Portugal: Andre Ventura

<https://www.npr.org/2024/03/14/1238226873/portugal-election-uncertainty-far-right>

This quote from the article could just as easily be referring to the U.S.:

“*... Costa did not leave behind a bad economic situation, says Constenla. In fact, unemployment in Portugal is under 7%, a good number compared to previous rates in the country. The deficit is now less than the national gross domestic product, and inflation, which has been a problem across Europe, appears to be under control in Portugal, at under 3%. But the Portuguese face two economic issues: a housing crisis due to high prices of rentals, and low salaries for a vast majority of workers … housing prices are pushing the middle class outside of the cities. She also points at what some see as a coming crisis in the universal education and health care systems, which have traditionally been pillars of society in Portugal*.”

The next quote mimics Donald Trump’s takeover of the U.S. Republican Party (this playbook is being used all over the world … and it is succeeding):

“*Chega's Ventura was pressuring the conservatives. "This is the night that ends the two-party system in Portugal," he said, adding that the vote had resulted in "a clear majority in parliament for Chega and the conservatives together." In a parliamentary system, members of the national assembly elect a prime minister, who then forms a government. If the conservatives use the support of Chega to elect a prime minister, Ventura is expected to ask for something in return, and that would likely be cabinet positions in the national government*.”

This quote is scary-similar to Trump:

“… campaign featured anti-immigrant and anti-LGBTQ rhetoric, a defense of Portuguese Catholic traditions, and expressed a melancholy for Portugal's past dictatorship. But its main theme has been the fight against corruption. Chega claimed, as other far-right parties in Europe have, that they will end corruption and politics as usual. Ventura sings, dances, rallies the crowds with outlandish statements, and loyalty to him is absolutely paramount to members of his party. In this way, he is comparable to Argentina's President Javier Milei, or former U.S. President Donald Trump.”

Comparable?

I think a better description of Ventura is … a carbon-copy of Trump.