

A Definition of Fascism

Fascism is the totalitarian philosophy of government that glorifies the state and nation and assigns to the state control over every aspect of national life.

The State not only is authority which governs and molds individual will with laws and values of spiritual life, but it is also power which makes its will prevail abroad....For the Fascist, everything is within the State and...neither individuals nor groups are outside the State...For Fascism, the State is an absolute, before which individuals or groups are only relative....Liberalism denied the State in the name of the individual; Fascism reasserts the rights of the State as expressing the real essence of the individual.

-- *Enciclopedia Italiana*, 1932

The Fasces Symbol



- Comes from the Latin word *fasces*.
- In ancient Rome, the *fasces* were cylindrical bundles of wooden rods, tied tightly together around an axe.
- They symbolize unity and power.

The Characteristics of Fascism

1. Ideology

- A form of extreme right-wing ideology.
- It celebrates the nation or the race as an organic community transcending all other loyalties.
- Powerful and continuing nationalism.
 - Constant use of patriotic mottos, slogans, symbols, songs, etc.
 - Flags are seen everywhere.

2. Subordination to the State

- Fascism seeks forcibly to subordinate ALL aspects of society to its vision of organic community [usually through a totalitarian state].
- It uses organized violence to suppress opposition.
 - Glorification of force.
 - Accepts the tenets of Social Darwinism.
 - Is anti-democratic.

3. Cult of State Worship

- The individual had no significance except as a member of the state.
- The fascists were taught:
 - *Credere!* [to believe]
 - *Obbedire!* [to obey]
 - *Combattere!* [to fight]

4. The Myth of Rebirth

- The "phoenix rising up from the ashes."
- Emphasis on a national or racial rebirth after a period of decline or destruction.
- Calls for a "spiritual revolution" against signs of moral decay [such as individualism and materialism].
- Seeks to purge "alien" forces and groups that threaten the organic community.

5. Militarism



6. Rampant Sexism

- Almost exclusively male-dominated.
- Traditional gender roles are made more rigid.
- Divorce, abortion & homosexuality are suppressed.
- The state is represented as the ultimate guardian of the family institution.



7. Identification of Enemies or Scapegoats as a Unifying Cause

- The people are rallied into a unifying patriotic frenzy over the need to eliminate a perceived common threat or foe.
- This foe could be racial, ethnic, a religious minority, liberals, communists, etc.



8. Disdain for the Recognition of Human Rights

- Because of the fear of enemies and the need for security, the people are persuaded that human rights can be ignored out of "need."
- People look the other way or even approve of torture, summary executions, long incarcerations of prisoners, assassinations, etc.

Jews Are the Enemy!



9. Religion & Government Are Intertwined

- Fascist governments tend to use the most common religion in the nation as a tool to manipulate public opinion.
- They meld religious rhetoric, symbolism, mythology, etc., into their policies [appears to give a religious imprimatur to government policies!]



10. Disdain for Intellectuals & for the Arts

- Open hostility to higher education and academia is promoted.
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11. Rampant Cronyism & Corruption

- Fascist regimes are almost always governed by groups of friends and associates who appoint each to government positions.
- This group uses governmental power and authority to protect their friends from accountability.
- National resources and even treasures can be appropriated or even outright stolen by government leaders.

12. Fraudulent Elections

- Sometimes elections are a complete sham.
- Other times, elections are manipulated by smear campaigns against or even assassination of opposition candidates.
- The use of legislation to control who can vote.

13. Controlled Mass Media



14. Labor Power is Suppressed; Corporate Power is Protected

- Because the organizing power of labor is the only real threat to a fascist government, labor unions are suppressed or independent unions are eliminated.
- The industrial and business aristocracy of a fascist state often are the ones who put the government leaders into power.
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Immediate Post-WW I Italy

■ Fascism, to some extent, was a product of a general feeling of anxiety and fear among the middle class of post-war Italy:

- Fears regarding the survival of capitalism.
- Economic depression.
- The rise of a militant left.
- A feeling of national shame and humiliation at Italy's poor treatment by the other Entente leaders after World War I [especially at Versailles].

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- Economic chaos in the north could spread to the rest of Italy!

■ Hundreds of new fascist groups developed throughout Italy in response → "Black Shirts" [paramilitary *squadriste*] violently attacked the Socialists.



Benito Mussolini (1883-1945)



■ Originally a Marxist.

