Twitter Thread by Jennifer Abdo



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Horseshoe theory sets off my bs detector & the divisions on the left leave me at a loss for an explanation- Venn diagram? Another shape? What's going on? Enter @bastardspod! They really break this down & sort it out in a way that helped me out a lot.

Three of their points I found particularly useful in explaining why the horseshoe looks correct to some or why/how some ppl that look left-ish are really extreme right or take that turn (ally with boogaloo or proud boys, for instance?). 2/10

■as you go farther left, some are more attracted to authoritarianism or violence like those on the right. BUT this is NOT a horseshoe bc the ideals of left & right are starkly different. That's important - this isn't a horseshoe. 3/10

Their examples are Kessler (of Unite the Right) who started in Occupy Wall St NY & Mussolini who started out against imperialism. Seemingly left-ish ppl turned fascist - why? I agree with the hosts when they said if you're anti-authoritarian, you won't end up a fascist. 4/10

■(surprise!) toxic masculinity (they don't use those words) or wounded masculine pride is a factor. The pod says~getting the shit kicked out of you can push men in a violent authoritarian direction. Feeling disenfranchised like MRAs and white nationalists seems related too. 5/10

■authoritarians on left & right align only bc they see what we have now isn't working & they want change - some not really out of a concern for the collective good, equality, well-being - which is a problem. 6/10

It's tempting to want to amass the largest group of ppl possible who want change, but it's actually pretty important to confront fascism & throw that out as soon as possible. That seems obvious, right? 7/10

8/10
I feel like some ppl get confused on what differentiates the left who is anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist, anti-racist, anti-fascist & pro human rights for the collective good vs...

...those who ppl assume are left but are really ready to stir things up & use violence & authoritarianism against others to combat their feelings of helplessness against a system that isn't working for them. 9/10

This confusion/conflation gives centrists and conservatives ammo to say "see, socialism bad" when that's not it at all. I see how they could get confused, but demonizing socialism is a lazy/unhelpful/backwards policy if you're a liberal claiming the moral high ground. 10/10