



laetus in praesens

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Awarding Noble Piece Prize to Trump and Netanyahu Jointly?

Appropriate appreciation of transactional commodification of honour in a fragmenting world

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Introduction

Donald Trump has been formally nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by multiple countries -- following a series of high-profile diplomatic engagements hosted at the White House and elsewhere -- while his allies in Washington and abroad have submitted nominations on his behalf (Daniel Orton, *Map of Countries That Have Nominated Donald Trump for Nobel Peace Prize* *Newsweek*, 13 August 2025). Countries indicating that they support the nomination include: Pakistan, Israel, Cambodia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Rwanda, Gabon. The nominations are curiously coincidental with negotiations regarding favourable tariffs by the USA.

The quest of Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize has been widely noted -- framed by its earlier receipt by Barack Obama (Tyler Pager, *Trump's Nobel Prize Obsession Is About More Than World Peace*, *The New York Times*, 24 March 2025). The quest has been highlighted by his direct engagement with Norway's finance minister on

the matter (Elena Giordano, [Trump cold-called Norwegian minister to ask about Nobel Peace Prize](#), *Politico*, 14 August 2025; Reanna Smith, [Trump criticised for 'pathetic' cold-call to Norway for Nobel Peace Prize bid](#), *Express*, 16 August 2025; Anwesha Mitra, [Trump dialed Norway to ask for the Nobel peace prize](#), *Financial Express*, 16 August 2025). In a transactional world in which the Peace Prize is simply another commodity, there is every reason to suppose that its award to Trump by Norway should be understood as a means for that country to achieve favourable tariff arrangements with the USA --with the implicit suggestion that tariff concessions are now the going exchange rate for Nobel prestige -- a possibility for which it would be impossible to prove the contrary.

The legitimacy of such an award to Trump in terms of "peace" is highly controversial (Fred Mednick, [The tarnished prize Trump desperately wants](#), *The Washington Post*, 20 August 2025; Peter van den Dungen, [A Nobel peace prize for Donald Trump would be ludicrous](#) *The Guardian*, 19 August 2025). Beyond question however, Trump has claimed (beyond question) to be a global peacemaker in multiple conflicts -- a claim reviewed by groups of experts (Rachael Jolley and Sam Phelps, [Did Trump really resolve six conflicts in a matter of months?](#) *The Conversation*, 22 August 2025; Emma Shortis, et al, [Does Trump deserve the Nobel Peace Prize?](#) *The Independent*, 10 July 2025; [How Donald Trump's peacemaking ambitions unravelled](#), *Financial Times*, 19 March 2025).

Benjamin Netanyahu has apparently not been formally nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, but his longstanding bond with Donald Trump in relation to many controversial issues is well recognized -- most notably Palestine and Gaza -- thereby recalling an important precedent. The conflict in that region had previously resulted in the prize being awarded jointly in 1994 to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres -- for their work on the [Oslo Peace Accords](#) (elaborated in Norway). Controversy has also been associated with the award in 1973 to the Former US Secretary of State [Henry Kissinger](#) for his negotiations to end the Vietnam War. Like Netanyahu, Kissinger has also been accused of war crimes -- including bombings in Cambodia in 1969 and 1970 (Ahmed Twajj, [Kissinger: A war criminal with a Nobel Peace Prize](#), *Al Jazeera*, 2 December 2023; Christopher Hitchens, [The Trial of Henry Kissinger](#), 2001)

Trump's predecessor, Barack Obama, received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2009 -- evoking a wave of criticism due to the Obama administration's involvement in wars in Libya, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq and Yemen (Prince Williams, [Barack Obama Is A War Criminal](#), *Harvard Political Review*, 29 September 2021; Jennifer Williams, [From torture to drone strikes: the disturbing legal legacy Obama is leaving for Trump](#), *Vox*, 11 January 2017). As with Obama, Trump and Netanyahu are now perceived to have been complicit in the death of multitudes.

