

It will take luck and political genius to avoid unrest ...

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I have already mentioned commenting on Radio 2 yesterday, and what was discussed, [in another post this morning](#).

An hour or so after doing that I was in Ely, where I live, and met someone who had heard me. He asked whether I thought things were really as bad as I portrayed on air, and I suggested that if anything they were worse.

The acquaintance I was talking to is, I know, a person with little interest in politics. He treats me as a bit of a curiosity precisely because I am fascinated by the topic. That made his next observation the more interesting. He suggested that we will not get through the next year without unrest. On reflection, he called it rioting. And what is more he thought it not just energy prices that would deliver this. Food prices, mortgages (a matter, I know, that much concerns him) and failing services would all, he thought add to the woes.

I think he may be right. We discussed the poll tax protests of the early 90s, when he was in Scotland and knew the feelings it created, and agreed that this time the anger would be very much worse.

Of course, we could both be wrong. Truss might have the most amazing luck, or she might be a genius political operator at a level I and many others have not yet realised. Both are possible, I admit. But luck looks right out of stock at this moment and yesterday's acceptance speech by Truss was well up there in the pantheon of her great oratory moments, alongside her cheese and pork market speeches, and did not offer the slightest bit of political hope as a result.

I fear my acquaintance might be right. He was sure of it. And of all the people who would have predicted such a thing I would have put him amongst the least likely.