

Are the far-right now openly seeking the end of democracy?

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As the [Guardian](#) has reported this afternoon:

South Korean president Yoon Suk Yeol declared an “emergency martial law” on Tuesday, accusing the country’s opposition of controlling the parliament, sympathising with North Korea and paralysing the government with anti-state activities.

Yoon made the announcement during a televised briefing, vowing to “eradicate pro-North Korean forces and protect the constitutional democratic order.” It wasn’t immediately clear how the steps would affect the country’s governance and democracy.

Let's be clear: the opposition in question is made up of democratically elected politicians.

Let's also be clear that no one in their right mind could come to the conclusion that the South Korean President has because no political party in South Korea exists to support its northern neighbour. They might not agree with the far-right line for the President, but they do not promote a pro-North Korean line.

So what is this all about? There is only one reasonable conclusion, which is likely to become ever more apparent as this plays out, and this is a Presidential coup to seize power put in place by a President whose own electoral support has been fading.

There is in this a precedent that looks to be horribly uncomfortable as to its consequences. The official opposition in South Korea appears to have been fulfilling its duty. It has challenged the government and the President. It has called for investigations into corruption. And it has demanded accountability. The result is a suspension of parliament and the imposition of martial law.

Who else might consider that sometime soon?

And where does this end?

Are the far-right now openly seeking the end of democracy? It is beginning to look like it. This might end in something very much worse than tears.