
Tempestuous Times in American Politics

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➤ Shifting sands of politics: The Mamdani Juggernaut

1. The Genesis and etymology of Zohran Kwame Mamdani:

“On your Marx (an acerbic wordplay on ‘on your marks’ and ‘Karl Marx’ since Mamdani is denigrated as a Communist) get set, Zo! Socialist Mamdani wins race for mayor of the Red Apple”, reads a *New York Post* (owned by Conservative, right-wing Media Mogul Rupert Murdoch) cover page sardonic headline from November 5, 2025 (Craig McCarthy, 2025; Grynbaum, 2025; Helmore, 2025; Post, Tomorrow's cover: Zohran Mamdani wins 2025 NYC mayoral election, 2025; Sabbagh, 2023). Some opine that New York's first (South Asian) Muslim Immigrant Socialist Mayor, Zohran Kwame Mamdani, former member of the New York State Assembly for the 36th district, representing the Queens neighborhood of Astoria, pulled off a major coup against the political establishment bankrolled by the billionaires of the city like Bill Ackman and capitalist media edifice; he essentially flipped the script (Assembly, 2025).

In parenthesis, the 34 year old hails from a family of immigrants; Zohran's father Mahmood Mamdani, 79, born in Mumbai (formerly Bombay), was expelled from Uganda by military dictator Idi Amin in 1972 and currently teaches Anthropology, Political science, African studies and International affairs at the Columbia University, while his mother, Mira Nair, 67, is an American Oscar-nominated filmmaker born in India (Wong, 2025; Agencies E. M., What is the meaning of Zohran Kwame Mamdani's name?, 2025; Goldberg, 2025). The 111th mayor of New York City's wife and NYC's Generation-Z first lady is Rama Duwaji, an American of Syrian heritage. She is an illustrator and animator based in Brooklyn; her work revolves around the female experience, Arab identity and social justice; Gaza and Palestine pre-eminently features in her artwork (Cartner-Morley, 2025; Matza, 2025; Sutherland, 2025; Duwaji, 2025; Laura Nahmias, 2025).

Interestingly, the Mamdanis in East African Uganda come from the Khoja community, essentially a South Asian Muslim mercantile caste that contributed to economic development through the length and breadth of Western Indian Ocean for hundreds of years. The aforementioned name emanates from greater Sindh made up of Kachchh, Western India and Southeastern Pakistan. To dissect the etymology, Mām is deemed an honorific title in Gujarati

and Kachchhi languages, which translates to courage, pride and kindness. While, Māmādō is a local iteration of the name Muhammad and frequently appears as surnames amongst Hindu castes that reverted to Islam, for example Memons. Slightly differing etymology suggests that Mamdani roughly translates to “Mohammadan”, in other words an adherent of Prophet Muhammad of Muslims. In the 19th century, the Khoja community were pigeonholed by the British as “Hindoo Mussalman” because of syncretic practices and traditions. During the 18th century, the Khoja community were pivotal in exporting manufactured goods, gems, export textiles and spices from the Indian subcontinent to the East Africa including the Horn of Africa and Arabia. In turn, via this Western Indian Ocean trading links, the aforementioned community imported minerals, ivory, cloves and timber. The Khoja mercantile operations were embedded in kinship trust and network as they created a web of communal housing, warehouses and shops as well as extended credit from Mumbai in India to Zanzibar in Tanzania (Conversation, 2025; Agencies E. M., What is the meaning of Zohran Kwame Mamdani’s name?, 2025).

As years elapsed, the Khoja community became identified as primarily Shiite Muslim. In contemporary times, the Khoja community are Ismaili which is an offshoot of Shiite Islam that venerate Aga Khan as a living imam. However, Zohran Mamdani’s family is part of the Twelver community, who have a belief in the Twelfth Imam, a mystical and religious figure who is said to appear – currently concealed from the world - when there is absolute chaos and crisis in the world and shepherd his followers during end times by ushering in peace. Whereas, NYC’S youngest mayor since 1892 first name, Zohran translates to different meanings such as “radiance”, “blossom” and “light”, with origins in both Persian and Arabic. On the other hand, his middle name Kwame, is associated with the Akan people from ethnic Kwa group who are primarily settled in Ghana along with Togo and Ivory Coast in West Africa. The middle name is also inspired by Zohran Kwame Mamdani’s partial namesake, the Ghanaian freedom fighter, Kwame Nkrumah, who struggled for independence from the manacles of the British Empire and became the country’s post-independence President in 1957 (Conversation, 2025; Agencies E. M., What is the meaning of Zohran Kwame Mamdani’s name?, 2025).

2. Mamdani ruffling the establishment’s feathers:

There were reports making the rounds in the media that over 20 billionaires, including Steve Wynn, Michael Bloomberg, Bill Ackman, Lauder family, Alice Walton, Daniel Loeb, Tisch Family, John Hess and Family, Barry Diller, Steve Wynn, Michael Guarino, Joe Gebbia, Daniel Och, Ken Langone, James and Kathryn Murdoch, Bruce and Suzie Kovner, Richard Kurtz, Elghanayan Family, Deborah Simon, Jerry Speyer, Stephanie Coleman, Durst Family, Fisher Family, David Walentas, Reed Hastings, John Fish and David Lichtenstein poured in to the tune of \$22 million to put the brakes on Mamdani’s mayoral campaign (Desk N. N., \$22 Million, 26 Billionaires Couldn't Stop Zohran Mamdani's New York Mayoral Win, 2025; Allen, X , 2025; Schneid, 2025). The billionaires or as some left-wingers would describe it as the oligarchy, has an axe to grind since Mamdani was quoted saying, *“A society that produces billionaires while millions go hungry isn’t successful; it is broken. I don’t think we should have billionaires. Full stop”* (Allen, X , 2025; Marquez, Zohran Mamdani says 'I don't think we should have billionaires', 2025). The mayor-elect’s Socialist agenda entails, inter alia, fare-free bus plan, Universal free childcare, baby baskets to newborns, \$30 minimum wage, rent freeze,

Police reforms – he wants to make New York affordable (City, 2025; Fitzsimmons E. G., Zohran Mamdani’s Top 5 Priorities as Mayor, 2025). The aforementioned skewed media was simultaneously evangelizing Andrew Cuomo who in fact worked as pro bono lawyer for incumbent Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu and has a checkered past due to accusation of sexually harassing 13 women as corroborated by Department of Justice (DOJ), when he was Governor of New York (Reisman, DOJ says Andrew Cuomo sexually harassed 13 women, 2024; Jason Beeferman, 2025; Campanile, 2025; Pengelly, 2024).

The smear merchants in US media like the virulent Zionist podcaster, Laura Loomer and Batya Ungar-Sargon, political cabal which champions the status-quo, like the US House representative for Florida’s 6th Congressional district, the Jewish supremacist Randy Fine nicknamed the “Hebrew Hammer” denigrated Mamdani as the “Saint Patron of Bushwick”, a “pied piper”, “trust fund Socialist”, “Scamdani”, a “nepo baby” and a “snake oil salesman”. His adversaries pulled all the stops restoring to McCarthyism-style character assassinations, labelling him a “dirty commie” for his socialist agenda to ameliorate the marginalized classes in an increasingly expensive cosmopolis. While especially the Conservative media with a morbid transfixation on the mayor-elect, which apparently is still having a meltdown, weaponized “gotcha journalism” to find instances where his comments could be warped and used to stoke fears of Islamophobia reminiscent of post 9/11 Bush-era fearmongering against Muslims of America. The media predominantly and anti-Mamdani armchair political pundits stooped to rabid Islamophobia, propagandizing that the bogey of Sharia Law in the city and policy of Islamist revanchism – there were canards circulating how many will leave New York if Mamdani wins.

