

Running away is not the answer

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I [noted this report](#) in the Guardian:

New Zealand, Iceland, the UK, Tasmania and Ireland are the places best suited to survive a global collapse of society, according to a study.

The researchers said human civilisation was “in a perilous state” due to the highly interconnected and energy-intensive society that had developed and the environmental damage this had caused.

A collapse could arise from shocks, such as a severe financial crisis, the impacts of the climate crisis, destruction of nature, an even worse pandemic than Covid-19 or a combination of these, the scientists said.

I did so in the context of a question I asked on Twitter yesterday:

<https://twitter.com/RichardJMurphy/status/1420337719864135681?s=20>

I was expecting climate change to be the predominant answer to that question. For some it was, but the largest number, by far, suggested our biggest problem was our leader, putting the threat he creates in various ways, but all making clear that the way he is undermining the democracy that we live in is the greatest challenge that we face.

I am not pretending for a moment that a couple of hundred replies is scientific. But, I also think them illuminating. The message was that we cannot run away from the climate crisis, a financial crisis, or anything much else come to that if the politics that enables them all is predominant and destroying society from within, and that is what is happening.

The premise that we can run away is, then, wrong.

The places to which these scientists say we can run have no solution to the political-economic problems that we actually face.

Unless we face down the threat to society that comes from the far-right nowhere is going to be exempt, least of all the UK.

It's folly to pretend otherwise and time to end giving space to the idea that it is possible to do so.