- By 1909 he was convinced that a national rather than an international revolution was necessary.
- Edited the Italian Socialist Party newspaper. *Avanti!* [Forward!].

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■ He became an interventionist.

- Founded the newspaper *Il Popolo d'Italia* [The People of Italy] to encourage Italy to join the war.



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■ His editorial positions:

- The war was a turning point for Italy.
- The returning combat soldiers would form a new elite and bring about a new type of state.
- This new elite would transform Italian politics and society!

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- 1921 election → Fascists included in the political coalition bloc of P. M. Giovanni Giolitti's government [they win 35 seats].
- October, 1922 → Mussolini threatened a coup d'état.
 - "March on Rome" → 25,000 Black Shirts staged demonstrations throughout the capital.

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- He invited Mussolini to join a coalition government with Giolitti.
- 1925 → Mussolini seized dictatorial powers during a political crisis [Black Shirts murdered one of Mussolini's chief Socialist critics, Giacomo Matteotti].



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 - They all felt threatened by the rise of Socialist power!
 - The goal → harmonize the interests of workers, managers and the state by abolishing class warfare.
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The Lateran Accords (1929)

- This settled a long-running dispute over the Catholic Church's role in Italian politics → this was the 1st time in Italian history that the Church and the government agreed on their respective roles!
- Terms:
 - The Papacy was granted temporal sovereignty over Vatican City.
 - The Papacy was guaranteed the free exercise of Roman Catholicism as the sole state religion throughout Italy.
 - The Papacy accepted Italian sovereignty over the former Papal States.

The Lateran Treaty



Lateran Treaty [1929]



Italian Fascist Propaganda

The Fascist Family



The Fascists encouraged the development of large families.

Education

- The first sentence pronounced by children at school was Let us salute the flag in the Roman fashion; hail to Italy; hail to Mussolini.
- Textbooks emphasized:
 - The glorious past of the ancient Romans.
 - The limitations imposed upon the present inhabitants by geography and the West.
 - The imperial destiny that awaited Italy's future development.



Emphasis on Physical Fitness



Fascist Youth



Anti-Semitism

- 50,000 Jews lived in Italy in the 1930s.
- Mussolini did NOT implement an extermination program in Italy.
 - 75% of Italian Jews survived World War II.
 - 8,000 died in German extermination camps.
- 1938 → anti-Semitic laws passed
 - *Manifesto degli Scienziati Razzisti* [The Manifesto of the Racist Scientists].
 - Excluded foreign Jews [most of them were sent to German death camps].
 - Forbade all Jews from teaching.
 - Excluded Jews from serving in the government or in the military.

Gli Ebrei in Italia (1937)

- Provided the intellectual premise for the 1938 racial laws.
- Attacked Jews for:
 - Their alleged Zionist sympathies.
 - Their championing of degenerate avant-garde cultural expressions.
 - For their doubtful loyalty to the Fascist regime and its imperial claims.



Mussolini Was Hitler's Role Model



Italian Fasces



Europe in the 1920s

Europe in 1919



Art in the 1920s

EARLY MODERN ART

THEMES IN EARLY MODERN ART

1. Uncertainty/insecurity.
2. Disillusionment.
3. The subconscious.
4. Overt sexuality.
5. Violence & savagery.

Edvard Munch: *THE SCREAM* (1893)



Expressionism

- Using bright colors to express a particular emotion.

FRANZ MARC: *ANIMAL DESTINIES* (1913)



Wassily KANDINSKY: *ON WHITE II* (1923)



GUSTAV KLIMT:
Judith I (1901)

Secessionists

- Disrupt the conservative values of Viennese society.
- Obsessed with the self.
- Man is a sexual being, leaning toward despair.



GUSTAV KLIMT: *The Kiss* (1907-8)



HENRI MATISSE:
Open Window
(1905)



GEORGES BRAQUE: *Violin & Candlestick* (1910)



CUBISM

- The subject matter is broken down, analyzed, and reassembled in abstract form.
- Cezanne → The artist should treat nature in terms of the cylinder, the sphere, and the cone.