Much of the media also made a controversy out of the story that the mayor-elect shared regarding his aunt and dad’s cousin, Zehra fuhi, was afraid to take the subway after 9/11 since she wore a hijab (Fine, 2025; Pazmino, Zohran Mamdani faces pushback over his story about a family member’s post-9/11 fears, 2025; Rowlands, 2025; Lapin, Newest Jewish congressman, GOP Rep. Randy Fine, calls Rashida Tlaib a ‘terrorist’, 2025; Sullivan M. , 2025; Pinto, 2025; Ungar-Sargon, 2025; Post, Scamdani , 2025; Shivonne, 2025). The Israeli version of *Saturday Night Live (SNL)* - SNL is late-night comedic variety show especially known for its political satire - *Eretz Nehederet* took Islamophobic jabs at Mamdani where he was shown mispronounces Jewish rituals and terms like “Shana Tova” (a Jewish greeting for Rosh Hashanah, New Year in Judaism) as “Intifada-tova” (from Palestinian resistance, Intifada), “Hummus” as “ Hamas” and Jewish traditional song “*Hava Nagila*” as “Jihadaa” (Australia, 2025). For some this was using soft-power to meddle in the mayoral elections. In other words, the recent mayoral elections were a litmus test of Islamophobia, and the city rejected it

3. Lackluster support from within the Democratic party:

Mamdani has become mayor-elect of a city which boasts the second largest Jewish populations after Tel Aviv, notwithstanding vitriolic accusations of anti-Semitism particularly following on the heels of his campaign statement that when he held no punches promising to arrest Netanyahu if he visits New York (Mohammed, 2025; Vargas R. A., 2025). Additionally, he was targeted for timely anti-Israel remarks when he described what has been happening in Gaza as a “Genocide” under the fog of war, calling a spade a spade, in a political climate when other Congressmen or the American politicians on both sides of the political spectrum were

reticent to admit this fact (Bartov, 2025). Mamdani for his principled stance on Netanyahu and his Socialist agenda, confronted opposition from within the Democrat party, especially the old pro-Israel and capitalist old guard. It was not until a few days before the mayoral elections that, the minority leader of US House of Representatives and Democratic representative of New York's 8th congressional district, Hakeem Jeffries belatedly and reluctantly endorsed Mamdani (Mays, 2025; Sally Goldenberg, 2025; Gedeon, Hakeem Jeffries endorses Zohran Mamdani for New York City mayor, 2025; Jeffries, 2025). Whereas, the minority leader of US Senate and Democratic Senator from New York, Chuck Schumer remained mum on Mamdani even on election day (Karni, Even on Election Day, Schumer Is Mum on Mamdani, 2025; Razor, 2025; Senate Democratic Leader, 2025). Although, Mamdani was endorsed by the likes of US house representative for New York's 14th Congressional District, and a Democrat, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Democratic Senator from Vermont, Bernie Sanders, and Democratic Senator from Massachusetts, Elizabeth Warren who helped Mamdani pull in huge crowds at mayoral events (Cortez, 2025; Fandos N. , 2025; Oreskes, 2025; Fitzsimmons E. G., Bernie Sanders Endorses Zohran Mamdani for N.Y.C. Mayor, 2025; Sanders, 2025; Congress, Senator Elizabeth Warren , 2025).

In addition, other endorsements for Mamdani include that of Democratic House representative from Washington's 7th congressional district, Pramila Jayapal and New York City Comptroller, Brad Lander (Tucker-Smith, 2025; Congress, Representative Pramila Jayapal , 2025). Subsequent to the victory, the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama also offered to be a sounding board for Mamdani, while some have described the offer as a "kiss of death" due to Obama's highly controversial and tainted twin terms of presidency, especially the military campaigns in Libya and Syria along with the excessive use of drone attacks (Goldmacher, 2025; Agencies G. s., 2025; LaRose, 2025). Mamdani also got endorsement from 57th and incumbent Governor of New York, Kathy Hochul, although she isn't on board with Mamdani's slogan of "Tax the rich" (Hochul, 2025; Jr, 2025; Ashford, 2025; Reisman, Mamdani and Hochul have to work together. It won't be easy., 2025; Fitzsimmons E. G., Hochul Raises Doubts About Mamdani's Free Bus Proposal, 2025; DeTurris, 2025; News Y. , 2025).

In contrast, Cuomo got endorsements from the billionaire cohort and agents of status-quo including world's rich man Elon Musk, Jewish billionaire Bill Ackman, outgoing New York City Mayor Eric Adams, former US President Bill Clinton (42nd President), former New York Police Department Commissioner, Ray Kelly, Democratic Senator, Tom Suozzi, former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, former Democratic Governor of New York (55th Governor), David Paterson, and Hollywood Director Woody Allen. (LaRose, 2025; Mangan, Trump and Musk tell New York to 'vote' Cuomo over Mamdani on eve of mayoral election, 2025; McCarthy P. R., 2025 ; Yang, 2025 ; Bedigan, 2025; McCarthy C. , 2025; Forbes, The Richest People In The World, 2025; Fandos E. G., 2025; Tucker-Smith, 2025; Congress, Representative Thomas R. Suozzi , 2025). Additionally, Democratic House representative for New York's 3rd congressional district, Jessica Ramos and most importantly, the incumbent US President (45th and 47th), Donald John Trump also endorsed Cuomo (LaRose, 2025; Senate, New York State Senator - Jessica Ramos , 2025) In other words, Cuomo's endorsements were "birds of a feather".

4. Mamdani's kaleidoscopic mayoral campaign - prioritization of New York City:

Interestingly, during a debate prior to the elections, Mamdani was put on the spot when he was asked what country would he choose to visit if becomes mayor, while other candidates like Eric Adams, Andrew Cuomo, Curtis Sliwa all parroted the same answer, "Israel", Mamdani replied by saying he would choose to stay in New York, and chose to engage with Jews in the city (World, Candidates' willingness to visit Israel became a key topic at the New York City Mayoral Democratic primary debate, with Zohran Mamdani being the only candidate not saying they would visit Israel, stating he would rather engage with Jews in New York., 2025; Ozkan, 2025; Fields, 2025; Eye M. E., 2025). This question was deliberately asked to scupper Mamdani's campaign, besmirching him as anti-Semite but it had the opposite impact, he gradually propelled to victory. He was also acknowledged by right-wing political commentator Tucker Carlson and US house representative of the Republican party for Georgia's 14th congressional district and far-right politician, Marjorie Taylor Greene, for keeping a razor sharp focus of his mayoral campaign on New York and its people as opposed to morbid obsession with Israel and pandering to Zionists, Carlson said, *"And he (Mamdani) said, 'I wouldn't go anywhere. I'd stay in New York.' And like, if I want to meet Jewish constituents, I go to their synagogues, their homes or whatever, but I'd be here in New York because that's what I'm doing. I'm running New York. That's my job"*, (Ozkan, 2025; Fields, 2025; Eye M. E., 2025; Congress, Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene, 2025).

On that note Mamdani's triumph can also be determined by how his campaign had a flavor of political and social eclecticism, demotic style with campaign clips recorded in Urdu, Spanish, English and Arabic (NYC, Zohran explains Ranked Choice Voting in Urdu/Hindi, 2025; NYC, Marhaba! Ismee Zohran Mamdani, 2025; NYC, Un ciudad para todos neoyorquinos: Zohran Mamdani para Alcalde de NYC, 2025). He also enjoys overwhelming support from Generation-Z and working class people – Mamdani was frequently canvassing in the streets after midnight in places like LaGuardia; cab drivers, blue-collar workers would throng around him. He even visited night clubs in order to galvanize the disillusioned citizenry to vote for change (NYC, Without the night shift, there is no morning, 2025; News F. , 2025; Post, Zohran Mamdani Surprises Late Night Partyers in NYC Clubs Ahead of Election Day, 2025). In other words, his campaign epitomized and celebrated how New York is a city of immigrants, a melting pot of cultures – some say his campaign functions as a north star for the Democrat party. This fact is testified by the fact how another Democratic Socialist and an immigrant Mom, Diana Moreno has been preparing to run for Mamdani's Western Queens Assembly seat (Sterne, 2025; Moreno, 2025). One could argue that the Overton Window seem to be shifting especially amongst liberal and left-leaning Zoomers, the ignored segments and the working class who truly want to "drain the swamp".

5. Is the Overton window gradually shifting?

While, for optimists and his die-hard supporters, Mamdani's campaign echoed the lyrics of Sam Cooke's *"A Change is Gonna Come"* (Cooke, 2016). Conversely, his detractors' belittling exegesis of the victory is that Mamdani won due to a lacklustre slate of candidates and fragmented opposition. Even his fellow Democrat, Hakeem Jeffries in an interview with CNN's Jake Tapper expressed how Mamdani isn't the future of the party, essentially trying to kneecap Mamdani's position within the Democrat party (Tapper, 2025; Panreck, 2025). Will

Mamdani's mayorship change social-political physiognomy of New York and the Democrat party still remains to be seen. Another thing which is also of great interest for geopolitical pundits is whether Mamdani can function as a lodestar towards victory or will his feat have ripple effects across the Atlantic, for Green Party's Zack Polanski, who has a similar agenda to tax the billionaires in the UK. Here talking about change, there have been other recent instances where Muslim candidates secured electoral victories in the US; Lebanese American, Abdullah Hammoud of the Democrat party got reelected to the office of mayor in Dearborn, Michigan, while in neighboring Dearborn Heights, Lebanese American, Mo Baydoun became mayor (Staff F. 2., 2025; Dearborn, 2025; Booth-Singleton, 2025; Baydoun, 2025). Moreover, Palestinian American, Democrat Sam Rasoul won reelection to Virginia State election notwithstanding a campaign of painting him as an anti-Semite for speaking up on the Gaza Genocide; on the other hand, Indian American Democrat, Ghazala Hashmi made history by becoming the first Muslim to win the Lieutenant Governor's race in Virginia (Lakhani, 2025; Rasoul, 2025; Agencies N. , 2025; Hashmi, 2025).

