

# This VE Day is not a reason to celebrate. It should all...

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If you listen to or watch the news today, you will find that the most important matter to report is that, apparently, we won World War II 80 years ago.

That is not news.

That is jingoism.

It is also quite absurd. I've been around long enough to recall maybe sixty VE days now, and to have known many people who were in the armed forces in WWII.

One of my grandfathers died as a result of that war and has a war grave. And when I was young, no one celebrated VE Day as it is now.

Perhaps back then, people knew the price that had been paid.

Perhaps people also understood at that time how big the fascist threat had been and that it was more important to think about how to prevent it from ever happening again than to celebrate the military victory, which had been necessitated by the failure to address the conditions that gave rise to fascism.

But then, what happens now is not a celebration. It is an enactment put on for current political purposes. It is all part of the 'bread and circuses' routine now beloved of all politicians who want to distract us from the fact that most people in this country are being exploited. The trouble for them is that growing numbers of people are now aware of that fact, which is why support for fascism is again increasing, including in significant numbers here in the UK this time.

There is, then, nothing to celebrate today.

Instead, we should note that we have not learned the lessons of history.

And we should note that the Tories and Labour are now marching to the far-right's drumbeat as they offer ever more extreme policies of hate in their stupid desire to

emulate its racist and oppressive agendas.

Eighty years ago, we won a victory in Europe. Today, we are losing the fight against fascism at home, and those leading the celebrations are responsible for that. I find nothing that makes me want to wave a flag in that fact.