



TRUMP'S ABOUT-FACE

Within the space of a few hours on Wednesday, US President Donald Trump abandoned his positions on six issues that were key to his election campaign. His most dramatic U-turn was on Nato, which he declared is “no longer obsolete” during a joint news conference with visiting Nato Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg. China is also not a currency manipulator, he said in another significant shift during an interview with The Wall Street Journal. Here’s a look at his views on six issues during the presidential election campaign and now, after nearly 100 days in office.



THEN:

As recently as late February, Mr Trump declared China the “grand champions” of currency manipulation. On the campaign trail he frequently accused China of keeping its currency artificially low against the dollar to make Chinese exports cheaper, “stealing” American manufacturing jobs.

NOW:

“They’re not currency manipulators,” Mr Trump told The Wall Street Journal, days before the release of a closely watched Treasury Department report on the currency practices of major US trading partners. He told the Journal he changed his mind on China because the country hasn’t manipulated the yuan for months and because he needed Chinese cooperation on North Korea.



THEN:

During the campaign, Mr Trump said the military alliance was outdated and costing the United States too much money. He suggested replacing it with an alternative organisation focusing on counter-terrorism and repeatedly used the word “obsolete” to describe Nato. Earlier this year, he said Nato was “obsolete because it wasn’t taking care of terror”.

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During a press conference with Mr Stoltenberg on Wednesday, Mr Trump said his past comments had led the alliance to make changes that satisfied his concerns. “I said it was obsolete. It’s no longer obsolete,” he added.