6. The road ahead is one that is fraught with challenges:

One of the challenges for Mamdani will be working with the current Commissioner of New York Police department (NYPD), Jessica Tisch, notwithstanding diametrically opposed approach to policing in the city; Mamdani has reiterated the need to "defund the police" in the past, although he says that this slogan was blown out of context as some have skewered him on walking back on this call (News F. B., 2025; Pazmino, Mamdani confronts his past calls to defund police after an officer's death in New York, 2025; Desk T. N., 2025). An old video of the mayor-elect of the largest city by population in the US, featured him criticizing the NYPD during a Democratic Socialist of America convention 2024, where he said, "*We have to make clear that when the boot of the NYPD is on your neck, it's been laced by the IDF*", he was referring to the training exercises between the IDF and NYPD (Wright, 2025; News C. , A resurfaced video from 2023 shows New York mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani speaking at a Democratic Socialist Convention, saying, "When the boot of the NYPD is on your neck, it's been laced by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces].", 2025; Britannica, List of the largest U.S. cities by population, 2025). The current head of the NYPD, Jessica Tisch is Jewish and a member of the Manhattan based Central Synagogue, where Rabbi Angela Buchdahl denigrated Mamdani for anti-Semitism; the mayor-elect has decided to keep Tisch as police chief of the city force who is an advocate of all things Israel, making them strange bedfellows (Fitzsimmons M. C., 2025; Anthony Izaguirre, 2025; Lifetime, 2025).

Even greater is the challenge of Mamdani working with Trump's style of taking no prisoners, both has exchanged salvos in the past in a whiplash of sorts; the mayor-elect has called Trump a fascist, while the US President ridiculed Mamdani as a Communist. Recently both had their first interaction in Oval office which apparently went better people expected although there was an air of adversarial unease (Mangan, Trump calls New York Democratic mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani 'a communist', 2025; Guardian, 2025; Marquez, Zohran Mamdani says he still believes Trump is a 'fascist' and a 'despot' after White House meeting, 2025). However, responding to a question, Mamdani firmly stood his ground and reiterated how the Israeli government is committing a genocide and how the US government is funding it (Jazeera A. , 2025; World, Mamdani reiterates that the US is funding Israel's genocide, 2025).

Some may call the meeting a political theatre or probably a transient truce. Nonetheless, ultimately, Mamdani made his identity and the diversity of the city, the strength of his campaign, which eventually helped him wade to victory, while not being shy about his faith, despite being described as a Trojan horse for Islamization of New York. It is noteworthy that Zohran Mamdani victory wasn't merely a fluke, an instance of evanescent charisma or social media virality, it was an eloquent testimony to how the city and its citizenry has outgrown the vested interests of the billionaire coterie.

➤ **A trend of Democratic Recession: Shifting of the Overton Window**

1. The shutdown and the oligarchic administration:

The Trump administration has been running the gauntlet for many of its policy decisions. Firstly, the shutdown which lasted for 43 days, contemporaneous with 42 million US citizens losing their Supplementary Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits sending them in a tailspin – SNAP provides food benefits to low-income households functioning as an accompaniment to their grocery budget in order for them to afford nutritious food key for well-being and health. Additionally, due to the shutdown an estimated 1.4 million federal employees were furloughed, going weeks without pay, while thousands of airline flights were either suspended or cancelled - the shutdown was longest in history (Faguy, 2025; Stein, 2025; Brown, 2025; Sherman, Is the US government shutdown over, and why did it happen?, 2025).

Vis-à-vis the Anti-deficiency Act which was passed in 1884 and later underwent an amendment in 1950, federal agencies are obligated to not spend a dollar without appropriation from the US Congress. In other words, the House and the Senate must provide approval to the outlay plan to be sent to the President in order to be signed. When both chambers of the Congress fail to enact the 12 annual appropriation bills, cessation of federal agencies' functions ensues until and unless Congress moves. Trump's Republican Party currently controls the Congress, however towards the last weeks of September, the GOP was 7 short of 60 votes required to pass a spending bill – earlier a temporary funding bill sailed through the House of Representatives. At the moment, Republicans hold 53 seats in the Senate and required Democrats to vote. This hiccup turned crisis was interpreted by the Democrats as a negotiating leverage since the liberals wanted that extension of expiring tax credits that makes health insurance cheaper for the American denizens, enshrined in the bill. After 43 days the shutdown ended on November 12 with a new funding bill passed the Senate by a vote of 60-40, as 8 Democrats from the caucus (these Democrats broke ranks to aid the Republicans) and one Independent Senator constitutionally came to Republicans' respite. Subsequently, the same bill passed in the Republican-dominated House by a vote of 222 to 209 (6 Democrats chipped in with their votes). Critics threw shadow at Democrat party's Chuck Schumer for displaying incapacitated leadership during the shutdown, with calls to replace the 74 year old Senator (Wessel, 2025; Sherman, Is the US government shutdown over, and why did it happen?, 2025; Faguy, 2025; Cheyanne M. Daniels, 2025; Raju, 2025; McCaskill, 2025).

Furthermore, quite egregiously, the same time millions across were hung out to dry by virtue of the shutdown, Trump was making junkets to Mar-a-Lago; to add insult to injury, the President threw a flamboyant and profligate "*Great Gatsby*" themed Halloween jamboree at Mar-a-Lago with women in flapper attire, a stark contrast between struggling working class

and what has become an oligarchic administration – a microcosm of the current America (Pereira, 2025; Staff G. , 2025). The whole affair was lampooned as Trump’s “bordello” by some in the media. Amidst such the aforementioned deadlock, Trump announced the construction of a 90,000 square foot ballroom to the tune of \$300 million in place of White House’s historical East Wing without the approval of National Capital Planning Commission (House, 2025; Poon, 2025; Shamim, 2025; Bose, 2025). While, the White House Press Secretary, Karoline Leavitt shared that major companies are donating to the construction of the ballroom including, Amazon, Altria Group, Inc., Apple, Caterpillar, Inc., Booz Allen Hamilton, Comcast Corporation, Coinbase, Google, Hard Rock International, J. Pepe and Emilia Fanjul, Lockheed Martin, HP Inc., Micron Technology, Microsoft, Meta Platforms, Palantir Technologies Inc., NextEra Energy, Inc., T-Mobile, Ripple, Reynolds American, The Lutnick Family, Tether America, Adelson Family Foundation, Union Pacific Railroad, Benjamin Leon Jr., Harold Hamm, Stefan E. Brodie, Edward and Shari Glazer, Charles and Marissa Cascarilla, Betty Wold Johnson Foundation, Konstantin Sokolov, Paolo Tiramani, Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Foundation, Cameron Winklevoss, Stephen A. Schwarzman, Tyler Winklevoss and Kelly Loeffler and Jeff Sprecher (Kit Maher, 2025). In other words, all capitalist hands on deck for the spendthrift in the Oval office.

