

The Strange State of American Politics: The Zohran-Trump Lovefest

The Democratic Party, with their supporters and media cheerleaders, have now spent almost a decade decrying everything Donald Trump does as a “threat to *our* democracy.” They’ve labelled him a fascist and have railed against his supporters in the currently-fracturing MAGA movement as fascist shock troops, frequently conjuring up lurid visions of the coming destruction of American democracy (never mind that it is democracy for the capitalist class alone) in a desperate bid to retain electoral legitimacy and relevance.

Taking a leaf from the book of Democratic Party talking points, Zohran Mamdani, the “socialist” recently elected as mayor of New York City, promised in June to “reject Donald Trump’s fascism.”¹ After becoming mayor-elect he warned ICE agents that they are not above the law,² promising that “if you violate the law, you must be held accountable.” He vowed to “Trump-proof” New York.

Of course, some of his supporters will argue, he has to work within the system, so while he might make these statements of principle during the campaign, it’s unfair to subject him to a “purity test” around Palestine, the NYPD, etc. once he’s in office and he has to deal with the “realities” of the bourgeois system. Such pathetic apologists for the bourgeois state power, however, must be somewhat at a loss to describe what took place in Trump and Mamdani’s recent meeting at the White House, in which Zohran the “socialist” went far beyond simply “operating within the realities of the bourgeois system.”

Trump, who in June called Mamdani “a 100% Communist Lunatic,”³ appeared to be having a great time alongside Mamdani as they joked and jointly sparred with the media. Trump, a noted “stable genius,” called Mamdani a “very rational person” and said “I feel very confident that he can do a very good job. The better he does, the happier I am. I will say there’s no difference in party. There’s no difference in anything, and we’re going to be helping him to make everybody’s dream come true, having a strong and very safe New York.”⁴ Trump batted away questions and noted that “[w]e agreed on a lot more than I would have thought” and “some of his ideas really are the same ideas that I have.” Quite a reversal from both their recent statements! It’s almost as if these two politicians serve the same class.

Mamdani, for his part, also seemed to be having a good time, joking with Trump during reporter questions and tapping his arm, emphasizing his cross-class message of “affordability,” and generally exuding his particular brand of TV anchor-esque political hucksterism.

What to make of this? If Trump is a dangerous fascist, and this was all a clever ploy (a charm offensive?) to keep his influence out of New York, then what does this say about Mamdani’s “resistance?” Fascism is fine as

1 <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/NHmvtj5fSM>

2 <https://www.newsweek.com/zohran-mamdani-ice-warning-donald-trump-new-york-10998303>

3 <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/06/25/trump-zohran-mamdani-reaction-00423933>

4 <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/nov/21/donald-trump-zohran-mamdani-meeting>

long as it is happening outside of New York, so befriend the fascist and charm him into leaving you alone?
New York City *über alles*?

No, the reality is much simpler than that. This was the first meeting of two bourgeois politicians who, although they both put on a campaign show of disagreement, will ultimately work together when it matters, as they share the same class stand and outlook.

Still, the specter of Mamdani's professed principles does haunt this meeting. Although Trump is not the Democratic Party fantasy of a fascist leader whose "democracy ending" coup d'état is, like the end times predicted by an apocalyptic scam preacher, always *right around the corner*, Trump is, in contrast to Biden and Obama, a president who does not even pretend to care about opposing genocide. He is an open and avowed opponent of the Palestinian people, someone who has casually called for the ethnic cleansing of Gaza and its transformation into a gaudy and AI-generated vision of excessive luxury consumption.

And yet Zohran, with his made-for-TV smile, was glad to sit alongside the head of the U.S. empire—this supposed fascist threat—and be all buddy-buddy. This should be no surprise, if one but recalls the long and bloody history of Social Democracy's betrayal of the working class and the people of the world.