

We need voices in the mainstream media who are willing ...

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Martin Wolf [has this to say in today's FT](#):

Are we witnessing the return of fascism? Is Donald Trump, to take the most important contemporary example, a fascist? Is France's Marine Le Pen? Or Hungary's Viktor Orbán? The answer depends on what one means by "fascism". But what we are now seeing is not just authoritarianism. It is authoritarianism with fascistic characteristics.

The article is worth reading if you can get behind the pay wall.

It is notable for including UKIP in the definition of parties of concern to Martin Wolf.

What is also telling is his conclusion, which I think it is fair to quote it in full given the significance of this issue:

The fascism of Germany or Italy of the 1920s and 1930s does not now exist, except perhaps in Russia. But the same could be said of other traditions. Conservatism is not what it was a century ago, as is true of liberalism and socialism. The ideas and concrete proposals of political traditions alter with society, the economy and technology. That is no surprise. But these traditions still have a common core of attitudes to history, politics and society. This is also true of fascism. History does not repeat itself. But it rhymes. It is rhyming now. Do not be complacent. It is dangerous to take a ride on fascism.

Martin Wolf is right. It is dangerous to take a ride on fascism. But that is very obviously what he thinks the world is doing, and so do I.

I also applaud the FT for having the courage to address this issue. We need voices in the mainstream media who are willing to call out fascism. There is far too much of it about. It is far too tolerated. It is profoundly dangerous. It is time that we recognised all these things.