However, Senator Elizabeth Warren has sounded the fire alarm that the ballroom could be “a golden crime scene” and suggested the subsequent administration to follow the money to unearth whether rules and regulations were infringed; it could be a case of malfeasance on part of Trump and dereliction of duty. (Popat, 2025). This could essentially mean that the list provided by Leavitt could be an exercise in smoke and mirrors. The *BBC* has described the ballroom as Trump’s bid to redesign the White House in his own image, a lineament of authoritarian rulers (Hills, 2025). It is also speculated that if the Democrats win the next Presidential elections, the ballroom could well be an early casualty (Nicholas, 2025). The bottom-line is that the current administration is hemorrhaging legitimacy, exacerbated by how there’s an embattled and churlish President who called the female reporter from Bloomberg, “piggy” when questioned about the Epstein file; he called the co-author of a New York Times report on Trump manifesting signs of aging, Katie Rogers, “ugly” (Stelter, 2025; Freedman, 2025 ; Barr, 2025). Apart from this, Trump recently took the flak, for his comment regarding accusing Democratic legislators of “sedition, punishable by death” after a small cohort of Congressional Democrats including Chris DeLuzio, Chrissy Houlahan, Maggie Goodlander, Elissa Slotkin, Mark Kelly and Jason Crow, released a video urging American soldiers to decline unlawful orders. Trump’s politicization of the military was condemned US Veterans (Chidi, 2025; Congress, Representative Jason Crow, 2025; Congress, Senator Mark Kelly, 2025; Congress, Senator Elissa Slotkin, 2025; Congress, Representative Maggie Goodlander, 2025; Congress, Representative Chrissy Houlahan, 2025; Congress, Representative Christopher R. Deluzio , 2025).

In addition, Trump’s cronyism vis-à-vis Washington based John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (an apolitical public-private to celebrate arts located on the Eastern bank of the Potomac River in Washington, D.C) institution under Ric Grenell (Former US Ambassador Germany during Trump’s first term) is subject to Senate probe by Democrats for giving conspicuous discounts to FIFA and American Conservation Union Foundation, going into contracts with administration affiliates and squandering on friends of the President. In

other words it is said that the center has become somewhat a private club for the President's entourage and supporters. Democratic Senator from Rhode Island, Sheldon Whitehouse stated that the stewardship of \$268 million budget of the Center and the accusation of doling out political favors are under investigation. Grenell gave American Conservation Union Foundation's Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) a discount; the conference was supposed to cost \$42,000, but it was brought down to \$20,007. Similarly, there have been reports that the Center was rented out to FIFA which should have cost \$5 million based on the contract encompassing \$ 2.7 million for "potential lost revenue" and "rescheduling expenses", however, Grenell waived the entire bill as shown by the record. The Kennedy Center has become fraught with Republican cronies including Rick Loughery and Nick Meade; both signed on the FIFA contract (Benner, 2025; Kingsberry, 2025; Watson, 2025; Congress, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, 2025).

Moreover, Trump has deviated from his "America first" mantra by announcing to quadruple beef imports from US ally, President Javier Milei's Argentina at the expense of the domestic beef industry which has left American ranchers incensed; American farmers were also furious that their sale soybeans to China was also lost to the Latin American country (Jeff Mason, 2025). The US President also announced a \$20 billion bailout to prop up the country, since Trump himself said that Milei is "Make America Great Again" (MAGA) all the way, there is a need to "Make Argentina Great Again" (Journal, 2025). However, this proposal could be shelved, in lieu of that, a \$4 billion package might be offered to the far-right libertarian Milei (Baer, 2025). The Argentinian leader is a geostrategic asset for the Trump administration in South America.

2. The Epstein files - Sex trafficking pyramid scheme:

Staying on the domestic front, the Epstein files albatross remains hanging around the Trump administration's neck, particularly for Trump as his connection with the pedophile was more than a dalliance according to the media. FBI's Director, Kash Patel and Trump loyalist testified in front of the Senate that there was no credible information Jeffrey Epstein trafficked girls or women to other men – Patel has himself has been under fire for using \$60 million FBI jet for a junket to watch his girlfriend Alexis Wilkins' performance at a wrestling event at Pennsylvania State University. In an arbitrary whiplash, Patel fired top FBI official who oversees the fleet, with a 27 years of standing with the agency, following details of misuse of his private jet got leaked to the media (Goudsward, 2025; Desk N. N., Kash Patel Slammed For Using \$60 Million FBI Jet To Watch Girlfriend Perform, 2025; MSNBC, 2025; Scott, 2025; Pilkington, 2025).

Patel has also been using the SWAT teams to protect his girlfriend (Thrush, 2025). Notwithstanding Patel's Senate testimony where he remained evasive about Trump's relation with Epstein, allegedly part of the cover-up and dereliction of duty performing the role of Trump's flunkey, according the Democrats, it is noteworthy that over 20 victims testified at the Manhattan Federal Court in 2019 against convicted child sex offenders Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell who ran what experts describe as a "sex trafficking pyramid scheme" and as some put it, it was a "conveyor belt of abuse", as 1000 women and minors were abused stretching over decades (Bekiempis, 2019; Mansfield, 2025). In the same vein, House Speaker, Mike Johnson belatedly swore in Democratic House representative for Arizona's 7th

Congressional district, Adelita Grijalva, which was seen as a maneuver to delay voting on the release of the Epstein files (Gedeon, Arizona's Adelita Grijalva sworn in after seven weeks in move that triggers Epstein vote, 2025; Grijalva, 2025).

However, in an intriguing whiplash of events, Trump has been seemingly pushing to release the files, initiating a 30-day timer for their release and called on the House Republicans to vote yes on making the files public (Sullivan H. , 2025; Breuninger, 2025). Many pundits describe this as Trump's scorched earth policy and a ploy to target Democrats including 42nd US President, Bill Clinton – an oil painting of Clinton titled "Parsing Bill" wearing a blue dress and red high heels hung in Epstein's Manhattan townhouse painted by Australian-born artist, Petrina Ryan-Kleid (Nerozzi, 2025; Perez, 2019; Davis, 2019; Fowler, 2025; LaRose, 2025). Critics opine that Trump and his inner circle's names will be scrubbed off of the list; rather a "sanitized" list will eventually be released. In this regard, former Fox News host, and host of "The Megyn Kelly Show" on Sirius XM, had a revolting conversation with News Nation's host Batya Ungar-Sargon, where she questioned whether Epstein was a paedophile, Kelly said, *"He (Epstein) was into the barely legal type, like, he liked 15-year-old. I'm not trying to make an excuse for this, I'm just giving you facts — that he wasn't into, like, 8-year-olds. But he liked the very young teen types that could pass for even younger than they were, but would look legal to a passer-by."* She added that there hasn't been evidence or testimony from children under 10 against Epstein essentially and euphemistically downplaying the heinous crime; her comments has left many fuming (CNN, Megyn Kelly appears to question whether Epstein was a pedophile, 2025; Ivy Buck, 2025).

Epstein ran a paedophilia and sex trafficking ring in order to find dirt on and blackmail political and social men of colossal influence, including, inter alia, disgraced Prince Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, Former Israeli Prime Minister, Ehud Barak; there has been evidence that Epstein, a US citizen was on Israel's payroll. The scoop largely appears to be downplayed in the legacy media but independent news outlets like Drop Site have covered a few stories in this regard. Epstein is accused to have pursued Swiss Rothschild Bank to finance Israeli Cyber-weapons Empire; he is said to have helped Israel sell the idea of a surveillance state to Côte d'Ivoire; Epstein also helped Israel build a backchannel to Russia amid Syrian Civil War; he worked in background to solidify ties between Modi-led India and Israel; the king of sex-trafficking aided pro-Israel Alan Dershowitz's diatribe against Stephen Walt and John Mearsheimer, both critical of Israel and Epstein helped in brokering Israeli Security agreement with Mongolia (Hussain, Jeffrey Epstein Pursued Swiss Rothschild Bank to Finance Israeli Cyberweapons Empire, 2025; Meghnad Bose, 2025; Hussain, Jeffrey Epstein Aided Alan Dershowitz's Attack on Mearsheimer and Walt's "Israel Lobby", 2025; Grim, Jeffrey Epstein Helped Israel Sell a Surveillance State to Côte d'Ivoire, 2025; Grim, Jeffrey Epstein and the Mossad: How The Sex-Trafficker Helped Israel Build a Backchannel to Russia Amid Syrian Civil War, 2025; Grim, Jeffrey Epstein Helped Broker Israeli Security Agreement With Mongolia, 2025).

Here it is noteworthy how House representative for Kentucky's 4th Congressional district, Republican, Thomas Massie, has been unwaveringly trying to bring the clients and those who fraternized with Epstein to justice; there is speculation that if the files are released by the DOJ, they will be heavily redacted (Congress, Representative Thomas Massie, 2025;

Bernd Debusmann Jr, 2025; Fowler, 2025). Massie has been slammed as “Rand Paul Jr.” by Trump in addition to a barrage of insults including taking the mickey out of his remarriage, for disagreeing on matters like Trump’s “Big Beautiful Bill”, and military strikes on Iranian sites – Trump is now on a mission to disparage MAGA stalwart calling him a “grandstander” (Guzman, 2025; Tully-McManus, 2025; Lubin, 2025).

