The lunacy of socialism in New York City

by Matt Fleming

I have two toddlers and they are both at all times trying to injure themselves.

Maybe not trying, per se, but certainly not trying not to injure themselves. Hot things, sharp things, loud things, things that slam, things like gravity — they think they can defeat it all. It’s terrifying. As a parent, I warn them of the dangers of their actions, but there’s only so much I can do. Eventually they ignore me and do what they want and I just have to let them learn from their own mistakes.

Voters of New York, you are like my toddlers. With the election of a socialist mayor imminent, it seems you’re just going to have to learn a lesson.

Matt, thanks for showing the readers what “condescension” means.

It sounds like you are very proud of being so superior to the rest of us.

Fortunately for me, I get to watch the lesson learning from a few thousand miles away and, since you’re not actually my kids, I won’t tear up when it happens.

Matt, thanks again; this time you showed everyone your vast capacity for “empathy.”

Democratic Socialist Assemblyman Zohran Mamdani is the front runner for New York City’s next mayor. Despite opposition from incumbent Eric Adams, a longshot Republican, and possibly former Gov. Andrew Cuomo, Mamdani is likely the next mayor even peddling a load of pricey, ineffective socialist policies.

It doesn’t matter that Marxism has led to pain and suffering and death of millions of people throughout the world

Matt, what has Marxism got to do with this election?

and that Socialist policies are disproven in cities daily — New York is determined.

Matt, name the policy and how it has been disproven … and then we can talk.

You can’t do it, can you?

Despite having been told repeatedly not to touch the stove, New York’s progressive voters are willing to burn themselves in a vain attempt to prove it’s not hot. Socialism, like all Marxism, is based on utopian ideas that defy economics, human nature and common sense.

Matt, explain how socialist ideas defy economics; then we could move on to human nature and common sense.

It fails largely for three reasons: humans are all different, central planners aren’t as smart as they think they are and it’s too expensive.

Matt, 1) humans are all different – absolutely brilliant Matt! It’s easy to see why you consider yourself such a genius. I never would have known that.

2) central planners aren’t as smart as they think they are – Matt, and how do you know that they think they’re smart as they think they are? Are we “projecting” Matt? 3) too expensive – Okay, show us how and why Matt.

Socialist theory is just ridiculous.

Matt, so you shouldn’t have any problem giving us examples, should you?

We’re all waiting with bated breath.

“I don’t think that we should have billionaires,” Mamdani said on NBC’s Meet the Press. “Because frankly it is so much money in a moment of so much inequality and ultimately what we need more of is equality across our city and across our state and across our country.”

A government that regulates wealth is a scary government,

Matt, there are about 200 countries on Earth.

Can you name 1 … that doesn’t?

but most people don’t care about billionaires, so Mamdani can get away with saying this. In his defense, he hasn’t called for a policy to eliminate billionaires, he just dreams of it. But take it a step further: How would he propose getting rid of billionaires? Would he make it so the government could seize anything beyond $999,999,999? If he thinks a billion is too much, then $999,999,999 probably seems too much too. So what is an acceptable accumulation of wealth? $50 million? $10 million? $500,000?

The answer, if socialists are being honest,

Matt, since when are MAGAts the least bit concerned with honesty?

is that they strongly believe in curtailing ownership of personal property.

Matt, I’m guessing you would fight to the death to prevent the confiscation of your bright red MAGA cap – Amirite?

There’s really no limiting principle, except vague notions of what’s “fair,” which could mean anything and is why this is scary.

Matt, laws are not “vague notions” of what’s fair.

They would say “that’s not true!” But you can look at what’s happened when socialists have taken over and also look at the logical conclusion of their policies and see that yes, in fact, it is true.

Matt, yet to this point in your discourse, we are still waiting for that 1 example. Why do I have the feeling, we are never going to get it?

New York City has 123 billionaires, the most in any city in the world (though I’m sure at least a few are looking at neighborhoods in New Jersey and Connecticut as I write this). Ironically, formerly Communist Moscow is second on the list.

