

Be careful what you ask for when it comes to the BBC

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The BBC was reported to be in crisis yesterday.

It is not. It is possible that some errors have been made. And every organisation makes them, on occasion. So does every person alive. That the BBC has is not, then, news. Nor is it a scandal. Differences of opinion on such issues will arise. Apologise when it goes wrong, by all means. But in a massive organisation, such things happen.

And if the BBC made an error, it was in not making clear that there was a cut in a broadcast clip. The message was, in my opinion, not wrong. The error was not serious, then.

And does Trump have a hope of winning a libel claim, let alone one for \$1 billion? [Not at all, in my opinion.](#)

Meanwhile, people have gone, accepting the blame. I suspect they have had enough of the hard-right, arch-Tory campaign that appears to be led by BBC Board member and Tory, [Robbie Gibb](#), seemingly aimed at ending impartiality in the BBC and to replace it with right-wing bias, which appears to be winning, and from members of which campaign the leaks now embarrassing the BBC might have emanated, because they had to come from someone. I don't blame those quitting, but with their departure, that should be it.

But it won't be because this fracas has nothing to do with what has supposedly happened. What is, instead, happening is that the rich and powerful who hate the BBC's challenge to their control of the media, and who, almost without exception, support the far-right parties both here and in the USA, are exploiting this situation to foment hatred of a state institution, as they always do.

I am no fan of BBC News. It is horribly biased against the left, unions, ordinary people, the people of Gaza, Jews who do not support Netanyahu, the Scottish independence movement, and many others. Its support for the rise of the far right in the UK has been reprehensible. It is absurd to suggest otherwise. The evidence is overwhelming. But before anyone on the left agrees that the BBC should go, be careful what you ask for.

There are reasonable questions to ask about the influence of some groups on the BBC.

There are reasons to argue that its idea of impartiality, which often involves platforming those with extreme views, is absurd, inherently biased and even harms its credibility. But, have no doubt that those wanting the BBC gone are of far-right inclination and want something in the style of GB News (which Gibb advised) to replace it.

So, argue for reforming the BBC by all means. But please don't argue that it should go. That would be to give the far-right exactly what they want, which is the end of any chance of accountable media.