

Trump pulls punches at global summit, making nice with foes and avoiding feuds

Notes & Cues:	<p>Article:</p> <p>President Donald Trump managed to spend two days in the company of world leaders he has long antagonized without any visible eruptions.</p> <p>There were no feuds, or at least none publicly detected, as Air Force One took off from Buenos Aires on Saturday night. Trump signed on to a statement of principles with the other leaders at the Group of 20 summit, the kind of document he refused to endorse at a summit in Canada a few months earlier. He curtailed his ambitions by canceling his meeting with Putin, and made nice with the European leader he most regularly trashes, German Chancellor Angela Merkel.</p> <p>Trump’s self-restraint continued as he answered a few questions from reporters. When one asked whether he had any regrets about his past criticisms of Bush and his family, Trump paused for a moment and then decided not to engage.</p> <p>The G-20 is a multilateral organization, but Trump and some of his advisers are hostile to the concept of group decision-making. So Trump’s assent to the joint statement of G-20 leaders reflected a compromise. The document reiterates a shared commitment to a “rules-based international order” and global trade, but includes a critique of the World Trade Organization, a body Trump rails against.</p> <p>Thomas Wright, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, said, “The worry was that things could unravel, so there was a retraction of ambition from the other democratic leaders. They are worried about him creating a fuss over attempts to forge cooperation, which means these summits now are just gatherings of the leaders without a real agenda. That’s the function of Trump.”</p>
Summary:	