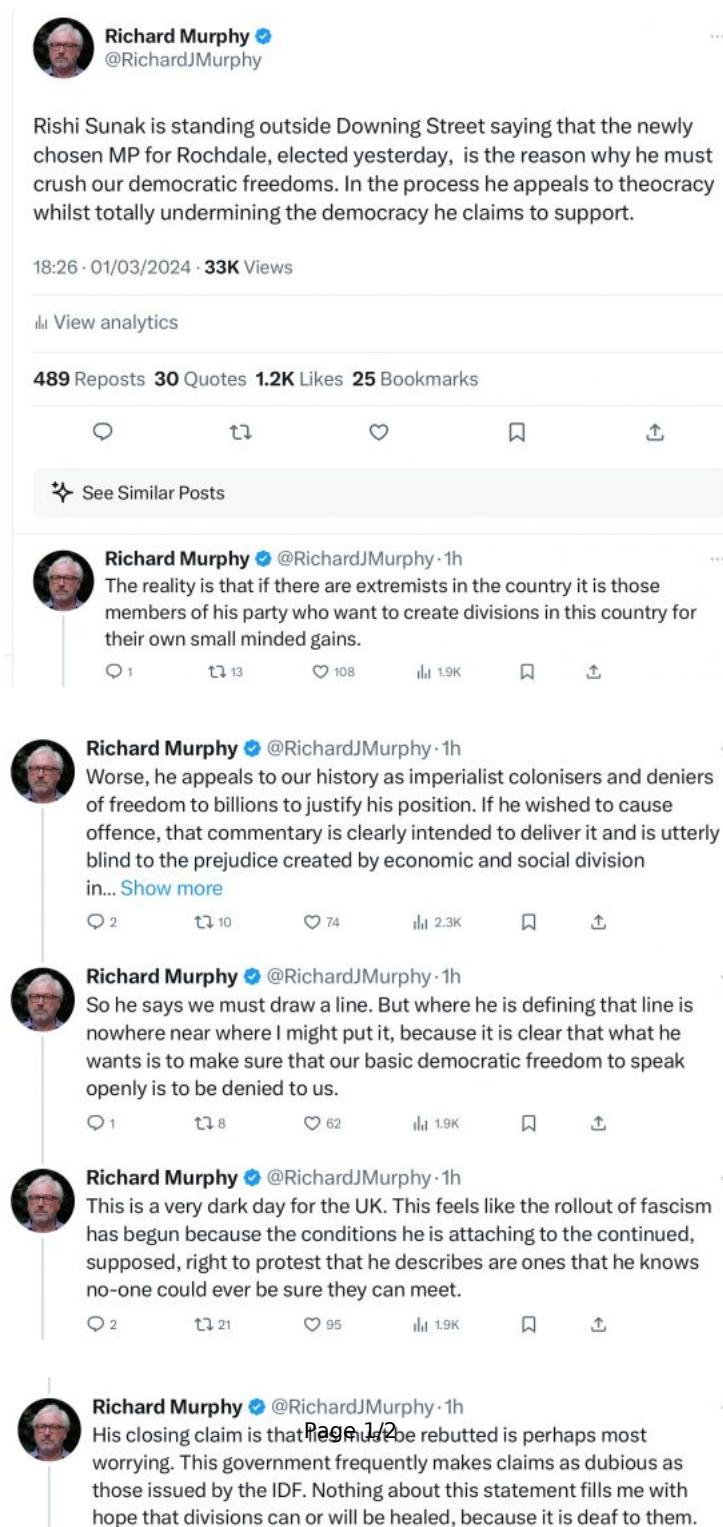


Funding the Future

What happens when the Prime Minister thinks that the el...

Published: January 13, 2026, 9:57 am

I posted this thread in Twitter last night:



Richard Murphy  @RichardJMurphy

Rishi Sunak is standing outside Downing Street saying that the newly chosen MP for Rochdale, elected yesterday, is the reason why he must crush our democratic freedoms. In the process he appeals to theocracy whilst totally undermining the democracy he claims to support.

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The reality is that if there are extremists in the country it is those members of his party who want to create divisions in this country for their own small minded gains.

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Richard Murphy  @RichardJMurphy · 1h

Worse, he appeals to our history as imperialist colonisers and deniers of freedom to billions to justify his position. If he wished to cause offence, that commentary is clearly intended to deliver it and is utterly blind to the prejudice created by economic and social division in... [Show more](#)

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So he says we must draw a line. But where he is defining that line is nowhere near where I might put it, because it is clear that what he wants is to make sure that our basic democratic freedom to speak openly is to be denied to us.

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Richard Murphy  @RichardJMurphy · 1h

This is a very dark day for the UK. This feels like the rollout of fascism has begun because the conditions he is attaching to the continued, supposed, right to protest that he describes are ones that he knows no-one could ever be sure they can meet.

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Richard Murphy  @RichardJMurphy · 1h

His closing claim is that [Page 1/2](#) to be rebutted is perhaps most worrying. This government frequently makes claims as dubious as those issued by the IDF. Nothing about this statement fills me with hope that divisions can or will be healed, because it is deaf to them.

I then followed up with this:



Richard Murphy  @RichardJMurphy · 44m

The only obvious interpretation of Sunak's comments tonight is to understand that he sees the British electorate as extremists whose right to exercise their free choice at the ballot box must be constrained. I wonder, will we be getting a general election after all?

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I am not sure that there is much to add barring these observations.

Sunak will not call out Braverman's racism.

Or Anderson's Islamophobia.

He won't even describe Islamophobia as such, but will use the term anti-Semitism at any moment, often inappropriately.

He still claims the public wants his Rwanda policy which will punish people guilty of nothing except having fled other countries in fear.

His rhetoric on small boats is intended to create division, mistrust and fear in society, and is succeeding in doing so.

He will not condemn Netanyahu for genocide, which British policy is supporting.

And he is the person whose laws are already denying the right to protest whilst also denying the right to justify protest by stating the reason for it when being tried for the crime of, for example, waking slowly.

This is not a man who can talk about unity, reconciliation or common values when his modus operandi is to create 'others' to vilify.