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Trump warns America will end up in “squalor” under communism. Meanwhile, millions of Americans struggle to afford housing and food under capitalism.

Details. At the Faith & Freedom Coalition conference on June 26, 2026, Donald Trump [warned](#) of the alleged spread of “communism” within the Democratic Party.

Quote: “Communism is very easy to sell... I'll give free rent... everybody gets free food. Everything is free from this point forward... After two or three years, the country is a disaster area. The country fails. They always do.”

Context. The remarks followed recent victories by candidates backed by NYC Mayor Zohran Mamdani. As we have previously [reported](#), Mamdani is a Democratic Socialists of America member and Democratic Party politician backed by billionaire donors, not a communist.

► Trump [escalated](#) this rhetoric a week later at the 250th independence rally at Mount Rushmore: “Communism is a mortal threat to American liberty. It is the greatest threat to our country, including World War I, World War II, Pearl Harbor, or even 9-11... You can be loyal to Karl Marx or you can be loyal to America. You can be a communist or you can be a patriot. You cannot be both.”

► This is part of Trump's broader campaign of portraying left-wing opposition as “communist,” alongside expanded [surveillance](#) of left-wing movements, [renewed](#) efforts to justify repression by defining the broad “Antifa” label as domestic terrorists, and initiatives such as “[Anti-Communism Week](#).”

► Both Republicans and Democrats [increasingly](#) accuse one another of being “communists”, “socialists” and “Stalinists.”

In reality, Trump's description bears no resemblance to socialism or communism. In the socialist states, workers were paid according to the quantity and quality of their work.

► Workers produced a surplus above their own needs, which under capitalism is seized by a parasitic capitalist class as private profit. Under socialism, that same surplus was [returned](#) to the workers who created it – first to defend the worker's dictatorship against internal and external enemies, and from that foundation, to fund free healthcare and education, housing and cultural amenities, paid holidays, maternity leave, pensions and child-care. Communism – society based on the principle “from each according to their ability, to each according to their needs” – has yet to be achieved.

► Socialist states do not “inevitably fail” as Trump claims. Despite decades of economic embargoes, technological restrictions, and sustained military pressure from the capitalist world, the USSR transformed from a largely agrarian economy into the world's second-largest industrial power in a single generation.

► Meanwhile, the “squalor” Trump misattributes to communism exists under American capitalism. Around [745,000 Americans](#) were homeless on a single night in January 2025, while [29 million](#) cannot access quality healthcare due to cost, and [9 in 10](#) report a cost-of-living crisis.

► Trump's immediate [evidence](#) of "communism" was rent stabilisation proposals in New York. Yet rent controls already exist in capitalist countries such as Germany, which [regulates rental prices](#) while fully preserving private property, making it a standard bourgeois policy rather than socialism or communism.

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