

What will the comfortable classes do?

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The far-right rioted again last night.

Fuelled by racial hatred, misinformation, disinformation, and utterly inappropriate comments from Farage, hundreds rioted in London and Hartlepool.

It is important to note that the numbers are small.

It is as important to note that these actions are as clearly co-ordinated as was the rioting in Southport the day before.

What we are seeing is deliberate provocation, fuelled by racial hatred.

It was the cynical manipulation of that sentiment that led to Brexit, and all the divisions that flowed from it.

These sentiments mimic the racist attacks of Trump and others on Obama in the US, which sentiment is now being viciously turned on Kamala Harris by the spreading of total untruths. Trump's aim there would appear to be to make racism acceptable.

And this is how fascism works. Undoubtedly, and even justified, grievances that people have are inflamed by the blaming of 'others', who are usually immigrants or people considered to be members of ethnic minorities, who are blamed for the perceived injustice. The solution then ceases to be the resolution of the injustice and turns into hatred of the 'other'.

That works for those fomenting the hatred.

It is only too late that those used by the creators of fascist narratives to create the disruption in society realise that they are the actual 'other' those creating the fascist sentiment might actually dislike most of all, and for whom they can all easily become expendable, as Putin is proving.

What is the answer to this? I keep saying it is to root out the cause of the grievances in

our society. We do have inequality. We have government failing to invest in regions. We have fear about climate change. And in areas where unemployment is a threat and wages are low of course there is economic vulnerability.

It is a falsehood to pretend these things cannot be addressed. They could be. But that would upset those who have become very comfortable after years of austerity. There is a significant class who have done very well from Osborne and all who have followed him, with it looking horribly like Reeves wants to join their number right now.

We cannot defeat the far-right without changing the economy we have, which delivers far too much reward to too few. The balance has to be reset. But will that happen? That's the question, because it's not the rioters who will really deliver fascism, even if that is what they want. It's those who sit by in comfort and refuse to change anything so that those treated unfairly get a fair share who will really deliver fascism.

What will the comfortable classes do?