

The Evolution of Populist Left-Wing Terrorism

by Robert Harris



It was interesting to read that Greta Thunberg, a sixteen year teen, is at the forefront of the 'Extinction Revolution' movement, which has been holding economic life in the United Kingdom to some degree of ransom. To quote the [Daily Mail](#):

The Swedish campaigner said: 'For way too long the politicians and people in power have got away with not doing anything at all to fight the climate crisis and ecological crisis.'

'But we will make sure that they will not get away with it any longer.'

However, it is not unknown that the UK has reduced its carbon emissions to the lowest level since the 19th Century, and have [reduced by 41% since 1990](#), and there are plans in place to [rapidly accelerating emissions rate](#). Thunberg's speech was

greeted with a rapturous reception, reinforcing the notion that we live in a post-fact world.

'Extinction Revolution' are now extending their explicit threats to [sustained violent left-wing protest](#), as inevitably found at the G20 summits, as a form of 'soft terrorism'. While the degree of applicability of such a strong label may be questioned where there are relatively infrequent clashes with the police, and where there is not the kind of large-scale destruction of property as commonly found at G20, the kind of "peaceful" actions found with Extinction Revolution' nonetheless appear to comply with some of the normative aims of terrorism because XR intend to disrupt the normative functioning of society to extract substantial political concessions – in this case we find continued threats of societal harm, which includes demands as significant as a governing citizen's assembly dedicated to addressing the issue of climate change.

Such totalitarian leanings typically are excused as 'well-meaning' or 'idealistic' and given a soft-pass by much of the media. Indeed, many random people appear to have been joining the "protests", where the organisers have sent overtures to the public