

Support for "Communism" and "Socialism" Grows Among American Gen Z



Support for "Communism" and "Socialism" Grows Among American Gen Z

2026-07-18

2 min read

Positive opinion on communism and socialism continues to grow in the US, especially among Gen Z. Much of the growth stems from conflating Mamdani-style "democratic socialism" with real socialism.

Details. A [survey](#) of 2,253 Americans conducted on July 4th found that [37%](#) hold a favourable view of socialism. Among 18-29-year-olds, [53%](#) viewed socialism favourably, [39%](#) viewed communism favourably, and just [45%](#) viewed capitalism favourably.

► In most cases, this does not refer to revolutionary socialism but rather to "democratic socialism" in the style of Mamdani and other Democratic Party politicians, as demonstrated by [51%](#) of Generation Z being more likely to vote for a politician who identifies as a "democratic socialist".

Context. Recently, "democratic socialist" candidates have [secured](#) several high-profile victories in primaries and local elections, notably in [New York](#), demonstrating their growing influence in the country.

► Republicans [equate](#) "democratic socialists" with communists, [labelling](#) Democrats "godless communists" and warning of a growing "communist" [menace](#) following "democratic socialist" [victories](#). The Democratic Party is guilty of the same, [labelling](#) the Republican Party "Stalinist" and equating the Trump administration with a "communist dictatorship." The term is used as a derogatory label in capitalist politics.

► Simultaneously, Trump's approval ratings have [dropped](#) to 35%, most recently caused by opposition to the [war](#) with Iran, and to the [anti-immigration politics](#), but predominantly by a [worsening](#) of workers' financial situations, and a [decrease](#) in their quality of life.

Important to Know. The increase in positive attitudes towards communism reflects the gradual loss of influence of anti-communist narratives from the Cold War era, against a backdrop of economic and political instability undermining confidence in the existing capitalist order.

► "Democratic socialists" like Mamdani and Sanders label themselves socialists and are labelled communists by the opposition to reinforce the [illusion](#) that they pose a genuine threat to capitalism. They are [backed](#) by sections of the capitalist class and at most offer small concessions within the existing system. Mamdani's stated goal is to bring workers [back to faith](#) in the Democratic Party.

► Growing scepticism about capitalism and interest in socialism are signs of developing class consciousness. But without a genuine communist party to give it direction and leadership, this energy is easily captured by "democratic socialists" who will channel it back into the capitalist system.