolt: Donald Trump criticised while dictators Xi and Putin ignored

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DONALD Trump has fired his secretary of state — by tweet, it's claimed — and once again we're told to panic.

"Trump is unleashed," warns CNN.

"Trump is on a dangerous path," trembles *The Guardian*.

[DONALD TRUMP FIRES SECRETARY OF STATE REX TILLERSON](#)

[JULIE BISHOP: I FOUND OUT ABOUT SACKING WHEN TILLERSON DID](#)

But the hatred and fear of the US President that transfixes the elites is blinding many to the superpower leaders who menace us most.

As the past two weeks confirm, Presidents Vladimir Putin of Russia and Xi Jinping of China make Trump seem an angel in comparison.

And, no, [firing Rex Tillerson](#) is not more reason for us to worry that a madman is on the loose in the White House.

Indeed, the opposite.

But will we get a sober discussion of either point? From the moment Trump campaigned to become president, our political and media class treated him as the great Satan. "Terrifying," said Defence Industries Minister Christopher Pyne.

"Barking mad in some issues," sneered Labor leader Bill Shorten.

"A security threat to Australia," stormed Greens leader Richard Di Natale.

And the media followed suit. "Donald Trump is no laughing matter," preached *The Project's* frowning Waleed Aly.



Everyone is lining up to criticise US President Donald Trump. Picture: AP/Evan Vucci

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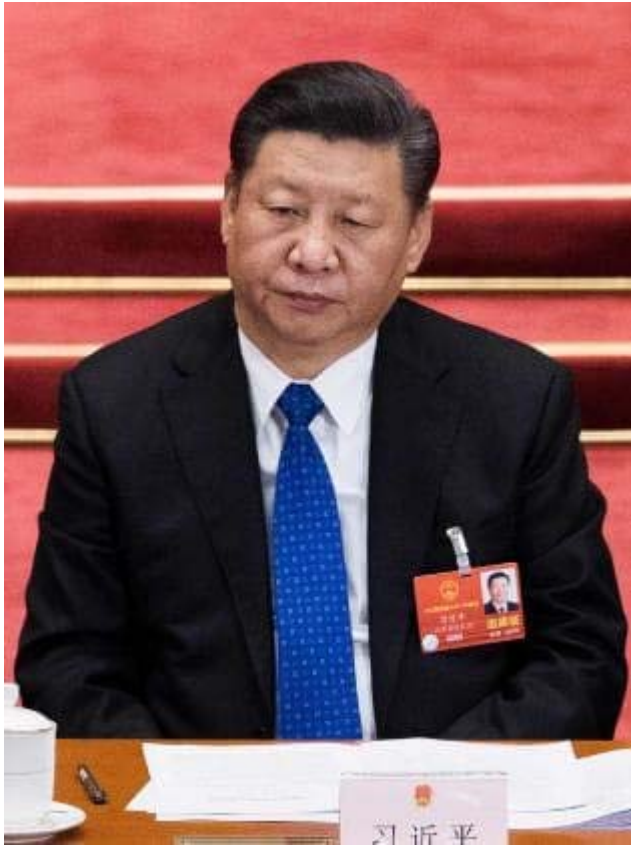
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But in the past two weeks, Xi and Putin have demonstrated again what dangerous and sinister men they are — infinitely more so than Trump — yet neither is attacked by journalists as Trump is every week.

Take Xi first. China’s National People’s Congress last weekend voted — 2959 for and only two against — to scrap the two-term limit for the president, effectively making Xi dictator for life.

Normally, you’d expect the leaders of a democracy to object to a dictator, but not in Australia today.

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop instead praised dictator Xi as “a very effective leader” and said his status was just a matter for China. Labor’s foreign affairs spokesman, Penny Wong, said only that Xi’s position was a matter “for the Chinese people” — even though the Chinese people have never had a free vote.



Xi Jinping has effectively been made dictator of China. Picture: AFP/Nicolas Asfour
And there's been not a word from Di Natale.

Then there's Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has already invaded Ukraine, stolen the Crimea, intervened in Syria, hidden rebels who murdered 298 people flying in a Malaysian plane, and meddled with the US election. Two weeks ago, a former Russian double agent, Sergei Skripal, and his daughter were found unconscious in a park in England, poisoned by a nerve agent.

British Prime Minister Theresa May this week blamed Putin's regime for the attack, saying the nerve agent was of Russian military origin.

Putin is playing the innocent, but even Trump — falsely accused by journalists of colluding with Russia to steal the 2016 election — doesn't trust him. "It sounds to me like (British authorities) believe it was Russia and I would certainly take that finding as fact," he said.



Russian President Vladimir Putin's regime has been blamed for poisoning a former double agent with a nerve agent. Picture: AFP/ Kirill Kudryavtsev

But where is the Left to denounce Putin the way they do Trump? Where is Christopher Pyne to call Putin "terrifying"? Where is Shorten to call him "barking mad"?

And will journalists here now admit they underplayed the threat of Putin when they mocked prime minister Tony Abbott for vowing to "shirt-front" him over the shooting down of MH17?

Beware now the media coverage of Trump sacking Tillerson. Yes, the

turnover of Trump's team has been worryingly high and destabilising, but replacing Tillerson with CIA boss Mike Pompeo seems a good move.

Trump says he fired Tillerson because they disagreed on things, and he singled out Tillerson backing the wildly generous deal president Barack Obama made with Iran to stop developing nuclear weapons.

No doubt, Tillerson also made a bad mistake calling Trump a "moron" at a meeting. But there were other disagreements, too, and in most cases it seems Trump was right and Tillerson was captured by the Washington swamp.



Trump to back Britain over spy poisoning if facts are straight

For instance, Trump insisted the US move its embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem to recognise political reality.

Tillerson opposed it, worried about Arab reaction.

Trump trash-talked and threatened North Korea, eventually scaring the regime into suggesting face-to-face talks about scrapping their nuclear weapons; Tillerson preferred the diplomacy that has long failed.

Trump rightly condemned the Paris Accord to cut global warming emissions as a hugely expensive and largely symbolic gesture that expected more from the US than its big rivals; Tillerson was a believer.

On all these issues, it seems Pompeo is more simpatico with Trump and will run Trump's foreign policy and not the Washington elite's.

Good. Against Putin and Xi, can the West afford a US as weak as it was in those eight disastrous years of Obama?