

Retirement? Forget it

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Robert Reich [wrote a post yesterday](#) on why he cannot retire, and it resonated with me because quite often someone suggests I should slow down. They wonder why I continue to write, make videos, and post daily.

They say, "Why not just take it easy, step back, and let others get on with things?"

The answer is simple. I can't. I have things to do and say, and most especially, I am not going to sit back when democracy is under threat, when inequality is rising, when the climate crisis deepens, and when political leaders peddle division and hate instead of offering hope.

We are in an emergency where authoritarians, in the United States, here and elsewhere, are working to dismantle the institutions of a free society.

In America, Trump is centre stage.

In the UK, we have our own versions in Farage, Badenoch, Jenrick, and even Starmer, who, as Labour MP Clive Lewis is now openly suggesting, is paving the way for a far-right government.. The methods might differ by place and person, but the purpose is the same: to entrench the power of a narrow, wealthy, white, male elite at the expense of everyone else.

Let's be clear about what this means:

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Tyrants cannot be appeased. They treat compromise as weakness and always demand more.

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The use of force against citizens, without reason or accountability, undermines the foundations of democracy, but that is what Trump is doing, Farage is openly proposing, and which politicians from Labour and the Tories are openly supporting by suggesting

that the European Convention on Human Rights now be suspended, in selective cases, which means it has no effect at all.

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The suspension of due process, as all of them are proposing, violates every principle of justice.

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Replacing civil rights and the promotion of respect for diversity with the language of “tradition” and “order” is code for white supremacy and patriarchal control.

Seen together, these are not isolated events. They are part of a pattern to promote the rise of white Christian male nationalism, dressed up as patriotism but intent on dismantling equality, pluralism, and democracy itself.

More than that, it is about placing most people in economic servitude to an elite because they will become too frightened to protest about it.

This is why I write, post, and speak out every day. The stakes are too high not to do so, and silence or retreat would mean complicity, whilst despair only helps those who would prefer us to give up.

I am not interested in “retirement” while this fight is underway. I keep going because I believe in and care for people, their values, and their right to a better future, and I happen to be blessed with the health and energy to keep saying that.

I believe that together, we can get through this. Together, we can resist authoritarianism. Together, we can build a more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable society.

We will prevail.

And you can help. These are some things you can do:

Action points

Here’s how you can help turn these convictions into change:

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Share my videos and blog posts widely. Please share my blog posts and YouTube videos with friends, colleagues, and family. A conversation started is a step towards change, even if it may be an uncomfortable journey at times.

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Challenge falsehoods. When you hear lies about the economy, migrants, public services, or “culture wars,” counter them with facts and arguments from this blog.

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Engage with doubters. Invite sceptical friends or relatives to watch a video or read a piece here. Sometimes hearing it in another voice makes the difference.

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Keep talking. This is especially important. Discuss these issues at work, in community groups, and online. Authoritarians thrive on silence; democracy thrives on conversation.

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Stay hopeful and connected. Despair feeds the powerful. Action, however small, keeps democracy alive.

Together, those steps matter. Thank you if you can do any of them, whenever, however, and even if it feels like not much.