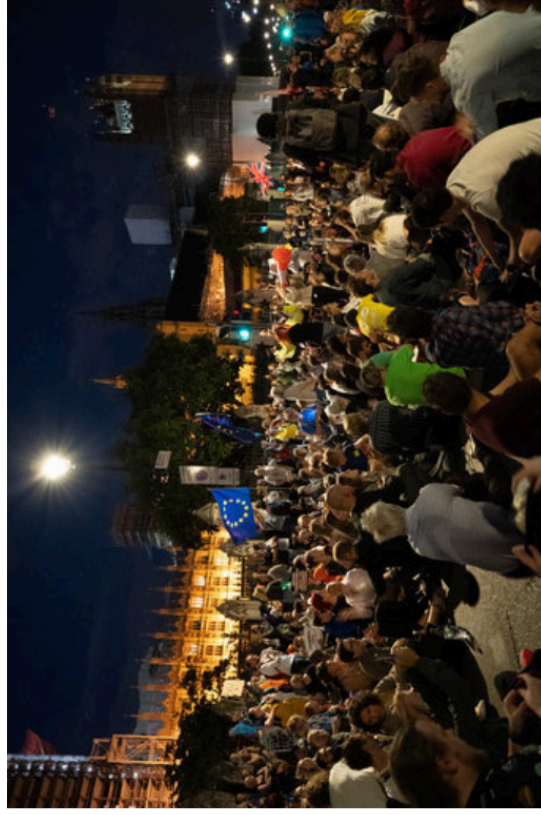


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The fight is now against something even more horrifying than Brexit

We must stop this descent into demagoguery before it is too late

by Jonathan Lis / August 29, 2019 / [Leave a comment](#)



"Stop the coup" protests in Westminster on Wednesday night. Photo: Lexie Harrison-cripps/EMPICS Entertainment

The tension over August had been building, but nobody knew exactly what was happening. Boris Johnson was full of bluster but not substance. The papers were reporting speculation rather than events. Everyone was distracted. And then there came enough news to fill an entire year.

At lunchtime on Wednesday, three ministers flew up to Balmoral for a hastily arranged meeting with the Queen, and asked her to suspend parliament so she could deliver a Queen's Speech. This was not to be any normal prorogation lasting a few days, but one spanning five full weeks. It would take place during the greatest peacetime crisis in modern British history, and seven weeks before a crash-out Brexit which, by the government's own estimation, would paralyse the country's economy and infrastructure.



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