

First they came for the intellectuals

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My concern about Rupert Lowe MP's Restore Britain political party dominated too much of my day yesterday.

We made a video that reflected the sentiment in my [blog post from yesterday morning](#). That is [out today](#).

We have another video in preparation on the economics of what Lowe is proposing and how intensely destructive those policies will be.

Whilst working through all this, James drew my attention [to this entry on the Restore Britain website](#). I have reproduced it in full, not least because, in the later stages of my career, universities became the focus of my work, although I had held academic positions since the 1990s.

* **Restore the university**

* Britain is home to some of the world's oldest and most prestigious universities. We should be setting global standards in research and academic excellence – but instead of pursuing truth, our high-culture institutions have been totally captured by anti-British, anti-Western, and anti-white ideological trends such as decolonisation, intersectionality, and critical race theory.

* This does not serve the interests of the British public. In fact, it is in academia that so many of the destructive ideas that have come to dominate our culture and political life originate, from gender ideology to multiculturalism.

* There is no such thing as a neutral institution – and this goes for education. Our universities should be openly pro-British: proud of our history, proud of our culture, proud of our people.

* We should not be afraid of rooting out subversive elements within our education system. Professors and administrative staff pushing anti-British ideology should hold no position in a publicly funded British university. Courses that brainwash students into hating their own culture should be shut down. In the most egregious cases, inquiries

pertaining to entire universities must be held.

Why does this matter? Mainly because of the horrible echoes of precedent that are clear in all of this. I am, of course, referring to what happened in Nazi Germany, and see no reason for apologising for doing so.

As Restore Britain makes clear, they will, as the Nazis did, come for academics very early on in their regime.

Many academics, writers and artists were first dismissed or driven into exile by the Nazis under the [Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service](#) of April 1933.

Those who resisted or were politically active were then arrested and sent to camps.

Examples of those treated in this way included socialist, social democratic or communist academics; journalists critical of the regime and, of course, Jewish scholars dismissed from universities

Some were imprisoned in early concentration camps. Others fled Germany, resulting in a large-scale “brain drain” that included people like Albert Einstein.

Why were intellectuals targeted? That is because they shape ideas, and totalitarian regimes (as Lowe's language makes clear he is seeking to create) cannot tolerate competing narratives. The evidence of this was also seen in Nazi Germany. Books were burned from May 1933, universities were purged, just as Lowe suggests, and cultural institutions were Nazified.

And note the language Lowe uses when referring to those he wishes to remove. They are, he claims:

- * anti-British,**
- * anti-Western, and**
- * anti-white**

This is the language of nationalist fascism.

And what does he call dangerous? It is:

- * gender ideology, and**
- * multiculturalism**

Misogyny and racial purity are demanded, as are being:

- * openly pro-British**
- * proud of our history,**
- * proud of our culture,**
- * proud of our people.**

Except that means we cannot question:

- * slavery**
- * imperialism**
- * cultural suppression**
- * institutional misogyny, and**
- * exploitation.**

And who defines:

- * our culture, and**
- * our people?**

From what is being said by Lowe, it feels very much like this means you must be both white and born of generations who have lived here. Then you will, it seems, have the right to decide these things.

What will happen to those who do not agree? He says

- * We should not be afraid of rooting out subversive elements**

What does "rooting out" mean? The language is sinister, with violent overtones, implying elimination. You can take it literally when the physical threat is very real. You can take it literally when the threat of oppression is the alternative. Either way, the threat to opponents is explicit.

It is also important to note that this policy in Nazi Germany extended to schools and teachers. They too had to comply with Nazi requirements. It is clear from what Lowe says about universities that the same toxic curriculum he demands for them would be extended to schools as well, and to those who work in them. He does, after all, refer to the "education system".

What should we think about all this? Remember what Pastor Martin Niemöller wrote:

**First they came for the Communists
and I did not speak out
because I was not a Communist.
Then they came for the Socialists
and I did not speak out
because I was not a Socialist.
Then they came for the trade unionists
and I did not speak out
because I was not a trade unionist.
Then they came for the Jews
and I did not speak out
because I was not a Jew.
And there was no one left
to speak out for me.**

Migrants are not the only people in Rupert Lowe's sightlines. Just as the Nazis did, he is also aiming at those who might mount an opposition to what he wishes to achieve.

And yes, for the record, I do feel threatened. Why shouldn't I? So, very well, might you. What is being proposed by Lowe is an attack on many millions of people in this country. If we aren't worried now, we never will be.