

The risks are rising - fascism is waiting to march

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#ows - Occupy Wall Street is being demolished by the New York Police Department as I write. By the sound of it the park they're meant to be 'cleansing' is being destroyed with it.

Seven #occupylsx protestors are in a police station under arrest this morning for a peaceful protest outside the Guildhall - the offices of the City of London.

[Greece and Italy have unelected prime ministers](#) today as the bankers begin to take over governments.

Spain's interest rates are rising - the markets will seek to overthrow its democratic institutions next.

[Germany admits](#) Europe is facing its darkest hour since the second world war - but dithers and does nothing.

Throughout the continent and in the US we face the problem that timid politicians - all of them neoliberal whether from left or right - are frightened to act and do not know what to do if they gathered their courage.

And as [Gideon Rachman says in the FT this morning](#):

Europe, and the world at large, has every reason to hope that Messrs Monti and Papademos can work miracles. For if the technocrats fail to do so, the extremists are waiting in the wings.

In Greece, about a quarter of the electorate now say that they favour parties of the far left, and a further 8 per cent back the nationalist right. Collectively, the political extremes in Greece now muster more support than either of the two mainstream parties. The shape of Italian politics, after the [forced resignation of Silvio Berlusconi](#), is likely to be confused for a while. But Italy has spawned powerful communist and far right movements in the past. In the meantime, Umberto Bossi of the Northern League says that he will relish entering opposition — where he can rail against the EU,

immigrants and southern Italians.

And it's not just in the south, as Rachman points out

The radicalisation of politics is just as visible in the creditor nations of Europe as amongst the debtors. Marine Le Pen of the far right National Front will have a big impact on the 2012 presidential election in France, although she is unlikely to win. In the Netherlands the government is now reliant on the votes of the Freedom party led by Geert Wilders, which is running second in the polls. Austria's far right Freedom party is at level pegging in the polls with the governing People's party. In Finland the nationalist True Finns are still gaining ground and are easily over 20 per cent in the polls.

All of these rising parties rail against "elites", whether in Brussels, Wall Street or their own governments. They are all hostile to globalisation and to immigration, particularly from the Muslim world. Some parts of the European far right, such as the Jobbik party in Hungary, still play on traditional anti-Semitic themes. But others, like Mr Wilders in the Netherlands, are strongly pro-Israel, perhaps because they see the Jewish state as an ally in a clash of civilisations with the Muslim world.

Increasingly, however, Europe's populists are intent on breaking out of the electoral ghetto of hostility to immigration — and are instead stressing economic and eurosceptic themes that have a broader appeal.

This is the risk we face: of fascism, of totalitarianism, of extreme nationalism, of war.

I'm glad it is being said in the press.

Now for heaven's sake - where are the mainstream politicians saying it, and saying that unless democratic institutions now take on and control finance, and act to promote growth the alternative is