

Allah! Allah!

Who the fuck is Allah!?!



ALLAH! ALLAH! WHO THE FUCK IS ALLAH! This was a chant, full of all the wit and irony of a football crowd, chorused by protesters in Southport. It summed up their fury at the way the police defend Islamists, whilst attacking the largely white crowd, outraged by the killing of young white children, by a

seventeen-year-old black lad, born in Wales of immigrant stock. Confusion reigns supreme.

I saw some of these protests on Saturday morning in Manchester as several police buses rushed up Oldham Street to confront those waving Union flags and the English Cross of St George. After lunch on Canal Street while walking across the tram lines at Piccadilly Gardens, I encountered a burly 'thug' threatening a cameraman – I remonstrated with the 'thug' who was about to turn his attentions to me when his wiser and calmer mate thought attacking a pensioner was not a good look.

But the outrage of the white 'thugs' was understandable. I'd seen an African lad pull a knife on the flag-waving crowd. The helmeted police, batons at the ready, swiftly charged, not on the knife-wielding immigrant, but on the contrary, on the outraged 'far-right' white 'thugs'. This was a perfect demonstration of 'two-tier' policing. There were roughly seven or eight riot-kitted cops attacking the 'patriotic thugs', for every one of the policemen deployed to protect the 'anti-fascist' Gaza crowd, who were merely bringing the entire Metrolink tram network to a standstill in St Peter's Square, at the other end of Mosley Street.

Evidently, the cops were following the Prime Minister's instructions to the letter, despite his lies and distortions. The patriotic protesters were not demonstrators, but rioters and criminals because, as Kier Starmer noted, in his press conference, "You don't go to a protest with a rock in your hand." The journalists took up this theme asking questions about "far-right thugs" meekly following Starmer's lead. It was like something out of a dictatorship, where the media simply took their cue from the political leadership rather than interrogating those in authority.

This is strange because I don't believe any of the protesters arrived with "a rock" in their hand. In Manchester I saw a crowd of young white men and boys, in tee-shirts, shorts, and trainers. This was the case in all the video from around the country that I've seen. The largely white crowds did not turn up at

these protests dressed or equipped for a run-in with the cops, on the contrary, they only appeared to become animated when the riot-police charged into their midst to arrest, unprovoked, one of their number. The police were clearly following the lead from Downing Street, that these were not 'protestors', lawfully demonstrating, but criminal thugs, who should be swept from the streets with the utmost force.

Unsurprisingly, missiles are then thrown at the cops, and fires started about the place. It is a self-fulfilling prophecy – provoke the crowd to violent resistance – and you have the rock-throwing far-right thugs of your narrative. This became much, much, worse in Rotherham when a crowd attacked an hotel being used as a hostel for refugees. Things became even more dangerous in Bolton when great crowds of Muslim men and boys came out to fight the police and confront the anti-immigrant protesters.

The Labour Government has perhaps unwittingly poked a stick into this hornet's nest. Of course, Labour leaders have form when it comes to white working-class people. Who can forget Gordon Brown's encounter with Gillian Duffy, "that bigoted woman", and Emily Thornberry's disdain for those who fly the flag of St George from their low-rent dwellings? Those who live in Islington or similar places, those who are devotees of *The Guardian*, those whose liberal tolerance is tolerant and inclusive of everybody, except those who disagree with them, are passionate in their commitment to justice. People of this sort cannot conceive of white, rough, apparently poorly educated working people, as anything other than fascists and racists. They seem to be stuck in the seventies and eighties of the last century when the National Front and other fascist and racist groups were indeed active.

However, our liberals are stuck in a time warp. They don't seem to have understood how most racism and right-wing attitudes have become much less present or virulent than they were fifty-odd years ago. There are, of course, vile and divisive sentiments

swirling around these protests, but it is a mistake to think that they can be simply understood as racist or fascist outbursts. The belief that Axel Rudakubanam, the boy who murdered the little girls in Southport, was Muslim led to attacks on Mosques and certainly fuelled fears of intercommunal fighting. This has led the Labour Government and the police to opt for swift and massive repression, and the easy designation of the widespread tumult as “far-right thuggery”.

Clearly, fear of mass immigration, of Islamism, and of the apparent inability or unpreparedness of those in authority to address public unease and concern at the uncontrolled influx of thousands of young men from disaster areas and mainly Muslim war zones, is continuing to provoke incoherent and contradictory mass protests, which rapidly degenerate into riots against the police.

The Manchester Arena killings in May 2017, the killing of David Amess MP in October 2021, the murder of Fusilier Lee Rigby in May 2013, and the recent attempted murder of Lieutenant Colonel Mark Teeton, have passed us quietly by – but the murder of three little girls at a dance party has triggered outrage at the apparent inability of the authorities to tackle this carnage. I fear there will be many more flashpoints in the near future, if those in authority continue to hide behind the “far-right thugs from outside the area” trope – such misidentification of the reasons and causes of anger and mayhem can only stoke resentment and make matters much, much, worse.

Something must be done to slow drastically the rate and speed of immigration. Social cohesion must be strengthened by conspicuously even-handed policing. The devotees of Jihad, the Islamists and their supporters, who routinely advocate violence in Friday sermon after sermon, must be driven out of the country. If we want to preserve social peace, freedom of speech, and defend mosques from attack, religion must be kept rigorously out of politics.