Matt, why don’t you try explaining how a communist city wound up with the second-most billionaires in such a short time? Can’t do it, canya?

To defend that, Mamdani would have to say: “See? Once the Soviets abandoned Communism inequality was born!” Sure, in the Soviet Union most people suffered equally.

Matt, I’m guessing that paragraph has a meaning?

(I knew I shouldn’t have slept in so late this morning)

Mamdani plans to raise $10 billion from a mix of corporate and income taxes and has vowed to “work with everyone, including billionaires, to make a city that is fairer for all of them,” but already you can see the absurdity of his beliefs.

Matt, we finally agree on something. It IS absurd to believe that billionaires, during the Fuhrer’s reign, will be willing to share their fortunes with the people who helped produce their wealth.

It’s doubtful many in New York’s affluent society will see how this arrangement could make things “fairer” for them.

Matt, that was exactly my point.

How could they? In Mamdani’s view, wealth itself is unfair and lifting the poor and unfortunate can only be done at someone else’s expense. But even this shows a fundamental misunderstanding of both humanity and economics. People are different, which is to say not equal. Under our Constitution, people have equal rights and deserve equal treatment, but they have different skills, attributes, opportunities and desires. It is not unfair that some are rich and some are poor — it is not some glitch in the system, it is a natural result of humanity. Billionaires become wealthy as the result of hard work, marketable ideas and some luck.

Matt, I believe you left out – corruption.

Must have been an accident, huh Matt?

You can look at the world’s richest people and see they didn’t get that way by accident.

Matt, did someone forget all about – inheritance?

Or was that omission – intentional?

A better use of Mamdani’s time would be helping people figure out how to create wealth (though he probably has no idea).

Matt, you can be a nasty little thing when you put your mind to it.

All of this is important to understand when evaluating Mamdani’s proposals. He’s a Marxist, which means his policy positions are inherently flawed. Mamdani wants to freeze rents. But price controls lead to shortages and don’t reduce housing costs, as we see in major cities with rent control throughout the country.

Matt, can you explain how price controls don’t reduce housing costs?

(for us ‘slow ones’ Matt)

Mamdani wants government-owned grocery stores. But he can ask his comrades how similar schemes have worked out in places like Venezuela and Ukraine.

Matt, why don’t you tell us? Explain why those schemes failed … please.

Though grocery stores are a very low-profit endeavor,

Matt, we aren’t being very honest here, are we Matt?

<https://www.google.com/search?q=how+profitable+are+grocery+stores>

You only referred to the margin … and ignored the volume.

Mamdani plans to keep costs low by not charging rent or property taxes (it’s doubtful this math adds up) and does nothing to address the underlying issue of why food prices are rising. And here’s a question: Why not just waive property taxes for private grocery stores? Mamdani promises fast and free buses. While what he means by “free” speaks for itself, he will allegedly make bus routes faster by making the public infrastructure more bus friendly. He’s also promising free childcare. For everyone (even billionaires). Sounds great, but the flaws with his logic are too many to list here.

Matt, we would settle for just 1.

But like all my previous requests, I’m not going to hold my breath.

So it goes. Free stuff, sham economics, utopian fever dreams. But his plans would not work as designed for the same reason plaguing central planners for more than a century: They don’t have the requisite knowledge to make their plans work. The other problem is that someone would have to pay for it. According to Mamdani, that would be the affluent.

Matt, and that is why you attack him. You are sacrificing your fellow Americans while serving the rich and powerful; and the “Feeble” half of America (MAGATS) will ensure that the pillaging continues even while they too suffer along with everyone else. That’s what makes cults so great …

for the ones at the top.

But as with most things, it’ll be the middle class who really pays. And since Mamdani’s ideas can’t work for reasons he refuses to see, New Yorkers will end up paying out the nose for programs that will hurt the people they intend to help. It will be a painful lesson — that I’ll watch from afar.

from neo

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