Arguably there is therefore a precedent for [awarding a prize jointly](#) to Trump and Netanyahu -- acclaimed "war criminals", or not -- but this might more appropriately now take the form of a **Noble Piece Prize**. This would ensure explicit global acknowledgement of the manner in which Nobel laureates have been instrumental in fatally fragmenting countries, people and the world into "pieces". In the case of the sciences, such a complement to Nobel Prizes has been recognized since 1991 in the form of the [Ig Nobel Prize](#) ([List of Ig Nobel Prize Winners](#)). If not laughter, the Nobel Piece Prize would appropriately invite tears and other insights.

In a world increasingly challenged by [cacography](#) and dyslexia, it is questionable how many are even sensitive to the [distinction between "peace" and "piece"](#) -- especially as homophones in the absence of text. The two are effectively conflated by automatic search engine correction of "Noble Piece Prize", compounding the confusion between "Noble" and "Nobel" cultivated by those aspiring to a form of nobility. In a world where autocorrect governs discourse, the distinction has become as blurred as the line between peacemaking and piece-making.

More ironically intriguing is the degree to which "piece" is so closely associated with the fundamental principles of the [Nobel Foundation](#) -- as formulated by its founder, the arms manufacturer [Alfred Nobel](#). It is after all the case that "piece" refers to a gun, or knife, or other weapon -- in the familiar jargon employed by

many of criminal persuasion. Appropriately, the sexual connotations of "gun" are of course shared with "piece". Whilst Nobel bequeathed prizes to those advancing peace; the Noble Piece Prize would finally reward those perfecting war under that guise -- "blowing people to pieces".

Has the Nobel Peace Prize effectively become a [codpiece](#) -- less a symbol of peace than an ornamental shield of power and virility, masking the violence beneath (Victoria Bartels, *What goes up must come down: a brief history of the codpiece*, University of Cambridge, 30 April 2015; Zaria Gorvett, *How the codpiece flopped*, BBC, 4 February 2024; *The Role of Codpieces in Medieval Armor Design*, Sabatons, 2025). French political humour captured the ambiguity long ago in the [celebrated exchange](#) between President De Gaulle and Prime Minister Pompidou at the urinal during a theater interval: *Belle pièce, mon général!* -- 'Regardez devant vous, Pompidou!'. If the Peace Prize now shades into a codpiece, then its theatricality lies precisely in this oscillation between the stage and the phallus. Performative peace as a "codpeace"? (Victoria Ann Newsom, et al, *On Nourishing Peace: the performativity of activism through the Nobel Peace Prize*, *Global Media Journal*)

The use of "piece" as a slang term for a weapon -- particularly a gun -- dates back several centuries. The term is recorded as early as the 1500s, initially referring broadly to a firearm or artillery piece. The word "piece" itself was simply used for any (notably large or significant) part of weaponry, including cannons and guns, before coming to mean specifically a handgun in modern slang.

Rather than the quest for peace by any peacemaker, there is therefore a case for recognizing the role of a "piecemaker" -- and the quest for "piecefulness". As arms manufacturers, piecemakers have long invited extensive commentary. Far less evident is the significance of pieciful and piecefulness. Yet these are effectively well recognized to a surprising degree through the extent to which weapons are now widely distributed -- most obviously in the USA with 120 firearms per 100 person ([Estimated number of civilian guns per capita by country](#), *Wikipedia*).

With more guns than people, this could be considered the primary indicator of "piecefulness", with the USA -- as led by Donald Trump -- then to be recognized as the most pieciful country in the world ([Why US is only country where there are more guns than people](#), *The Business Standard*, 25 May 2022; [Fact check: United States now has more guns than people](#), *WUSA9*, 9 June 2022). In addition to that indicator, the military arsenals offer a sense of government "piecefulness" ([Missiles of the World](#), Center for Strategic and International Studies). In that light, piecefulness could indeed be understood as the fundamental strategic aim of the American Empire ([Arming Civil Society Worldwide](#), 2003). Measured not by treaties signed but by firepower stockpiled, the United States has long been the most pieciful nation on earth -- exporting fragments of peace with each shipment of munitions ([US spends a record \\$17.9 billion on military aid to Israel since last Oct. 7](#), *Associated Press*, 7 October 2024; [Average US Taxpayer Paid Over \\$5,000 Toward Militarism in 2023](#), *Truthout*, 9 April 2024).

