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Trump issues branded passports, orders "Trump-class" battleships and accepts golden statues. Democrats claim this is "Stalinist."

Details. Democratic leaders have seized on Trump's growing personality cult to score political points. Chuck Schumer [declared](#) that democracy "will prevail over cult of personality." Others have made more deliberate anticommunist comparisons. Bernie Sanders [accused](#) the Republican Party of "Stalinism", former Obama aide David Axelrod [called](#) Trump's cultural policies "Stalinist", while Kamala Harris [compared](#) Trump to "communist dictators."

- ▶ This rhetoric is political theater in which both capitalist parties [exchange accusations](#) of communism to slander each other. Republicans brand Democrats as "[radical Marxists](#)" while Democrats call Trump a communist.
- ▶ In reality, Stalin openly rejected individual worship. When a publisher attempted to print a biography of his youth, Stalin [opposed](#) it, writing that a personality cult of infallible heroes is dangerous. For his 50th birthday in 1929, Stalin [redirected](#) all personal praise to the working class party. In an August 1930 [letter](#), he declared that devotion to individuals completely contradicts Bolshevik principles.
- ▶ Trump's cult of personality far more closely resembles those of fascist leaders. Mussolini's Ministry of Popular Culture [controlled](#) his image across all art and press, while Nazi Germany enforced public display of Hitler's portrait and staged mass [spectacles](#) like the Nuremberg Rallies. These regimes had no consistent ideology, instead they relied on the promise that a great man would save the nation from ruin.

Context. Trump's administration is aggressively pushing his likeness onto public life. His image now appears on official [passports](#), national park [passes](#), new dollar [coins](#), and massive banners across federal buildings. The US Navy plans to buy fifteen "[Trump-class](#)" [battleships](#) by 2055, and allies have launched a campaign to [rename](#) the Strait of Hormuz the "Strait of Trump." In May, a [spiritual adviser](#) led a ceremony dedicating a 22-foot golden statue of Trump at his Miami golf club.

- ▶ The Trump family has also turned his image into a commercial operation, selling branded [phones](#), [crypto coins](#), [watches](#), and sixty-dollar [Bibles](#) printed in China.
- ▶ Today's far right in America and Europe uses these same personality cult tactics. Reactionaries weaponized a memorial for Charlie Kirk to [promote nationalism](#), while right-wing groups in France turned an extremist into a political [martyr](#). This is part of a broader trend of [fascisation](#) across the West.