3. ICE led anti-immigration policy - A cause célèbre:

Some critics are also of the opinion that the Republic is unravelling under the second term of Trump’s presidency particularly due to Trump’s anti-immigration playbook; the excessively controversial use of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). As of October 27, 2025, Department of Homeland Security’s website state that over 2 million illegal aliens have left the United States which encompasses 1.6 million who have “voluntarily self-deported” and more than 527,000 deportations (Security, 2025). While according to the Guardian, roughly 65,000 have been detained nationwide; ICE apprehended and detained an estimated 54,000 and approximately 56,000 people during the 43-day long shutdown (Will Craft, 2025). ICE is being accused of racial profiling especially of Latino community, are being likened to the Proud Boys, a misogynistic, Islamophobic, right-wing extremist group based in the US, especially due to their gear and tactics (Vargas G. R., 2025). A Newsweek story highlighted how Chaofeng Ge, a Chinese immigrant, detained by ICE, was found dead with hands and feet tied, in custody of the federal agency in Pennsylvania (Gooding, 2025).

In another incident recently, Indigenous actor, Elaine Miles known for roles in “The Last of Us”, “Northern Express”, “Smoke Signals and “Wyvern” was stopped by ICE agents in Redmond, Washington State, and when she showed them tribal ID from the Confederate Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Oregon, the federal agents rejected it as fake. The US federal government agencies recognize the tribal ID as a legitimate document of identification and the aforementioned actor told agents that she has been using it to travel back and forth to Mexico and Canada without any legal or bureaucratic hurdle. According to indigenous rights attorney based in Seattle, Gabriel Galanda commented on the issue, *“What we’re talking about here is racial profiling. People are getting pulled over or detained on the street because of the dark color of their skin.”* This episode of racial profiling coincided with the multiple arrests by ICE at Redmond’s Bear Creek Village shopping center (Uyehara, 2025; Rego, 2025).

Moreover, back in September of 2025, a Muslim community leader from Dallas, Texas, Marwan Marouf, who has been living in the US for 30 years got detained by ICE, moments after his green card was denied. Marouf has been an exemplary denizen, who was active in numerous drug awareness campaigns and helped found the local Boy Scout troop. According to Muslim Legal Fund of America (MLFA), the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) had not informed the detainee about his green card denial; it wasn’t until his arrest that, the news of denial was broken to him. Marouf arrived to the United States, over 3 decades ago as a student; his employer back then sponsored his temporary work and permanent residence applications for 15 years. This was before USCIS started asking questions about his charitable activities. According to some reports, Marwan Marouf is being held at the Blue Bonnet Detention Center, just three hours from Dallas. Muslim American Society-Dallas released a Press Release highlighting how this arrest is part and parcel of a broader drive to

target immigrants, Muslims and Palestinians. The aforementioned detention emerges amidst Trump-led immigration crackdown which even detains immigrants with valid visas and green cards along with those in the process of procuring legal status (Taheri, 2025). In the same vein, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has been reported to spy on a private signal group chat of immigrants' rights activists who were planning court-watch programs in New York (Levin, 2025).

Furthermore, the US President has explicated his plan to suspend immigration from all "third world countries". US Citizenship and Immigration Services Director, Joseph Edlow said that Trump has given orders for a full-scale and rigorous re-examination of every green card from 19 countries of concern – earlier Trump made an announcement regarding the re-examination of green cards from 19 countries of concern including Iran, Cuba, Somalia, Afghanistan, Venezuela and Haiti. This decision came on the heels of the attack by a 29-year old Afghan national, Rahmanaullah Lakanwal, who shot at two National Guards close to the White House, killing West Virginia National Guard, Sarah Backstorm, while her fellow serviceman Andrew Wolfe is under critical care. The identified shooter has a history of working with CIA in Afghanistan as part of the "Zero Units" before immigrating to the US following America's withdrawal from the land-locked country in 2021. Trump posted on his Truth Social platform, *"I will permanently pause migration from all Third World Countries to allow the US system to fully recover, terminate all of the millions of Biden illegal admissions."* The administration also ordered to review an estimated 200,000 refugees who were allowed to settle in the US during the Biden administration (Press, 2025; Agencies A. M., 2025; Joshua Partlow, 2025).

4. US imperialism – A political minstrel to distract the constituents:

In order to divert attention from the domestic political scene, Nicolás Maduro has been in Trump's crosshairs, as the US President threatens the Venezuelan President with military strikes citing the pretext of smuggling of fentanyl via boats from Venezuela. Trump has linked a large number of death in the US due to fentanyl smuggled from Venezuela. In this regard, the American military has targeted approximately 21 boats since the inception of Trump administration's anti-drug campaign in September killing 80 people. However, the twist here is that according to *The New York Times*, Venezuela doesn't produce fentanyl (Barnes, 2025). The actual reason was made evident by ex US Ambassador to Venezuela, James Story who said the quiet part aloud in an interview featuring in the show 60 minutes on CBS, *"This is a very bad actor (Maduro) sitting on top of the world's largest known reserves of oil, plus the critical minerals that will fuel the 21st century economy, and he is in bed with our strategic competitors"*, (Minutes S. A.-6., 2025; Minutes 6. , 2025).

Republican House representative for Florida's 27th congressional district, Maria Elvira Salazar was in unison with Story's interview when she went on *Fox Business* recently ad said, *"Venezuela for those Americans who don't understand why we (the US) need to go in basically for three reasons, Venezuela for the American oil companies will be a field day because it will be more than a trillion dollars in economic activity. We are going to be doing a favor to us, to our children, to our economy, to our oil companies"*, (Intel, 2025; Congress, Representative Maria Elvira Salazar , 2025). She added, *"Maduro is the head of a transnational criminal organization, Maduro is not the legitimate President of the country. So we (the US)*

are not invading a sovereign country that has a free and fair elected President, this guy is a thug and he is good friends with Hezbollah, they are giving uranium to Hamas, Iran and North Korea, Cuba and Nicaragua. It is time for United States to do what we need to do, Thank God! Trump is doing it. Venezuelans have the largest reserves of oil in the world, more than Saudi Arabia, this is going to be a windfall for us when it comes to our fossil fuels”, (People, 2025). She deliberately ignores that regime changes orchestrated by the US have invariably had unintended consequences – the Middle East and Latin America are textbook examples.

The US wants a regime change in Socialist Venezuela, replacing Maduro with the de facto opposition leader and an advocate of laissez faire capitalism, María Corina Machado, who recently won the Nobel Peace Prize for “promoting democracy” in Venezuela (Phillips, 2025; Prize, 2025). In an interview on the podcast *Triggered* hosted by Donald Trump Jr., Machado explicated, *“Forget about Saudi Arabia; I mean, we have more oil, infinite potential. And we are going to open markets, we are going to kick (out) the government from the oil sector. We are going to privatize all our industry; Venezuela has huge resources: oil, gas, minerals, land, and technology. We have a strategic location, hours from the United States; Americans are in a super strategic position to invest. Venezuela is going to be the brightest opportunity for investment of American companies that are going to make a lot of money”, (Jr., 2025).* The Nobel Prize winner states that the country has a \$1.7 trillion opportunity to initiate the privatization of 500 companies and ushering in the reversal of the “socialist disaster” (Lichtenberg, 2025). Machado also heaped praises on Trump for brokering peace in the world, while she also appreciated Netanyahu for his “achievements” in the war on Gaza (Boyd, 2025; Israel, 2025).

The same *New York Times* (owned by the Ochs-Sulzberger family) published an opinion article titled, *“The Case for Overthrowing Maduro”,* while *Foreign Affairs Magazine* published an article titled *“How to Topple Maduro”,* essentially manufacturing consent for ratcheting up pressure on Venezuela – the Americans want another libertarian Milei in Caracas (Stephens, 2025; Abrams, 2025). Apart from this, to strike a chord with Christian Nationalists in the US, Trump who seems to have a smattering of diplomacy, warned Nigerian government with military actions over failure to protect its Christian population from attacks by Islamists, while conveniently turning a blind eye to the “true” full-blown genocides in Sudan and Congo where 150,000 and 7,000 have been massacred respectively (Winter, 2025; Natasha Booty, 2025; Poidevin, 2025). *BBC* states that the number of Christians killed in political violence by jihadists is far less than the Muslims. Additionally, security analyst from Nigeria, Christian Ani states that Christians are not deliberately being targeted, people of all faiths are being terrorized (Olaronke Alo, 2025). Both Venezuela and Nigeria are being instrumentalized to drown out the pandemonium of criticism on the administration’s policies vis-à-vis the domestic front; this also helps to provide fodder to MAGA zealots.

