

Has business got the courage to drop the ideological Ri...

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There was a time, not so long ago, when it was reasonable to assume that those on the right wing of politics were 'pro-business'. And, as a matter of fact, they by-and-large delivered what business wanted.

I stress, there was such a time. But in the Anglo-American world that no longer seems to be the case.

Trump's shut down of the Federal government is going to hit business hard, and quite soon. You cannot take more than 5% of spending power out of the economy, as he has, and not see the consequences pretty quickly. Added to his trade wars and other uncertainties, the last thing Trump is doing is giving US business what it really wants. And the tax cuts are already but a memory.

The same is true here. Most of the UK business community does not want Brexit. For some on the left that may be evidence that it is something to do. For those of us who place value on the economy meeting the needs of people it should be seen as a warning that right-wing ideologues have parted company with the community whose interests they claim to promote most of all.

We should not be surprised. After all, the economics that these ideologues subscribe to long since departed from any evidence base as to how business actually worked. And with most of those professing undying faith in free enterprise having never actually taken the risk of working in a business, the necessary experience to know that the theory is wrong is simply absent.

And so we end up with the bizarre fact that the right wing of politics is now intent on destroying value. Let's be clear: the first victims will be those on the margins. They always are. This is why such policies have to be opposed for reasons of social justice. But thereafter business will be hurt badly by them. And the Right does not seem to care. They continue as if business supports them when there is little evidence it really now does on some key issues.

I am not suggesting this will stop the ideologues securing money.

Nor am I saying that this will make them change tack.

What I am hoping is that business, more broadly, might have the sense to realise change - real, fundamental reform of British politics - is also in their interests.

It very obviously is. A strong mixed economy of the sort the Right hates is exactly where business prospers best. But has business got the courage to say that?