Perhaps the true nobility of a Piece Prize lies not in what it honours, but in what it exposes: that in a world fragmented beyond repair, honour continues to be conflated with horror. The grim paradox of the age being that state honour has become irrevocably conflated with public horror. To laugh or to weep at the Noble Piece Prize? Perhaps the higher nobility is to recognize that the line between the two has itself been obliterated.

Trump's quest should not be seen as an undignified aberration, but as the purest expression of a transactional age -- the relentless pursuit by many of nobility, honour, and prestige -- a Nobel Prize as the ultimate commodity, with a Noble Piece Prize as its most honest reflection. After all, as the sponsors of the original [Noble Piece Prize](#) observe, it exists to honour a "great piece of work" -- and few would dispute that Trump is, in every sense, exactly that (William Crozer, *The Power of a Great Piece of Work*, Noble Studios, 19 August 2025).

Ironically, the Noble Piece Prize itself is nearly invisible online -- search engines "correct" it back into the Nobel Peace Prize, as if parody were a threat to prestige. In this sense, even algorithms now conspire in maintaining Nobel nobility: peace is protected, pieces suppressed. That it takes assiduous searching to

discover the existence of a real Noble Piece Prize only sharpens the irony. In a digital world where autocorrect governs discourse, the parody hides in plain sight -- much like the violence it names.

In this exercise experimental use was made of the [Perplexity AI](#) to glean insights systematically from the world's resources on the multifaceted nature of the challenge. The responses of AI have been framed as grayed areas -- with that form of presentation itself treated **as** an experiment, in anticipation of the future implication of AI into research documents and debate. Clearly the questions can be asked of other AIs -- and framed otherwise -- whether at the present time or in the future when more sophisticated large language models become available.

The argument here has been developed further more generally (*Blessed are the Piecemakers as Children of God? Piecekeeping disguised as peacekeeping in a pieceful world*, 2025).

Show/Hide All AI Responses

Purchasing positions of authority, honour and respect

Honour and respect are widely recognized as fundamental to the integrity and fabric of society, as argued separately (*Honour Essential to Psycho-social Integrity: challenge of dishonourable leadership to the nameless*, 2005).

Question: Historically, and at the present time, could you summarize the range of positions of authority, honour and respect that can be bought -- whether directly or indirectly

Show/Hide AI response

Question: Are there any such positions or honours which cannot be bought. How is it proven that a position has not been bought, whether directly or indirectly -- or is it simply prudent not to raise the question

Show/Hide AI response

Purchasing proof of innocence ensuring impunity

Question: How does that response relate to the reverse question, namely what impunity and proof of innocence cannot be bought -- given the track record of the manner in which regulatory bodies, legislative bodies, judicial authorities, and juries can be subject to significant pressures to that end.

Show/Hide AI response

Probability of commodification of respectability

Question: That response suggests that it is appropriate to recognize a degree of probability to the extent to which any position of authority has been bought directly or indirectly. This suggests, as with the value of investments in financial instruments, that the respect it is expected that such positions should evoke may rise and fall -- however absolute it may conventionally be assumed to be. How does this relate to the collective current trust deficit variously recognized as fundamental

Show/Hide AI response

Relevance to the respectability of statutory and critical roles

Question: In the light of those responses, could you comment on the case of roles such as: academic authorities and experts, judicial authorities. Could you extend your comment to professionals, doctors, lawyers, accountants (the statutory professions), religious authorities (priests, especially in the light of recent scandals and complicity in those of the past), leaders of secret societies and cults (especially in the light of conspiracy theories), military and security authorities (especially given their framing of threats)

Show/Hide AI response

Relevance to embodiment of respect in medals and awards

Question: Recognition of confidence, trust, respect and honour are especially embodied in awards, medals, and the like. Could you comment on any problematic dynamics associated with these being accorded in the case of academic awards, military awards, peace awards -- in contrast with "right livelihood" awards, artistic and literary awards

Show/Hide AI response

Awarding honours to mask underlying misconduct

Question: What are the risks of awarding honours that may mask underlying misconduct or bias

