

Donald Trump, right, with Narendra Modi during a bilateral meeting at the G7 summit in France yesterday

ANNA MONEYMAKER/GETTY



OPINION

Allies are moving on – they no longer believe in America

Miles Taylor



In June 2018, I sat inside the White House situation room, dreading what was about to happen. We'd just finished preparing for Donald Trump's trip to Canada for a G7 meeting, a gathering of the world's most powerful democracies.

The US President was pouting. He didn't want to go. Aides had talked him out of skipping the summit, but my worry was that his attendance might actually be worse.

He did not disappoint. He arrived late. He lectured the leaders of America's closest friends about trade. At one point, he flicked a Starburst sweet across the table at

the then German chancellor Angela Merkel – "Here, Angela. Don't say I never give you anything" – a gesture that managed to be both petulant and weirdly revealing. And then he left early.

From the plane, Trump detonated the joint communiqué that he had just signed, branding his Canadian host "very dishonest and weak". And he used the world's premier club of democracies to demand the readmission of an autocracy, calling for Vladimir Putin's Russia to be welcomed back into the fold.

It was as if Putin himself had drafted his talking points.

What looked like a tantrum in 2018 has now become national policy and as Trump wraps up another G7 meeting, it's clear that his mood swings (and strong opinions about who America's real pals should be) have upended the