

Treaties, which they hold to be so prejudicial to us?

*Hoc It'erus velit, et magno mercentur Atridae.*

I have not think they would venture to affirm, that *France* wishes us the Continuance of those Allies upon those Terms; or, that she has never attempted to prevent such Alliances, as so many Hinderances to the Execution of her Schemes. Were they so ruinous to us, as some would represent them, and the Proceeding so irrational, the *French* would certainly rather encourage, or at least would wink at such a Procedure. We may know whether any Step against the Enemy be right, as well from his Eagerness to oppose, as from our own to take it.

Now if our wisest and best Princes, in all Times, have judg'd a Connection with the Continent absolutely necessary, and Alliances there to be so valuable, as to be purchas'd at the greatest Expence; shall we suppose, that we are so much more powerful, and *France* so much weaker, and the Nature of all Things so much revers'd, that we ought now to trust solely to our own Strength, and suffer the common Enemy, by Force or by Management, to make what Advances he can, whilst we confine ourselves to one single Method of attacking him? Again, if this Enemy abroad has shewn, by his Opposition to our Alliances, that he looks upon them as prejudicial to him, and of Course useful to us, *what shall we think*