



Belfast pogroms show loyalism is ideal vanguard of a future brownshirt Britain

## Description

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Belfast

By now, there has been [extensive coverage](#) of the fact that the Belfast pogroms took place almost entirely in [loyalist areas](#). This should surprise no one. Loyalism has always been an exclusivist ideology, predicated on the notion that one population deserves to dominate another that is dismissed as less deserving. Historically of course, this viewpoint dictated that Protestants must be allowed to lord it over Catholics.

However, violent sectarianism has largely faded in the north of Ireland, following 1998's [Good Friday Agreement](#). Instead, loyalism has now applied to immigrants, people of colour and Muslims the bigoted mindset it incubated over centuries.

It's hard to dominate another group of people without justifying it in some way. [Humans, like many other mammals](#) have an in-built notion of fairness. Seeing others get less without good cause cannot be easily sustained psychologically. Hence many Protestants developed prejudices giving grounds for their superior position. Catholics were said to be [lazy, feckless](#) and practicing a [heretical religious doctrine](#).

## Belfast loyalists pivot from sectarianism to racism

Years of indulging in this act of self-deceit have easily enabled the switch to applying new fictions to new target populations. [Muslims are heathens, satanic even](#). Immigrants have sparked an unprecedented crime wave, [never mind evidence to the contrary](#). Even children aren't safe in playgrounds from [sinister foreign men](#).

Combined with this capacity for a supremacist mentality has been the means for exercising the violence necessary to make dominance concrete. In prior decades, it has meant loyalists carrying out ethnic

cleansing of Catholics. This was most notable in the 1920s, during the birth pangs of what became known as "Northern Ireland". [Loyalist mobs burned Catholics out of their homes](#), murdered others, and caused an estimated 23,000 to flee. [So-called "Rotten Prods"](#) Protestant trade unionists who stood alongside Catholics in workplaces were also killed.

Another outbreak of barbarism occurred in 1969, when again [loyalist thugs chased large numbers of Catholic families out of their homes](#) deploying widespread arson again. Belfast politicians have described how the loyalist pogroms of this week [mirror those previous horrors](#). During the "Troubles", loyalist paramilitaries carried out [713 sectarian murders of Catholics](#).

In its capacity to inspire reactionaries, loyalism is similar to its bedfellow, Zionism. The latter is a [racist doctrine](#) of Jewish supremacy that has [always permitted extreme violence](#) against the indigenous Palestinian population that stands in the way of their ethnostate.

As it has now reached the inevitable [exterminationist phase](#) of its trajectory, it has been [celebrated by chauvinists](#) the world over looking to subjugate their own troublesome populations. "Israeli" and Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) flags can be found in [loyalist areas across the north of Ireland](#). Loyalist politicians wined and dined [the](#) [regime of Tel Aviv](#) came back [singing its praises](#).

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## The longstanding links between loyalism and the British far-right

The twin primary sicknesses of these ideologies – a deeply inculcated supremacist mentality, and the willingness to use violence to suppress those deemed inferior – have obvious appeal to far-right actors everywhere. There have long been links between loyalist thugs and like-minded British neo-Nazis.

The Ulster Defence Association was known to have links to the vile racists of Combat 18. One of the latter's founders, Eddie Whicker, [helped arm the murderous loyalist terror gang](#). Combat 18 members were present at the notorious [loyalist disorder at Drumcree](#).

Daniel Grundle (also known as Daniel Douglas) is the leader of current racist group Our Northern Ireland Voice. He described his founding of the group as a "calling". [Grundle reminisced](#) about how in the 1980s his uncle Jimmy Grundle helped set up a version of Britain's National Front in the north of Ireland.

The links extend to this day. Before Ben Habib's recent decision to dissolve it, [far-right agitator Richard Inman](#) operated as a link between the [racist Advance UK](#) and the north of Ireland. Inman obviously thought so highly of the embedded bigotry within loyalism, that he made the Six Counties his permanent base. From there, he has [lauded the Islamophobic hate displays](#) of Concerned Parents Newtownabbey and [spoken at far-right rallies](#).

Others, such as former Ulster Volunteer Force member [Mark Sinclair](#) and ex-Democratic Unionist Party councillor William Walker have [linked up with their ideological peers](#) at far-right rallies. Areas of Scotland still have [strong loyalist elements](#) and they have clearly been inspired by the ethnic cleansing in Belfast. Racists there engaged in [copycat crimes against people of colour](#).

## Racist politicians embrace street violence

It isn't just street thugs who seem enthused by loyalist violence. Those looking to take over the British state have been content to carry on stirring up emotions, even as houses burn. Reform's [Zia Yusuf](#) screamed that

Some cultures are MUCH better than others.

Restore Britain's official account [vomited out](#)

Restore Britain will reverse the third-worldification of our country.

Farage obviously delights in the prospect of reactionary rioting. In the wake of the Henry Novak murder, Farage exacerbated an already febrile atmosphere by calling for [pure cold rage](#). Neither Nigel Farage nor Yusuf of Reform have used their X accounts to offer any condemnation of the Belfast violence. Likewise the ever [Rupert Lowe of Restore Britain](#)

Reform have made no secret of their intent to introduce authoritarianism if they occupy 10 Downing Street. Owen Jones recently [enumerated their plans](#) regard. As he points out, Farage has spoken of his intent to bring in a:

British version of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the US deportation force that seizes migrants from homes, workplaces and the streets.

Under Reform:

The government would be granted [direct powers](#) over the police and would attack the independence of the judiciary, [dressed up](#) as a war on "activist judges".

The parallels with the fascists of the 1930s are clear. The likes of Mussolini and Hitler [used street thugs](#) to help them seize power, then implemented an authoritarian state.

Street violence has many useful traits for budding despots. It makes the state look weak, as it struggles to handle the chaos. Far-right parties project an image of strength, and proclaim they will [restore order](#)

It can be a [tool for intimidating left-wing activists](#). Additionally, rioting thugs can be integrated into the state's own security forces once power has been seized.

## Belfast - A return to the fascism of the 1930s

The left's best analysts, like Yanis Varoufakis, have [long been warning](#) that we are heading for a repeat of that uniquely dark era. [Racist riots](#) and [mass mobilisations](#) are becoming increasingly common in Britain, and authoritarian policies are [already being implemented](#) by British prime minister

Keir Starmer.

Reform are happy to let other street thugs pick up the baton handed to them by loyalists. Once in power, theyâll gleefully receive another gift from Labour. By that point, itâll be too late, and Britain will pay devastating consequences for inviting its own particular variant of loyalism into government.

*Featured image via Charles McQuillan/Getty Images*

By [Robert Freeman](#)

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