

To those who wish to comment here, please comply with t..

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One of the tedious, and recurring themes, of those who come to this blog to object to what I say is that I sometimes choose not to engage with them, I delete them when I think their comments fall outside my comments policy, or that I am short in response to their comments.

I, unsurprisingly, do not agree with any of those observations. I write this blog pretty much in my own time because I don't think anyone funds me to work at 6am when I usually begin blogging for the day, or late at night when I often finish. And in between I actually do the work I am paid for.

However, it seems that those who complain think I am available at their personal beck and call to debate with them endlessly (and tediously) on issues of their choosing that will not achieve any of their objectives regarding their opinions which I usually, and I think entirely appropriately, think to be misguided at best.

As a result I have just updated the [comments policy which now reads as follows](#) (the changes are in italics) and those who don't comply can expect the obvious outcome:

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Comments are welcome on this blog. However, they are moderated with good reason: far too many received are not suitable for publication.

For a comment to be published I must be satisfied that:

1. It is legal;
2. It is polite;
3. It includes an argument that adds value to readers;
4. It appears factually accurate;

5. The commentator is genuine;

6. It is not questioning the fundamental tenets on which this blog is based.

This last point is important. Those who wish to argue that tax havens / secrecy jurisdictions are good things may do so, but not here. Likewise those promoting neoliberal economics may do so, but not here: propagating the delusion that an economy can be accurately modeled using counterfactual propositions about its nature is not something I wish to partake in, and will not allow.

The following are highly likely to be rejected:

1. Abusive and personal comments;

2. Rants;

3. Repetitive commenting from the same person;

4. Comments that duplicate a theme adequately covered by others;

5. Persistent comments from those promoting libertarian ideals far removed from the political mainstream.

*I stress three other things. Firstly, agreement with me is not a condition of a comment being accepted, but disagreement must be reasoned and be offered within the framework of understanding that this blog seeks to promote. This policy is necessary to make the comments section on each blog useful, meaningful and enjoyable for readers.*

*Second, please do not expect me to:*

*a) enter into lengthy debate with you. It's entirely my choice if I wish to do so or not and being rude to me (in a comment, by tweet or in an email) if I have other things to do with my time is unlikely to increase your chance of getting a response;*

*b) do your research for you. If you want to find evidence for something you can find it as well as I can;*

*c) reference every comment I make. I have written several million words on this blog. There is no obligation on me to reiterate them for anyone at any time of their choosing.*

*Thirdly, for those who disagree or think this an act of censorship I have one suggestion to make: please go and start a blog of your own. Free speech is valuable. I support it. It is what permits you to offer your opinion as readily as I offer mine. But nothing requires that I must offer your opinion on my site. To say so is an act of editorial freedom — an issue as important as that of free speech.*