

# Another definition of fascism

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John Christensen shared this definition of fascism with me yesterday.

The subject has always been of concern to us. In January 2005, we had a meeting in the Pizza Express opposite the British Library to discuss how to develop the idea of tax justice, which by then clearly had the capability of becoming our full-time occupations if only we could find the funding to keep our families going (as in due course we did).

During that meeting, we conducted what was, in effect, a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats analysis. I clearly recall we agreed on the threat. It was fascism. Nothing has changed. This is the list John has always used to describe the characteristics of fascism when, as I noted the other day, the one thing a fascist will never do is describe themselves as such:

### HALLMARKS OF PROTO-FASCISM

- private enforcers at political rallies
- discrediting of the free press
- hyper-militarism
- xenophobia
- tolerance for attacks on the marginalized
- appeals to a glorious (mythic) past
- strong-arm rhetoric
- threats to crush (purported) enemies
- thinly veiled racism
- open contempt for immigrants
- promises of future greatness via the magical impact of the great leader
- insistence on allegiance to symbols of patriotism
- threats to undermine the judiciary
- discrediting of elected officials/bodies
- attempts to circumvent legislative process
- relentless blaming of foreign powers for domestic woes
- demands for unwavering loyalty to leader

The list is helpful, and far too familiar now, given the behaviour of too many politicians both in the USA and here in the UK.