GEORGES BRAQUE:
Woman with a Guitar
(1913)



GEORGES BRAQUE: *Still Life: LeJeur* (1929)



Pablo Picasso: *Les Femmes d'Alger (O. J.)* (1907)



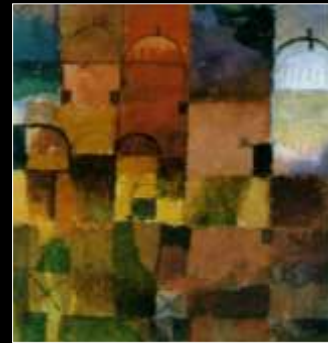
PICASSO: *Studio with Plaster Head* (1925)



Pablo Picasso:
Woman with a Flower
(1932)



Paul Klee: *Red & White Domes* (1914)



Paul Klee: *Senecio* (1922)



GEORGE GROSZ

Grey Day
(1921)

DaDa

- Ridiculed contemporary culture & traditional art forms.
- The collapse during WW I of social and moral values.
- Nihilistic.



GEORGE GROSZ
The Pillars of Society
 (1926)



RAOUL HAUSMANN: ABCD (1924-25)



MARCEL DUCHAMP: FOUNTAIN (1917)



MARCEL DUCHAMP:
Nude Descending a Staircase
 (1912)



SALVADOR DALI: Soft Construction with Boiled Beans (Premonition of Civil War), 1936



Surrealism

- Late 1920s-1940s.
- Came from the nihilistic genre of Dada.
- Influenced by Freud's theories on psychoanalysis and the subconscious.
- Confusing & startling images like those in dreams.

SALVADOR DALI:
The Persistence of Memory (1931)



SALVADOR DALI: *The Apparition of the Face and Fruit Dish on a Beach* (1938)



SALVADOR DALI: *Geopoliticus Child Watching the Birth of a New Man* (1943)



WALTER GROPIUS: **BAUHAUS Building** (1928)

Bauhaus

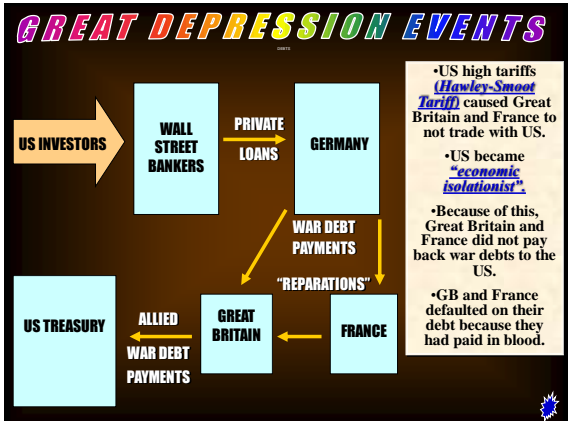
- A utopian quality.
- Based on the ideals of simplified forms and unadorned functionalism.
- The belief that the machine economy could deliver elegantly designed items for the masses.
- Used techniques & materials employed especially in industrial fabrication & manufacture → steel, concrete, chrome, glass.



WALTER GROPIUS: **Lincoln, MA house** (1938)



The Great Depression



RUN ON THE BANKS

Depression Indicators



- Banks lost their investments in the Market after the Crash
- Millions of Americans were caught in the panic of the Stock Market crash.
- Went to their banks to withdraw their savings accounts.
- Banks loaned out their \$\$\$ and had no reserve funds to give customers withdrawing their savings.
- Once banks ran out of \$\$\$ they closed their doors and left people stranded.
- 1929 = 659 and by 1933 = 5100

The Great Depression [1929-1941]

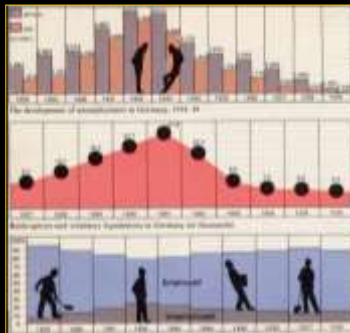


Paris in 1930



London in 1930

German Unemployment: 1929-1938



The Great Depression [1929-1941]

| Year | Germany | | Japan | |
|-------------|-----------|------------|---------|------------|
| | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage |
| 1930 | 3,075,580 | — | 389,408 | 5.3% |
| 1931 | 4,519,704 | 23.7% | 422,755 | 6.1 |
| 1932 | 5,575,492 | 30.1 | 485,681 | 6.8 |
| 1933 | 4,804,426 | 25.8 | 406,710 | 5.6 |
| 1934 | 2,718,309 | 14.5 | 372,941 | 5.0 |
| 1935 | 2,151,039 | 11.6 | 356,044 | 4.6 |
| 1936 | 1,592,655 | 8.1 | 338,365 | 4.3 |
| 1937 | 912,312 | 4.5 | 295,443 | 3.7 |
| 1938 (June) | 429,475 | 2.0 | 230,262 | 2.9 |

