

The seeds of destruction for democracy have been sown

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Russia, India and Hungary are in alliance in 2022. China hovers nearby them. Using varying degrees of manipulation of the democratic process (total in China, heavily so in Russia, deeply manipulated in Hungary, and corrupted in all four) governments are created that are the antithesis of those that provide the representative accountability that is at the core of actual democracy.

In each case the goal is to use the methodology of fascism to corrupt truth, to sow deliberate division, to manipulate opinion through misinformation, and to in every case support the supposed strong man who holds in their sole hands the destiny of the nation.

Do we call all these states fascist? Does it really matter? Their authoritarian contempt for those not considered aligned with them is all that matters. When Orban can include President Zelensky of Ukraine in his list of enemies on the day when evidence of genocide by Russian forces in Ukraine is revealed you know the type of person we are dealing with.

The threat from this alliance is real. The methods they use are also familiar in the UK. Our current government is but one step at most away from many of them. Trump might have been even closer, and there is no guarantee that he, or a look-alike will not be back in the White House in 2024.

The demise of liberal democracy is on the cards. Most are indifferent to their governments, wishing only to be left in peace today, ignoring the consequence for their tomorrow. Of those who care for politics, those on the right are too often already corrupted and those on the left too in awe of neoliberalism to believe an alternative possibilities.

In 1992 political scientist Francis Fukuyama declared the end of history. Liberal democracy had won, he thought. The threat of Marxism was over. But he was wrong. The seeds of the destruction of democracy were sown by Hayek and Friedman. Their thinking, focussed on the success of the few at cost to the many, is destroying

liberalism and democracy, and is recreating the tyranny Hayek supposedly feared, but which through his indifference to democracy he was willing to embrace.

Is there a way out of this evil? I don't know. But I am not giving up.