

The chance that there might be a fascist regime in the ...

Published: January 13, 2026, 12:55 am

The conviction of Donald Trump in New York should not have been a surprise. Others had already been found guilty of related offences. The fact that the person who ordered the actions of those who have already served time in prison was guilty of similar offences to those for which they had been punished should not have been unexpected, barring three things.

The first is Trump's willingness to use threats to bully and intimidate. Throughout this trial, he has maligned the judge and the prosecutors. It took considerable courage for ordinary American citizens to accept the task as a juror in this case. I sincerely hope that there will be no backlash against them now. However, all of them must be at risk from a person who clearly sees himself as being above the rule of law.

Second, there is still considerable media backing for Trump's claim that he is a man subject to persecution, rather than a criminal seeking to be above the law.

Third, as is apparent, a significant proportion of the US population has taken leave of their senses when it comes to the appraisal of the actions of Donald Trump, believing him untouchable however obvious the evidence is that he is guilty of serious sexual offences, is a philanderer, a participant in corrupt practices, and now a convicted felon.

Put these facts together and Trump's conviction was not a forgone conclusion. The difficulty in selecting a jury was clear evidence of that fact. Trying to find twelve apparently impartial people who might prove acceptable to the Trump regime was in itself difficult. The fact that they were found makes the outcome all the more remarkable. When the evidence of his actions was pitted against the opinion of a jury, Trump lost.

The question that now arises is what happens next? Will Trump supporters simply dismiss what has happened as evidence of a witch hunt against their chosen hero?

Will the wealthy billionaires who are desperate for the continuation of the tax rates that Trump introduced to favour them, at considerable cost to the US government and

economy, continue to provide financial support?

Will the appeal of Trump's fascist rhetoric, coupled with the image of the superman that is an inevitable part of the cult that surrounds such rhetoric, continue, and even be reinforced by this conviction, which it will be said is all part of the conspiracy against him?

I do not know the answers to these questions. I am not sure if anybody does. We have not previously witnessed such a deliberate attempt to subvert and destroy US democracy.

In few other countries where the cult of fascism is now strong is there a personality as divisive in their approach as Donald Trump. In this respect, he stands out in the class of his own, leaving the likes of Hungary's Orban far behind.

The result is that I can take pleasure in Trump's conviction. I want to know that justice can still be done in the USA. At the same time that conviction does little to convince me that Trump will not be president again, a fact helped by Biden's very obvious increasing incompetence, coupled with his utter failure on issues relating to Gaza.

In that case, I suggested any celebration of what has happened would be decidedly premature. US democracy, or at least what approximates to democracy in the US, continues to be at significant risk. The chance that there might be a fascist regime in that country before the year is out is very real. Let's not pretend otherwise.