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## THE RACIST MYTH OF FRANCE'S 'DESCENT INTO SAVAGERY'

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John Lichfield

A new word has entered Frances political lexicon: ensauvagement.

Or rather, this new word – which translates as descent into savagery – has made its way from the political fringes into the mainstream discourse.

When Marine Le Pen in 2013 first plucked the term from a book written by the far-right author Laurent Obertone, no one paid much attention. But since September 2018, the leader of the far-right National Rally has used it in every speech and TV appearance, painting a picture of a country under siege from a surge of uncontrolled criminal violence she blames on cities poor inner suburbs and the effects of mass migration.

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