Show/Hide AI response

Erosion of public trust through masking misconduct

Question: How might masking misconduct through honors undermine public trust in institutions

Show/Hide AI response

Question: What examples show that honoring misconducted individuals has damaged institutional credibility

Show/Hide AI response

Question: As an extreme example, could you comment on the elevation of an individual to sainthood, as through the process of beatification, especially in the light of a role like the devil's advocate -- and its erosion in practice. Have there been abuses to this process of recognition of holiness

Show/Hide AI response

Question: Is there any formal use of a role analogous to the Devil's Advocate made with regard to other awards, notably academic awards, military awards, and the Noble Prize process -- especially the peace award. Is there any indication that any such critical (negative advocacy) role has been eroded in response to other pressures

Show/Hide AI response

Emergence of anointing rhetoric in public discourse

Question: How has the association of national leadership with deity evolved to the present -- when leaders may continue to be referred to as "God"

Show/Hide AI response

Assumption of divine inspiration by leaders

Question: To what extent is there a tendency for leaders to consider that they are indeed uniquely inspired by God and therefore can do no wrong

Show/Hide AI response

Question: Given the direct influence of religious leaders on such as Trump or Netanyahu -- through prayer meetings, formal oaths, and the like -- are they effectively framed as "defenders of the faith" (as with British royalty)

Show/Hide AI response

Sanctification of leaders as a terminal psychosocial condition

Question: Given the historical precedents, is it possible that Trump could become the focus of a process akin to beatification or sanctification -- to which he might willingly accede. For example, the Catholic Church offers forms of nobility at the discretion of the Pope -- potentially accorded to those of other faiths in lieu of beatification

Show/Hide AI response

Question: Could you indicate examples in decades past of national leaders who have been treated like deities or referred to as such.

Show/Hide AI response

Question: Could you comment on comparisons made between Louis XIV of France -- as the Sun King -- and Trump

Show/Hide AI response

Psychosocial dynamics combining scapegoating and the quest for absolution

Question: Can Trump's quest for the Peace Prize be usefully framed in the light of fundamental psychosocial dynamics -- such as his need for absolution in the light of the global scapegoating of which he is now a focus (*Framing Trump as Global Scapegoat to avoid Implications of Complicity*, 2025). Is there a sense in which the actions of The White House can be "whitewashed" by awarding a Nobel Prize to its incumbents

Show/Hide AI response

Acquisition of modern awards in comparison with past sale of indulgences

Question: Could you comment on how the commodification of awards like the Nobel Peace Prize could be compared with the controversial [sale of indulgences](#) by professional "pardoners"-- a trigger for the [Protestant Reformation](#)

Show/Hide AI response

Implications of "peace/piece" for "peaceful" and "peacefulness"?

Question: How do homophones function as metaphors. Is there any trace of such usage in the case of peace

Show/Hide AI response

Question: How does this relate provocatively to slang usage of piece

Show/Hide AI response

Question: How is "piece" used in sexual objectification

Show/Hide AI response

Question: What are the origin of the the slang use of "piece" for genitals

Show/Hide AI response

Question: There is a set of words with problematically contrary meanings (oversight, sanction, etc). Could an extended version of that set include homophones like peace/piece, thereby reinforcing other forms of cynical misunderstanding. The term for that set of words is [contranym](#), but the question is whether their implications have been studied

Show/Hide AI response

Question: Oversight and Sanction -- very commonly used in governance -- would seem to invite particular attention

Show/Hide AI response

Question: To what extent have oversight bodies been deliberately set up to sustain negligence and a policy blindspot

Show/Hide AI response

Question: Could it be analogously argued that bodies with a "peace" mandate have been established to divide and rule -- effectively with a "piece" mandate

Show/Hide AI response

Question: In the light of those responses, is there any trace of meaningful reference to "peaceful" (coexistence) or to "peacefulness" as a condition. [Were "peaceful" and "peacefulness" mistakenly autocorrected in that question thereby distorting the response on the left]

Show/Hide AI response

Question: Is the current global condition most usefully described as "peaceful" or as "peaceful"

Show/Hide AI response

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