Twitter Thread by Rivkah Brown



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Rereading Asad Haider's Mistaken Identity recently, I was struck by this bit: "single-issue political frameworks ... end up centering the most privileged members of a group, marginalizing those whose identities exposed them to other forms of subordination."

It articulated something I personally have been trying to for a while now: that Jewish people to whom the single defining issue of 2019 was Labour antisemitism were not people who really *needed* a Labour government, whose life depended on an end to Tory rule.

A number of Jewish people I know – Jews living in poverty, Jews of colour – were concerned by what was happening in Labour. But quite simply, they couldn't guarantee their survival under the Tories. There was no question of who had their vote in a 2-horse race.

These people were appalled that Labour AS, serious as it was, was seen as sufficient reason to elect a party that, to them, was unspeakably worse. But it's hardly surprising: for the Jewish people advocating for "anyone but Labour", life under the Tories isn't much different.

Reading Haider, it becomes clear to me that those for whom antisemitism was the make-or-break issue at an election that took place after Grenfell, years of a hostile environment, a decade of austerity, probably did not personally have much to lose.

When David Baddiel and Hadley Freeman and Marie Van Der Zyl complain that "no other minority would be treated this way", they are telling on themselves: they have no knowledge or experience of oppression beyond this issue. Many other minorities are treated this way, and worse.