

Johnson will need to serve an appropriate sentence

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This is why people have died from Covid in exceptional numbers in the UK, and why many more will do so, as yet:

Trade used to grow at roughly double global GDP — from 1987 to 2007.

Now it barely keeps pace and global growth is itself anaemic and the decline in global poverty is beginning to slow.

And in that context, we are starting to hear some bizarre autarkic rhetoric, when barriers are going up, and when there is a risk that new diseases such as coronavirus will trigger a panic and a desire for market segregation that go beyond what is medically rational to the point of doing real and unnecessary economic damage, then at that moment humanity needs some government somewhere that is willing at least to make the case powerfully for freedom of exchange, some country ready to take off its Clark Kent spectacles and leap into the phone booth and emerge with its cloak flowing as the supercharged champion, of the right of the populations of the earth to buy and sell freely among each other.

And here in Greenwich in the first week of February 2020, I can tell you in all humility that the UK is ready for that role.

That was [Boris Johnson on 3 February 2020](#) when the risks of Covid-19 were already known.

Johnson chose to be exceptional in pursuit of free market ideology, come what may.

That is precisely what he is still doing.

Tens of thousands have already lost their lives for that. Tens of thousands more have been harmed, maybe for life.

And tens of thousands more will be now, for sure.

All for the sake of an ideology, and an ideology at that which has driven our planet to the brink of irreversible climate change.

Other countries say our Covid policies are now a threat to the world. They are.

They are also a massive threat to us all, here in the UK.

And this was all by choice.

I hope that one day Johnson is held to account for this. His crimes need to be called out. That is what they are. And they require that he serve an appropriate sentence.