

## Cracking omlettes

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No one cooks an omelette without cracking an egg.

No one starts a blog on political economy thinking they will keep everyone happy.

No one writes such a blog for nearly 20 years and expects everyone to agree with all that they say.

No one makes proposals of the sort I do and thinks they won't upset somebody, sometimes.

No one undertakes this task for that long without having, necessarily, to create a reasonably thick skin.

Take it as read, I know all these things.

If, however, you feel compelled to write to me saying:

- \* I'm a dismal failure despite nearly 1,000,000 people reading this blog last month.
- \* I am utterly clueless, even though there is quite a lot of evidence to the contrary.
- \* The whole world ignores me, even though you felt compelled not to do so.
- \* I am a c\*\*t, a t\*\*t, or some other such description that you think it appropriate to use.
- \* I am suffering a mental breakdown and I'm in need of serious medical help.
- \* Or, something else that you think is ingeniously offensive.

then please do note that the spam button on this blog, the blocking mechanism here, and the spam button on my email account all exist for a reason.

I recognise you have an opinion.

I recognise that you have the right to express your opinion.

I appreciate that it is unlikely that anything I say will change your mind.

I recognise that you do not need to do so.

That's what people who are interested in democratic campaigning do.

They recognise and accept difference, and try to win support for their view by the persistence and quality of their campaigning.

That has always been my goal here.

But if you do not share that approach and prefer abuse and threats, do not expect me to engage. I really do have better things to do than talk to you in that case.

And also note that you really are just wasting your time because, with 20 years of experience, I really am very good at spotting abuse very quickly, without having to read almost any of it, because those offering it are usually so staggeringly unoriginal, meaning I can hit the appropriate delete button, almost instantaneously.

I just thought I should let you know, because I am a generous sort of chap.

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