



RUSSIA

THEN:

Candidate Trump vowed to ease the chill in ties with the US nuclear foe, and suggested he was eager for an alliance with Russian President Vladimir Putin. "If he says great things about me, I'm going to say great things about him," Mr Trump said last September.

NOW:

On Wednesday, however, Mr Trump said he had growing concerns about Russia's support of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. "Right now, we're not getting along with Russia at all – we may be at an all-time low in terms of a relationship with Russia," Mr Trump said during a news conference at the White House. He also questioned Moscow's role in a suspected chemical attack on Syria's rebel-held Khan Sheikhoun town on April 4 that killed at least 87 people, including many children.



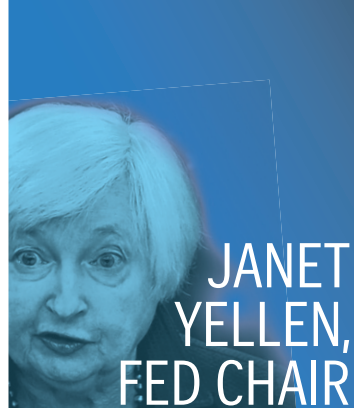
SYRIA

THEN:

Earlier this month, the Trump administration seemed to have accepted an ultra-realist approach that would allow Mr Assad to remain in control of his shattered nation, a stance at odds with the previous US administration. Mr Trump had previously said the US should stay out of the Syrian conflict.

NOW:

Last week, Mr Trump ordered missile strikes against a Syrian airbase the US believes was involved in the gas attack on Khan Sheikhoun. On Wednesday, Mr Trump said it was time to end Syria's civil war, as he branded Mr Assad a butcher. "Vicious slaughter of innocent civilians with chemical weapons, including the barbaric killing of small and helpless children and babies, must be forcefully rejected by any nation that values human life," he told reporters.



JANET YELLEN, FED CHAIR

THEN:

During the campaign, Mr Trump had accused Dr Yellen of manipulating interest rates to help former president Barack Obama politically, as lower rates boosted economic growth. He suggested that Dr Yellen and her colleagues' policy of maintaining interest rates near zero could inflate a "bubble where you go into a very massive recession".

NOW:

When asked by The Wall Street Journal on Wednesday whether he would look for a replacement for Dr Yellen when her term expires next year, the President suggested that she might be allowed to stay on. "I like her. I respect her," he said. "It's very early."



US EXIM BANK

THEN:

During the presidential campaign, Mr Trump initially opposed the bank, calling it "feather bedding". He said in 2015: "I don't like it because I don't think it's necessary." He said "the bank mainly helps a few companies – and these are companies that can do very well without it".

NOW:

Mr Trump told The Wall Street Journal he supports the Export-Import Bank, an agency that subsidises US exports. "It turns out that, first of all, lots of small companies are really helped," he said. "Instinctively, you would say 'Isn't that a ridiculous thing'... But actually, it's a very good thing."