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

Original article

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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.

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