My Maurice Newman, The Australian, 7 October 2019

"The stations of uncensored expression are closing down; the lights are going out; but there is still time for those to whom freedom and parliamentary government mean something to consult together."

We confront "a state of society where men may not speak their minds, where children denounce their parents ... where a businessman or small shopkeeper ruins his competitor by telling tales about his private opinions ... (They) feed on hatred ... they must seek, from time to time and always at shorter intervals, a new target, a new prize, a new victim."

These words are not the preface to a right-of-centre think tank's brochure lamenting the all-too-familiar trends in contemporary Australian society. They are Winston Churchill's 1938 appeal to Americans to join Britain in the fight to preserve the precious liberties of the English-speaking world.

After seven long years and the loss of 80 million lives, the forces for freedom finally claimed victory. Yet, for all that sacrifice, within a mere 75 years, the lights are going out again.

In the West today, there are no obvious Hitlers or Stalins. Rather, faceless globalists work the corridors of the multiple United Nations agencies and the European Commission to project and amplify their socialist ideology. They promote an ever-growing list of evils that is uncritically embraced by Western teaching institutions, the mainstream media and the courts.

True to their beliefs that borders and nations should be dissolved, the globalists pressure "rich" countries to accept unreasonable numbers of migrants. Predictably, this has worsened the refugee crisis, harmed social cohesion and given a wedge to those intent on stifling free speech. Hitherto strong European and British statutes protecting "the right to freedom of expression", including "the freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority", are now being overridden by "hate speech" laws. While sometimes this may shield deserving minorities, it is too often used to shut down debate.

Testament to the influence of the corridor ideologues is the spectacle of Western children parading fear, self-loathing and guilt. "Capitalism kills", "Revolution is our only hope", they protest. Socialism is their utopia.

Indoctrination leads them to believe their existence depends on their governments committing to economic self-harm.

There is a pattern here that suggests central planning. After all, is it likely the simultaneous denigration of white men, the deprivation of free speech, the politics of climate change, the push for open borders, the sharp rise in anti-Semitism and the demonisation of Christianity could be random? Call it guided ideological collaboration but it is imported from somewhere and is anything but spontaneous.

Scott Morrison has sensed this and has called for a "comprehensive audit of global institutions and rule-making processes".

President Donald Trump's review cast him as an international pariah. He rejected sweeping transnational organisations and alliances. He took the US out of the UN Human Rights Council and the Paris climate agreement. He now threatens to withdraw from the international mail services governing body.

In his recent address to a largely unfriendly UN General Assembly, Trump said: "The future does not belong to globalists. The future belongs to patriots. The future belongs to strong, - independent nations. Globalism exerted a religious pull over past leaders, causing them to ignore their own national interests. Those days are over."

Possibly. Perhaps Brexit is the litmus test? It certainly explains why Boris Johnson has become public enemy number two. If he succeeds in taking Britain out of the EU, other potential defectors could be emboldened and confirm socialist billionaire and, arch globalist, George Soros's worst fears, that the "European Union will go the way of the Soviet Union".

Trump's "America first" policies have invigorated globalists within the US establishment. As the presidential election draws nearer and fears of his re-election grow, an unprecedented three-year crusade to impeach him has stepped up a gear. In their eagerness to topple this legitimately elected president, the Democrats, the intelligence services and the mainstream media have colluded to form what is effectively a partisan, hostile branch of government within the governing administration.

Globalists argue their mission is noble because it has a higher purpose. Only a common multilateral approach can achieve true diversity, inclusiveness, social justice and wealth and income equality. Yet, their claims are not supported by evidence. In Europe, indeed across the Western world, political polarisation has intensified.

Instances of identity politics, social division and censorship are on the rise. And income and wealth inequality have rapidly accelerated since the 1980s, albeit at different rates. And while, on the whole, the poorest are not getting poorer, there is no convincing evidence to demonstrate that globalisation is the reason.

Indeed, globalists are architects of much inequality. It is their seductive cocktail of corporate welfare, regulatory protection and co-ordinated monetary policies that has created extensive wealth and privilege opportunities that crony capitalists fiercely defend.

Journalist Sebastian Haffner, writing on Hitler's rise in Germany, refers to the absence of conservative resistance: "They went along with everything: the terror, the persecution of Jews ... They were not even bothered when their own party was banned and their own members arrested." Alexander the Great similarly observed that the people of Asia were slaves because they had not learned the word "no".

The tendency is always to hope this time it's different.

Or to feel powerless, or deluded into believing it's not what it seems. Like a slow-growing cancer, it's easy to dismiss the first suspicious signs. Nevertheless, the existence of Western civilisation is not preordained and its survival requires more courage, confidence and determination than is presently in evidence. The longer apathy prevails, the nearer the road to serfdom becomes. As Churchill warned, for every day's delay, how much harder the toil?