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I can't be the only person who is finding the events unfolding in Afghanistan very difficult to watch.

I hear all the excuses from Biden.

I suspect that Johnson will produce some hopeless explanation for our role.

But whatever either - and others involved in the collusion that kept the Taliban at some sort of bay for 20 years - might say the reality on the ground is what matters to me at this moment.

There, whatever the corruption of the administration they served, there are real people with real principles and real abilities who used them to further a real idea that they thought would benefit the people of Afghanistan and who were supported in that belief by the UK and USA. Those people now face torture and death for doing so, and long term oppression if they survive such fates. That to me is what really matters right now.

I do, of course, support the demand that these people be able to leave Afghanistan and be given the opportunity to settle here, amongst other places. So far, the UK reaction to requests from people like interpreters has been shocking at every level. The only thing that has been on display is our racist indifference. That has to change.

But even if we do open the doors that does not everyone will be able to leave. Some will be forced to stay. And for them, what is their fate? Something akin to that of all who are on the wrong side of totalitarian fanatics.

First they come for the politicians.

Then they come for those who administered their ideas.

After that they seek to wipe out the academics and intellectuals who can voice the opposition.

That means they will also silence the teachers who propagate the ideas of those intellectuals.

Journalists will also be at considerable risk.

And then, having taken control, such regimes move on to oppress those they consider the enemies on the ground.

In a country as divided as Afghanistan there will be racial abuse.

There will also be religious abuse of those who have not complied with the strictures of Islam as the Taliban see it.

But as worrying will be the oppression of women, who must be half of the Afghan community, and who will now be denied almost all their rights.

For all in any of these groups the grip of fear must be very real today. I can hardly conceive of how that feels.

That fear will be very short term for some. For others, it is about the complete loss of hope that this regime will represent for them if they can make it through the next few weeks.

We should hang our heads in shame for letting this happen.

These people's fate will be our responsibility, whatever the US and UK political establishments wish to say.

But we should remember something else as well. What the Taliban will do is only what any oppressive regime does. I suspect they will be more violent than most. But their priorities are much the same as any government seeking to rule by force.

All oppressors follow variations on the process the Taliban will follow.

All seek to take out broadly the same enemies - although few would pick women as one of the main targets to the extent that the Taliban does; ethnic minorities are more commonplace. That makes the Taliban unusual. But only because of their variation on a theme, and not because the theme is so unusual.

And remember that around the world there are those who are oppressing, who seek to undermine democracy and who are seeking to impose government without recourse to the opportunity for the population to change those who rule them. That is what fascism does. And they too would seek to pick off their enemies, some way or other.

I am not distracting from the concern about Afghanistan when I say that around the world others need to take note. The fate of those who uphold human rights for all is

closely related to the fate of liberals in Afghanistan. We live in a dangerous world and it is always wrong to think that such things cannot happen elsewhere. The evidence is that they can.

And that's why the backtracking in Afghanistan was so dangerous. We live in a world that cannot be indifferent to human rights anywhere. The UK and USA have indicated that they are indifferent in that way. The fascists will have noted.