

Has the coup already happened?

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The New York Times [began an email](#) I received overnight by saying:

Today, I'm talking to my colleague Damien Cave, who wrote a great piece about the global crackdown on free speech that now includes the United States. (Spoiler alert: Jimmy Kimmel is back. But free speech is not.)

The acknowledgement is appropriate. Trump has moved the US into the category of those states where fascism demands that free speech be curtailed so that the cult of the leader can be maintained. The First Amendment might still exist on paper, but the mainstream media channels will be self-censoring from now on: the end of free speech is nigh, and the New York Times knows and acknowledges it.

The same is happening here. Yesterday, the Labour Party members in conference voted to acknowledge that Israel is undertaking a genocide in Gaza. Luke Akehurst MP, one of the most vile people (in my opinion) to be elected to that office in a long time, roundly criticised it for doing so, rolling out the now ridiculous argument of it not recognising that the October 7 2023 attack had happened, when that could never, whatever happened then, ever justify the actions of Israel that have followed since then.

Then Ed Miliband (who now looks skeletal) told Channel 4 News that he could not comment on this as he did not have the relevant legal experience to do so, lying plainly and straightforwardly when doing so, because this is not a legal issue: all that is required is to witness what is going on in plain sight.

And later in the evening, Keir Starmer announced that he was backing the Trump / Netanyahu peace plan for Gaza, about which Palestinians have not been consulted, and about which the only option presented to them is to agree, or Israel will be permitted to finish the job in Gaza.

By doing so, Starmer rewarded Israel for its genocide.

Doing so, he also ignored the rights of Palestinians and refused to acknowledge their right to statehood, which he claimed to have recognised only last week.

Instead, he supported its occupation and redevelopment by what will, in effect, be a Trump-directed property organisation, working with Israel to make a new resort destination where Palestinians now live, all for the benefit of the Israeli tourism industry.

As The Spectator notes in a mail this morning:

Under the plan, an international supervisory body – provisionally entitled the Board of Peace – would oversee an apolitical committee of Palestinians running Gaza day-to-day. The board would be chaired by President Trump and would include other international figures, most prominently one Sir Tony Blair. It would also call for an immediate ceasefire, the release of all remaining hostages in exchange for 2,000 Palestinian detainees, the withdrawal of the Israel Defence Forces from Gaza, and full disarmament of Hamas. The President cannot be faulted for his ambition.

I can assure you, he can be. As can Trump and Starmer. Both are lining up to support Zionist oppression.

And where is free speech in all this?

It was certainly not at the Labour Party conference, which, as usual, Starmer is ignoring.

And nor was it at the Trump / Netanyahu press conference, where the pair - both of whom should be heading for the Hague for what they are doing - refused to take questions. So much for press freedom.

Stand back from all of this, and you cannot help but think three things.

First, there is a globally backed fascist coup going on, with Netanyahu at its epicentre, Trump gleefully supporting it, and with Starmer cheering from the sidelines, all of them willingly supporting genocide (UK arms sales to Israel were at a record high in June this year, we also learned last night)

Second, there is nothing Jewish about this coup. I am certain of this, and comments from within Israel itself prove that. Just read what [Hareetz](#) has to say. **It may be Zionist, and it may be fascist, but it has nothing to do with Jewishness. Instead, it is all about seizing the power to control. Recognising this means that criticising what is going on has nothing to do with anti-Semitism, which is, however, being cynically exploited by some to provide cover for what is happening.**

Third, the coup is far from over. Just look at the now widespread belief that the Brit Card is likely to be provided by some form of joint venture between the far-right Tech Bro, Peter Thiel and Tony Blair's son Euan - which rumours may not be true of course, but which are widely circulating, nonetheless - and the feeling that some form of conspiracy is taking place is hard to resist.

It is as if we are being occupied, taken over, manipulated and controlled without our consent and with the active connivance of our own government, which would appear to be being run for the benefit of absolutely anyone but us, and that there is nothing we can do about what is happening as all our freedoms begin to vanish before our eyes.

I have always rejected conspiracy theories. They rarely serve a purpose. Except, this does not feel like a conspiracy anymore. It feels like reality. And it feels like it is happening, and happening now.

My question is, have we - like the States - already been occupied by a far-right government that reached office via the debased form of electoral system that too many in this country still call democratic, which government is now being run for the benefit of a very few far-right big businesses and no one else? The possibility that this could have already happened suddenly feels frighteningly real.

Poll

[poll id="216"]

Taking further action

If you want to write a letter to your MP on the issues raised in this blog post, there is a ChatGPT prompt to assist you in doing so, with full instructions, [here](#).

One word of warning, though: please ensure you have the correct MP. ChatGPT can get it wrong.

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