5. The curious case of fealty to Israel – AIPAC affiliation becoming a liability:

An interesting development has been unravelling in the socio-political physiognomy of America vis-à-vis the highly controversial role of the pro-Israel lobby, American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). One might describe it as a small glimmer of reality shining through a very grimy Overton Window especially in the wake of the Israel’s brutal genocide in Gaza which set humanity backwards. It seems people are taking off their proverbial tinfoil

hat vis-à-vis US-Israel relations. There is now a greater epiphany that anti-Zionism or anti-Israel stance ought not to be conflated with anti-Semitism and kowtowing to Israel especially for politicians is becoming a political liability. Back in October, House representative for Massachusetts's 6th congressional district, the Centrist Democrat, Seth Moulton made an announcement that he will return donations from AIPAC, due to the pro-Israel lobby's ties to the Netanyahu regime; this brings to fore a gradual trend of waning support for AIPAC amongst Democrats (Harb, Centrist US Democrat says he returned AIPAC donations, cites Netanyahu ties, 2025; Congress, Representative Seth Moulton, 2025).

The extent of sycophancy towards Israel at the expense of the American constituents could be seen from how the US Republican Senator from Texas, Ted Cruz expressed in an interview with Tucker Carlson that he ran for US Senate in 2012 with the objective of becoming the leading defender of Israel (Network T. C., 2025; Carlson, Tucker Confronts Ted Cruz on His Support for Regime Change in Iran, 2025; Congress, Senator Ted Cruz, 2025). He warrants this "Israel first" standpoint with his own interpretation of Genesis 12:3 stating, *"As a Christian, growing up in Sunday school, I was taught from the Bible that those who bless Israel will be blessed, and those who curse Israel will be cursed. I want to be on the blessing side of things"*, (Carlson, Tucker Confronts Ted Cruz on His Support for Regime Change in Iran, 2025). The original verse from the aforementioned verse from the Old Testament states, *"I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed"*, referring Abraham (Genesis, 2025). Cruz is of the opinion that the modern day genocidal Israeli regime under Netanyahu is the same as the Israel mentioned in the Bible; this flawed rationale stems from the exegesis of the Scofield Bible that also uses King James Version (KJV) of the text, annotated by American theologian, Cyrus Ingerson Scofield and published by the Oxford University Press in 1909 (Carlson, Tucker Confronts Ted Cruz on His Support for Regime Change in Iran, 2025; Durbin, 2023). This edition of the Bible makes a case of creation of an Israeli state as part of God's plan and Christian end of times prophecy. The Scofield Bible has made Christian Zionists, especially amongst Deep South Evangelicals, out of millions of Americans (Durbin, 2023).

The countervailing argument presented by Tucker Carlson in one of the episodes of his show on *The Tucker Carlson Network* is that the view of many Christians who are the largest group supporting Israel in the United States, their view is colored by the oldest of the Christian heresies which is how God somehow prefers some people based on their DNA, however the whole point of Christianity is that is no longer true, there is no "chosen people", the chosen people are people who choose Jesus as preached in the New Testament, that is the core Christian message which isn't anti-Semitic. He further elaborates, as opposed to what some self-described representative of Christian faith like Senator Lindsey Graham who says that God will pull the plug on America, if Americans don't support Israel, the Christian faith is universal and the opinion held by people like House Speaker Mike Johnson is deranged heresy that justifies killing people; Christians can't abide by the killing of innocent people (Sirs, 2025; Congress, Representative Mike Johnson, 2025; Congress, Senator Lindsey Graham, 2025). Carlson is a prominent opinion leader in MAGA Conservative politics boasting 16.7 million followers on X; the pro-Israel elements have failed to culturally and politically cancel him (Carlson, Tucker Carlson, 2025).

According to Track AIPAC, which keeps tabs on donations for Congress members from the Israeli lobby, Cruz is said to have received \$1,872,592; this carrying of water for Israel isn't purely out of love for Israel, but because of the strings attached due to the donation (AIPAC, Ted Cruz, 2025). Similarly, Trump received \$230,473,622 and Vice President JD Vance received \$167,324 from the Israeli lobby (AIPAC, Trump has approved >\$14 billion in Military aid & weapons sales to Israel, 2025). In this regard, Trump recently wrote a letter to Israeli President Isaac Herzog to fully pardon Likud Party's (right-wing party) Prime Minister Benjamin (Bibi) Netanyahu over corruption charges; Trump described the trial as a "political, unjustified prosecution" and wrote "*As the Great State of Israel and the amazing Jewish People move past the terribly difficult times of the last three years, I hereby call on you to fully pardon Benjamin Netanyahu, who has been a formidable and decisive War Time Prime Minister, and is now leading Israel into a time of peace*", (Usher, 2025; Britannica, Likud, 2025). Earlier in a speech at the Knesset following the travesty of the US-brokered ceasefire, Trump said to Herzog in an off the cuff statement, "*Cigars and Champagne, who the hell cares about that?*" (Usher, 2025; CNN, Trump's Knesset Speech: A Call for Netanyahu's Pardon, 2025). This essentially highlights how Trump views accountability, a cornerstone of democracy, in contempt.

Moreover, the staunchly pro-Israel stance and advocacy emanates from likes of Republican US Senator from South Carolina Lindsey Graham etc. who have come out of the woodwork to defend Israel despite the Genocide in Gaza. (Congress, Senator Lindsey Graham, 2025). More recently, New York City's outgoing Mayor, Eric Adams, visited the Wailing Wall, a ritual for Western politicians and celebrities, and said, "*I wanted to come back here to Israel and let you know that I served you as the mayor*", (Shamala B. Y., 2025; Suleiman, 2025) This policy of prioritizing Israel over the Americans can also be seen from how the US provides \$3.8 billion annually to the Zionist state that has Universal healthcare coverage for Israeli citizens, heavily subsidized/free public universities, posted a budget surplus in 2023 (Spetalnick, 2016; BBC, 2016; Administration, 2023; staff, 2025; Wrobel, 2023).

While, on the other hands US citizens neither have access to affordable healthcare or subsidized college; America's debt has surpassed \$38 trillion (Power, US national debt surpasses a record \$38 trillion, 2025). People, especially the erstwhile fence-sitters are waking up to how US politicians have outsourced the thinking of especially the Christian Evangelical Zionist class; according to critics, AIPAC's clout is a testimony that America doesn't have a foreign policy, it has a rental covenant in which Israel plays the role of the landlord and Congress pays the rent. Pro-Israel mega-donor and Las Vegas casino magnate, the Israeli-American physician, Miriam Adelson got a shout-out from Donald Trump in the Knesset for donating \$106 million to Trump's presidential campaign, via the election group, pro-Trump super PAC in 2024, earning the moniker "kingmaker". Adelsons' and by extension Israel's clout could be determined from the fact that how the couple persuaded Trump during his first presidency to move the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in 2016. Additionally, they pushed Trump to recognize Israel's illegal control over occupied Golan Heights and in turn the President awarded Miriam the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2018 (Staff A. J., 2025).

6. The bipartisan law-fare against Israel:

Far-right Republican, Congresswoman and former Trump loyalist, Marjorie Taylor Greene (MTG), has reiterated how AIPAC and Israel's incredible influence needs to be reined in; she called for AIPAC and Christians United for Israel need to be registered as foreign agents under Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) stating how these organizations are lobbying on behalf of Israel. She stated that modern state of Israel is not the Israel of the Bible (Network M. -O., 2025; Congress, Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene, 2025). In September, MTG introduced an amendment \$500 cut in funding for Israel's missile defense since Israel is a nuclear-armed state and can defend itself. In parenthesis, from 1946 to 2023, Israel has received \$124 billion military aid from the US (Sevencan, 2025; MiddleEastEye, 2025; AJLabs, 2023). MTG has gained a lot of traction in the media and as well as amongst the American people for her stance on Israel's meddling in US policymaking for which she has been villainized by Zionists; this itself alludes to the Overton Window shifting slowly. MTG has recently decided to resign from Congress, which was gloated over by Trump as he called her a "traitor" and called the resignation "great news for the country"; he even mocked her surname, "*Green grass turns brown when it begins to rot!*", on the social media platform Truth Social (Keller, 2025; Today, 2025; Agencies K. D., 2025).

