

# NEWS IN BRIEF 11

March 15th – March 28th 2025

## THE TELEGRAPH

The Duke of Sussex, Prince Harry, has resigned from his own charity in the wake of “unthinka-ble” infighting with the organiza-tion. Prince Harry founded Sente-bale in 2006 in memory of his late mother, Diana, Princess of Wales. The row centres around the role of Dr Sophie Chandauka, a Zimbabwe-born lawyer, who was appointed chairman of the trustees last year. She is suing the charity after being asked to step down.

Dr Chandauka has now released a statement criticising “weak executive management, abuse of power, bullying, harassment, misogyny and misogynoir [discrimination against black women]” at the charity. She hit out at “people in this world who behave as though they are above the law and mistreat people...then play the victim card and use the very press they disdain”..

## THE GUARDIAN

England’s university regulator has been accused of “perpetuating the culture wars” after fining the University of Sussex a record £585,000 at the conclusion of an investigation into freedom of speech on campus. It marks the end of a three-and-a-half year investigation into the university’s handling of the case of Kathleen Stock, a philosophy professor who resigned after being targeted by protests over her views on gender identification and transgender rights. The investigation found that the institution had “failed to uphold freedom of speech and academic freedom”.

## AXIOS

National Security Adviser Mike Waltz said he takes “full responsibility” for the scandal involving the use of an unclassified commercial chat app to discuss plans to strike Yemen by senior officials. President Trump made clear he does not plan to fire Waltz for establishing the Signal group and inadvertently adding *Atlantic* magazine editor-in-chief Jeffrey Goldberg as officials said that no classified information was shared during the conversation.

Democratic lawmakers demanded answers from the White House in multiple letters, with one from a group of Senate Democrats calling the situation “an astonishingly cavalier approach to national security.”

## NPR

Lawmakers in Colorado are poised to pass a measure that would, with a few exceptions, outlaw the use of detachable ammunition magazines. By doing so, it would make it illegal to buy, sell and manufacture a wide range of firearm models, including rifles, shotguns, pistols and some handguns. Colorado has a long history of mass shootings, dating back to Columbine High School in 1999. Then, in 2012, when a gunman used a hundred-round detachable magazine to open fire on moviegoers in Aurora.

## ABC NEWS

Former Secretary of Education Arie Duncan (2009-2015) discusses Trump’s call to dismantle the Department of Education

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZLjyOu84mNo>



## BBC NEWS

Thousands protest in Turkey as leading political rival of President Erdogan is jailed

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bmqj3RA3wSM>



Now they're 'decolonising' Shakespeare. Apparently, celebrating the Bard fuels 'white European supremacy'. What rubbish.

Joanna Williams

*Spiked!*

18 March 2025

What is it with Britain's cultural custodians and their hatred of everything British? National self-loathing drips from curators and directors alike, revealed in a Tourette's-like compulsion to blurt out 'Decolonise!' at everything they see. They are currently getting hot under the collar in the sleepy town of Stratford-upon-Avon, where they have Shakespeare's birthplace in their sights.

Where normal people admire timber-framed houses and marvel at the schoolroom where Shakespeare learnt the classics, our cultural elites see 'white supremacy'. Where you and I see genius in plays like *King Lear*, *Hamlet* and *Othello*, they see a symbol of 'British cultural superiority'. They seem to imagine that racist thugs have swapped sharing memes on Telegram for watching *Macbeth* at the local theatre. Labelling the Bard as a vehicle for white supremacy really is that insane.

With hatred comes flagellation. As such, Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust – the charity tasked with preserving Shakespeare-related heritage sites in historic Stratford-upon-Avon – is now 'decolonising' its vast collection. This means that, just as in practically every other museum and art gallery across the UK, exhibits will be labelled to make clear 'the continued impact of Empire' or the 'impact of colonialism'. In Stratford-upon-Avon, the special twist will be to show how Shakespeare's legacy has allegedly played a part in this litany of sin.

Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust has also warned visitors that some items in its collections may contain 'language or depictions that are racist, sexist, homophobic or otherwise harmful'. Of course they will. The past was a different time, with different attitudes and values. Shakespeare was not subjected to training in diversity, equity and inclusion. Nor was he presented with a style guide advising him as to the correct pronouns to use for his many crossdressing characters. Thank goodness.

It's just so tedious. And negative. (...) Whether the decolonisers like it or not, Shakespeare *is* an integral part of what it means to be British. To speak English is to utter phrases first conjured up by him. That 'the lady doth protest too much' may have been said of Margaret Thatcher, but Hamlet's mother got there first. We've all been on a 'wild goose chase' and got 'in a pickle' or angrily insisted upon a 'pound of flesh''. And if you've never seen a Shakespeare play because you think 'it's all Greek to me', then you are using his words without even knowing it.

For once, the Englishness is not what the decolonisers find 'problematic', to use their favourite word. What troubles them is the perception of the Bard as a 'universal' genius. According to the fevered imagination of our cultural elite, a belief that Shakespeare's plays represent the pinnacle of human achievement for all time and across all continents 'benefits the ideology of white European supremacy'. Shakespeare's fans can't win. Celebrate the Bard for being British and you'll be accused of nationalism. But celebrate his universal appeal and you're in the firing line for promoting white supremacy.

Just as Shakespeare is integral to being British, his work also absolutely has universal value. (...) His genius is to transcend racial, national and generational differences and point to what we have in common, rather than what divides us. That Shakespeare is English is incidental to the common humanity in his work, but it is entirely relevant to the historical circumstances that made his prodigious talent possible. To boil all this down to 'white supremacy' is ridiculous.

The Birthplace Trust's real concern is to stop British people taking pride in Shakespeare and seeing his work as a symbol of 'British cultural superiority'. (...) If even Shakespeare's custodians cannot say that his work is the pinnacle of human achievement, then the Bard has no need of enemies. The barbarians are not at the gate, they are sitting in the stalls.

<b>Spiked!</b> voir NIB 3	<b>a bard</b> = a composer, singer or declaimer of epic or heroic verse
<b>what rubbish</b> = what nonsense: quelle bêtise	<b>a custodian:</b> ici, une conservatrice/un conservateur
<b>self-loathing</b> = self-hate	<b>to blurt out:</b> laisser échapper
<b>to get hot under the collar</b> = to be angry	<b>a thug:</b> un voyou, un casseur
<b>allegedly:</b> soi-disant	<b>diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)</b> are organizational frameworks that seek to promote the fair treatment and full participation of all people, particularly groups who have historically been underrepresented or subject to discrimination based on identity or disability.
<b>tedious</b> = boring and frustrating	<b>to be on a wild goose chase</b> = chasing after something that we will never catch, or pursuing some course that will lead nowhere ( <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> )
<b>a pickle</b> = to be in a difficult situation ( <i>The Tempest</i> )	<b>to insist upon a pound of flesh</b> means that you are determined to get what is yours by right ( <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> )
<b>the pinnacle</b> = the highest point, the culmination	<b>incidental:</b> accidentel, secondaire
<b>to boil down to:</b> revenir à, se résumer à	<b>the stalls</b> (UK): les fauteuils d'orchestre