

Whether we will ever face a far-right party governing more than a council remains to be seen. Governments across the Western world are seeking to head off the threat from the far right: often by co-opting their most populist elements, critics argue. With the spread of fear – over asylum seekers, Islam, the War on Terror (and more importantly the impending recession) – the signs are not encouraging.

In 1928 Hitler had only 2.6% of the vote; by 1933 he was in power. Is the Far Right such a threat as the Nazi Party was back in the Thirties? Not yet. But it is a warning. A rise in support for extremist and single-issue groups is a sign of pressure building beneath us all. We all must guard against anyone – anyone – promising simplistic solutions, black and white answers, to a world which is shaded in many colours.

Nick Ryan is a writer and consultant producer. He spent six years amongst an international network of far-right extremists for his acclaimed book, *Homeland*. He has travelled far and wide, from the refugee camps of the former Yugoslavia, to civil war in Kurdistan, the kung fu masters of south-eastern China to the neo-Nazi gangs of the UK.

As a freelance journalist, Ryan has been a consultant for various non-profit groups, and acted as a consultant producer on a variety of TV projects, including Sky One series "Ross Kemp on Gangs". He was awarded a Special Commendation from the International Federation of Journalists (1999) and longlisted in 2005 for the Paul Foot Award for Campaigning Journalism, sponsored by Private Eye magazine and The Guardian.

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