In the same vein, Democratic House representative, representing Michigan's 12th Congressional district, Rashida Tlaib and 20 members of Congress recently introduced a resolution (resolution – 876) to recognize Israel's genocide of the Palestinians of Gaza. The resolution was co-sponsored by Democratic legislators including Bonnie Watson Coleman, André Carson, Maxwell Alejandro Frost, Becca Balint, Henry "Hank" Johnson, Jr., Ro Khanna, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Nydia Velázquez, Ayanna Pressley, Summer Lee, Delia C. Ramirez, Mark Pocan, Ilhan Omar, Pramila Jayapal, Jesús G. "Chuy" García, Lateefah Simon, Greg Casar, Al Green, Jim McGovern and Maxine Dexter. Additionally, the resolution was received endorsement from around 100 organizations including, Action for Gaza, Center for Jewish Nonviolence, Gen-Z for Change, Friendship-West Baptist Church, Methodist Federation for Social Action, Palestine Justice Network of the Presbyterian Church, Jewish Voice for Peace Action, Jews for Racial & Economic Justice, United Church of Christ, Climate and Community Institute etc. The resolution mentions how between October 2023 and September 2025, the US government provided approximately \$21,700,000,000 in military aid to Netanyahu's government. With this, the White House authorized over \$30,000,000,000 in weapon deals (Tlaib, 2025; Harb, Rashida Tlaib introduces US Congress resolution to recognise Gaza genocide, 2025; Congress, Representative Rashida Tlaib, 2025).

7. Crevices within the GOP and Conservative political rampart:

Another important development was a social media statement following the Tucker Carlson's interview of far-right, Christian nationalist, Nick Fuentes (both unprecedentedly and profoundly criticized Zionists in the interview), by President of the far-right conservative think-tank, Kevin Roberts who said in an earth-shattering social media message, "*Christians can critique Israel without being anti-Semitic*", (Roberts, 2025; Leingang, 2025). Roberts was met with an orchestrated campaign to "cancel him" by Zionists, wars and neoconservatives who carry the water for Israel such as Senator Ted Cruz, Senator Lindsey Graham, US Senator from Kentucky, Mitch McConnell, current US Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee, political commentators Mark Levin and House Representative Randy Fine who have come out of the

woodwork to attack critics of Israel as anti-Semitic (Congress, Representative Randy Fine , 2025; Congress, Senator Mitch McConnell, 2025; Sommerlad, 2025; Karni, G.O.P. Figures Seek Distance From Tucker Carlson, Denouncing Antisemitism, 2025; Hill, 2025; Benson, Ted Cruz accuses GOP senators of being ‘frightened’ to call out Tucker Carlson, 2025; Leingang, 2025; Cameron, 2025; Svirnovskiy, 2025; King R. , 2025). Pro-Israel Conservative Political bulwarks like Ben Shapiro and Republican Jewish Coalition were also amongst the detractors of Fuentes and Carlson (Marc Rod, 2025; Benson, Ben Shapiro blasts ‘intellectual coward’ Tucker Carlson amid staff shakeup at Heritage, 2025). The Wall Street Journal even described it as, “*Kevin Roberts of the Heritage Foundation flounders in the Tucker Carlson-Nick Fuentes fever swamps*”, in an opinion piece titled “*The New Right’s New Anti-Semites*” (Board, 2025). It is interesting to note that Ambassador Huckabee is reported to have held a meeting with, Jonathan J. Pollard, an American who spied for Israel. Pollard was convicted of espionage, spent 30 years in prison and currently plans to run for the Knesset. As a Zionist hardliner, he is of the opinion that Gaza ought to be annexed and repopulated with Israeli settlers (Rasgon, 2025; Bradley, 2025).

While, many Americans are asking the right questions vis-à-vis Israel and Palestine, there have been crevices of sorts forming in the GOP, Evangelical as well as the MAGA movement, especially regarding Israel and the Epstein files; on one hand there are the America First Nationalists led by the likes of political commentators Tucker Carlson, former US representative from Florida’s 1st Congressional district, Matt Gaetz, MTG, Thomas Massie and Candace Owens as well alt-right, white supremacists with an internet nomenclature the “Groyper Army” shepherd by the firebrand political commentator and erstwhile pariah, Nick Fuentes, who adhere to the mantra of “Christ is King” and “America First” (Moore, 2024; Haaretz, 2025; Congress, Representative Thomas Massie, 2025; Congress, Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene, 2025; Congress, Representative Matt Gaetz , 2024; Caputo, 2025). In parenthesis, Candace Owens has a lot of clout with over 7.4 million X followers, recently quoted from the Quran on her podcast, citing how Virgin Mary and Jesus are venerated in Islam, a religious fact many Christians aren’t cognizant with (Owens, 2025; Muslims, 2025).

On the other hand there are the “Israel firsters” led by influential political commentators within the Pro-Israel Conservative realm, like Ben Shapiro, Laura Loomer and Mark Levin as well as politicians such as Senators Cruz and Graham and Representative Fine along with Republican Jewish Coalition, who conflate anti-Zionism and Israel’s critique with anti-Semitism, want to nip the anti-Israel sentiments within the Conservative realm in the bud (Cameron, 2025; Karni, G.O.P. Figures Seek Distance From Tucker Carlson, Denouncing Antisemitism, 2025). Interestingly amidst this polarization, the former White House Chief Strategist during Trump’s first term as President, Steve Bannon debated to pave way for a three-state solution to the Palestine-Israel crisis, he said, “*If you’re going to have a two-state solution, you have to have a three-state solution, one of those states has to be the Christian state of Jerusalem*”, (Times, 2025; Staff T. N., 2025).

More importantly, Conservative Zoomers part of MAGA have been asking unprecedented and tough questions; Vice President JD Vance was met with a slew of questions and was grilled by Republican Generation-Z regarding US foreign policy towards Israel that compromises the interests of the American people – this was at a Turning Point USA event

organized by CEO Erika Kirk (wife of the assassinated Conservative commentator, Charlie Kirk) at Ole Miss (University of Mississippi) (FOX, 2025; Lapin, JD Vance sidesteps college student's antisemitic question while defending Trump's Israel stance, 2025). Turning Point USA is an organization advocating for Conservative politics in schools, and varsity campuses (USA, 2025; C-SPAN, 2025; Britannica, Turning Point USA, 2025). In this regard, right-wing, Pro-Israel activist Charlie Kirk, who was assassinated in September during an event, subsequent to the October 7 attack, experienced a political somersault and became critical of Netanyahu as he did an piercing commentary vis-à-vis Netanyahu on the "Patrick Bet David Podcast" dated October 12, 2023, saying, *"I've been to Israel many times; the whole country is a fortress. When I first heard this story (October 7 attack), I still have the same gut instinct that I did initially. I find this very hard to believe. I've been to that Gaza border. You cannot go ten feet without running into a 19-year-old with an AR-15 or an automatic machine gun that is an IDF soldier. The whole country is surveilled. In the last nine months, Israel was on the brink of civil war, it's not an exaggeration. This judicial stuff, there were hundreds of thousands of Israelis taking to the streets because Bibi Netanyahu was basically redefining the Israeli constitution. That's not an exaggeration, he said the judicial branch has too much power. There were protests planned this week against Netanyahu where they anticipated tens of thousands of people to take to the streets, that's all gone. Netanyahu now has an emergency government and a mandate to lead. I'm not willing to go so far to say Netanyahu knew, or there was intelligence here, but I think some questions need to be asked. Was there a stand-down order? Was there a stand-down order?"* (King J. , 2025; Hains, 2023).

Kirk added, *"The whole country is the IDF, and you're trying to tell me that they're going to concerts and kibbutzim and schools for six hours? I've got to be careful the way I say this, they're going to try to ethnically cleanse Gaza. And I don't use that term lightly, okay? They're talking about basically removing 2.5 million people from there,"* (King J. , 2025; Hains, 2023). These questions asked by Kirk hold great significance since Kirk had a huge fan-base and was deemed an unapologetic bastion of Pro-Israel, Islamophobic, Conservative politics, highlighting a conspicuous volte-face that trickles down to the common MAGA right-winger in America. In parenthesis, Charlie Kirk once said, *"I can't stand the word empathy, actually. I think empathy is a made-up, New Age term that does a lot of damage"* (Barter, 2025). The significance of Kirk's assassination could be realized from how Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard likened the incident to 9/11 (Cockburn, 2025). Following on the heels of the aforementioned assassination, Gabbard initiated a probe to unearth foreign power involvement in Kirk's assassination. However, the investigation was shut down by Director FBI, Kash Patel, which resulted in a feud with Head of the National Counter-terrorism Center, Joe Kent (Nieto, 2025; Julian E. Barnes, 2025; India, 2025). This certainly prompts suspicion regarding the possibility of foreign hand in Kirk's assassination.

8. Israel's desperate measures to salvage support base via social media:

In the light of piecemeal loss of support especially amongst American Generation-Z who are joining the anti-Israel chorus, Israel and Zionists have been involved in a desperate Public Relations firefighting. The realization that Netanyahu and Zionism are enemies of Western civilization is also seeping in (X, 2025). In this regard, Jewish businessman and Chief

Technology Officer of Oracle, Larry Ellison with a net worth of \$276 billion making him the 2nd richest man in the world according to Forbes, has recently purchased the US operations of Chinese social media behemoth, TikTok; as the sale has gone through, it is helping to curate or push pro-Israel content on the platform which has been instrumental in highlighting the Genocide in Gaza and augmenting Pro-Palestinian narrative that is systematically excluded in the mainstream media coverage, notably amongst American Generation-Z, which put the Zionist establishment in hysterics (Forbes, Larry Ellison , 2025; Schleifer, 2025; TikTok, 2025). In parenthesis, the sales deal follows on the heels of Trump not banning TikTok since the platform was linked with Chinese psychological warfare (Power, Trump announces deal with China to allow TikTok to continue operating in US, 2025). TikTok has essentially educated Americans about the erstwhile Palestinian blind spots; more young Americans are reading about things like the Balfour Declaration of 1917, San Remo Accords of 1920, the Nakba of 1948, the Intifadas (1987-1993) and (2000-2005) and the need to peacefully globalize it, Israel's apartheid especially in the occupied West Bank, the Greater Israel project, the genocidal origins of Israel, the reality of Jewish supremacist ideology Zionism, the Samson option (massive nuclear strike retaliation), Israel's wars on Gaza over the years, how American celebrities, commentators as well as politicians have been "shilling" for Israel, giving it the kid glove treatment over its decades long war crimes and Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel (Ramirez, 2025; Karsh, 2020; Tahhan, 2018; Haddad, 2022; World, What is an intifada?, 2024; Amnesty, 2022; Jazeera S. A.-S.-A., 2024; World, Zionism: From an idea to genocide, 2025; BDS, 2025).

Interestingly, across social media platforms especially X and more importantly TikTok, there is a plethora accounts which have added the watermelon emoji or the Palestinian flag to the display name, an action which goes beyond just being in vogue; the watermelon signifies the hues of the Palestinian flag (red, green, black and white), it was used a creative symbol of protest wielded by activists subsequent to the Israeli government banning of the public display of the Palestinian flag after the 1967 war (Mohammed Haddad, 2023). The "*Watermelon*" along with the "*olive branch*" (signifying steadfastness and resilience), the "*keffiyeh*" (black and white headdress which features fishnet that signifies connection to the sea, olive leaves symbolizes resilience, strength and significance of olive groves in the Palestinian culture and bold lines holding the importance of historical trade routes that cut through Palestine), the "*Palestinian key*" (a symbol of right of return, these are actual keys of houses formerly belonging to violently displaced Palestinians) and the "*Handala*" (a character created by Palestinian cartoonist Naji al-Ali in 1969, featuring a 10 year old spiky haired boy, with bare feet, his clothes in tatters and his back to the world, encapsulating Palestinian struggle for the right to return, identity and resistance) (Mohammed Haddad, 2023; Al-Shalchi, 2024). These symbols have become enshrined in the Palestinian culture and more significantly become rekindled and immortalized by virtue of platforms like TikTok.

Therefore, the Tiktok sale is consequential for Israel's sinking public relations. One has to take off their tinfoil hat and ascertain Ellison's fealty by how the billionaire is close to Netanyahu and has prominently donated to the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) funneled through the organization, Friends of the Israel Defense Forces – the Oracle owner donated \$16.6 million to IDF making it the biggest donation in 2017 (Kerr, 2025). In addition, Larry Ellison's son, David Ellison took over Paramount in a \$7.7 billion deal, merging it with Skydance media (part

of the Ellison Empire). One of the first executive decisions was to appoint self-styled Zionist and unapologetically extremist defender of Israel's Genocide in Gaza, Bari Weiss as editor-in-chief of *CBS News*, a subsidiary of Paramount. In the same vein, Paramount is being reported to blacklist pro-Palestine voices in the Hollywood fraternity, even A-listers. Paramount denounced over 300 figures including Oscar winners Rooney Mara, Emma Stone, Mark Ruffalo, Yorgos Lanthimos and Mark Tilda Swinton who signed a letter calling for a boycott of Israeli cultural institutions that have been hand in glove with Israel and advancing the apartheid and genocide in Palestine, demanding accountability from the Netanyahu regime for its well-documented crimes against humanity (Tatiana Siegel, 2025; Monitor, 2025; Osgood, 2025; News C. , Bari Weiss named editor-in-chief of CBS News as Paramount acquires The Free Press, 2025). There are speculations that the Ellisons could add CNN, Discovery and Warner to their conglomerate, becoming a family of Media Moguls (Tatiana Siegel, 2025; Schleifer, 2025).

Moreover, in an event in the US back in September before the burlesque of a ceasefire was brokered, Netanyahu was quoted admitting that Israel's base of support in the US is being challenged and the tools of the battlefield especially the social media have to be used. Talking about Elon Musk's X platform the Israeli Prime Minister said, "*We have to talk to Elon (Musk). He's not an enemy, he's a friend*", (Shamala R. A., 2025; World, Netanyahu admits using social media to sway US opinion amid Gaza genocide, 2025; RepublicWorld, 2025). X Users have been complaining how content vis-à-vis Gaza and Palestine being "shadow banned", even though X denies it.

In a desperate bid to whitewash its crimes amidst declining global support, the state of Israel has been paying \$7,000 per post to American social media influencers. Disclosure forms filled with the DOJ reveal how \$900,000 in remuneration for around 14 to 18 influencers to craft Israeli propaganda between June and November 2025. According to *TRT World*, the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs recruited the services of the firm Bridge Partners to supervise and control an influencer propaganda campaign code named "Esther Project". Exchange of invoices between Bridge Partners and the German wing of the Public Relations firm, Havas Media group details on the hefty payouts made to influencers. The breakdown states how \$60,000 for concept developments with influencers, \$140,000 to cover production cost, an upwards of \$250,000 vis-à-vis monthly payments, and \$50,000 for final content delivery. The recruited influencers were tasked with producing 25 to 30 posts per month across various social media platforms. Bridge partners termed the payments as "promoting cultural exchange between Israel and the US" – this news story has become a cause célèbre in the US, where social media users are denouncing the \$7,000 club. The recent remuneration came subsequent to reports of how the Netanyahu regime spent \$150 million to burnish its besmirched image globally (World, How Israel is paying influencers to push propaganda, 2025).

The fact that the situation reverberates as "battle stations" for the Zionists, is testified by how according to the Intercept, the tech leviathan, YouTube owned by Google, surreptitiously deleted over 700 videos documenting Israel's infringement of Human Rights. The accounts that had their YouTube content deleted includes, inter alia, Al Mezan Center for Human Rights, the Palestinian Center for Human Rights, Al-Haq (Nikita Mazurov, 2025).

Furthermore, Meta has a Public Policy Director for Israel and Jewish Diaspora that Jordana Cutler, to “fight anti-Semitism” in other words to stifle Pro-Palestinian voices and provide a cover to atrocities committed by Israel in Gaza and occupied West Bank (Eye J. C.-M., 2025). The word anti-Semitism has been losing its utility and become threadbare. It is interesting to note that before joining Meta, Cutler served as Chief of Staff in the Embassy of Israel located in Washington, D.C (2013-2016). Whereas, she also served in the Israeli PM’s Office as Netanyahu’s Advisor for Diaspora Affairs (Committee, 2025). Furthermore, another critical development which deals with the systematic censorship vis-à-vis the genocide of Palestinians, is how Co-Founder of Wikipedia, Jimmy Wales blocked edits to the “Gaza Genocide” pages under the guise for adhering to so called “neutral approach” and since the aforementioned pages failed to meet company’s “high standards”, in other words trying to burying the lede (Agencies E. M., Why did Wikipedia editor block edits to the ‘Gaza genocide’ page?, 2025).

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