Germany's Great Depression (Unemployment)

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| 1935 | 356,044 | 4.6 |
| 1936 | 338,365 | 4.3 |
| 1937 | 295,443 | 3.7 |
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Great Britain's Great Depression (Unemployment)

| Year | Great Britain | |
|-------------|---------------|------------|
| | Number | Percentage |
| 1930 | 1,484,347 | 11.8% |
| 1931 | 2,129,359 | 16.7 |
| 1932 | 2,254,857 | 17.6 |
| 1933 | 2,110,090 | 16.4 |
| 1934 | 1,801,813 | 13.9 |
| 1935 | 1,714,844 | 13.1 |
| 1936 | 1,497,587 | 11.2 |
| 1937 | 1,277,926 | 9.4 |
| 1938 (Nov.) | 1,529,133 | 10.8 |

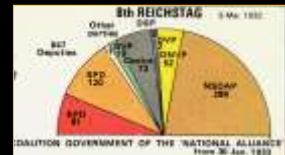
United States Great Depression (Unemployment)

| Year | United States | |
|-------------|---------------|------------|
| | Number | Percentage |
| 1930 | 4,340,000 | 8.7% |
| 1931 | 8,020,000 | 15.9 |
| 1932 | 12,060,000 | 23.6 |
| 1933 | 12,830,000 | 24.9 |
| 1934 | 11,340,000 | 21.7 |
| 1935 | 10,610,000 | 20.1 |
| 1936 | 9,030,000 | 16.9 |
| 1937 | 7,700,000 | 14.3 |
| 1938 (Nov.) | 10,390,000 | 19.0 |

Decrease in World Trade: 1929-1932



German Election Results in 1933



The "New Napoleons?"



**Collective
Security**

League of Nations Members

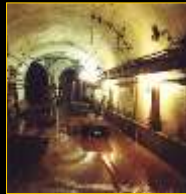


Washington Naval Conference [1921-1922]



| | | | | |
|-------|---------|-------|--------|-------|
| U. S. | Britain | Japan | France | Italy |
| 5 | 5 | 3 | 1.67 | 1.67 |

The Maginot Line



Locarno Pact: 1925



Locarno Pact: 1925

Austin Chamberlain (Br.)

Aristide Briand (Fr.)



Gustave Stresemann (Ger.)

- Guaranteed the common boundaries of Belgium, France, and Germany as specified in the Treaty of Versailles of 1919.
- Germany signed treaties with Poland and Czechoslovakia, agreeing to change the eastern borders of Germany by arbitration only.

Kellogg-Briand Pact: 1928



- 15 nations committed to outlawing aggression and war for settling disputes.
- Problem → no way of enforcement.

Germany

From the German Point of View



← Lost—but not forgotten country.

← Into the heart
You are to dig yourself these words
as into stone:
Which we have lost may not be truly
lost!

Maimed German WW I Veteran



The “Stabbed-in-the-Back” Theory



Disgruntled German WWI veterans

German “Revolutions” [1918]



German Freikorps





Friedrich Ebert: First President of the Weimar Republic

A black and white photograph of Friedrich Ebert, the first President of the Weimar Republic. He is seated at a dark, polished desk, looking directly at the camera. He is wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a dark tie. On the desk in front of him are several papers, a small white cup and saucer, and a small vase with flowers. To his right, a large, ornate glass dome (aerometer) sits on the desk. The background is dark and indistinct, suggesting an office or study.

Legend:

- Communist Party of Japan (CJP) (1999)
- Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) (1999)
- Democratic Party of Japan (DJP) (1999)
- Democratic Union (DU) (1999)
- Japanese Communist Party (JCP) (1999)
- Japanese Socialist Party (JSP) (1999)
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| Date | Number of German Marks in U.S.\$1.00 Dollar |
|---------------|--|
| 1914 | 4.2 |
| 1919 | 14.0 |
| 1921 | 76.2 |
| August 1923 | 4,000,000.0 |
| November 1923 | 4,200,000,000,000.0 |

[illegible]

The French in the Ruhr: 1923



The French Occupation of the Ruhr



The Beer Hall Putsch: 1923



The Beer Hall Putsch Idealized



Hitler in Landesberg Prison



Mein Kampf [My Struggle]



European Debts to the United States



The Dawes Plan (1924)



The Young Plan (1930)



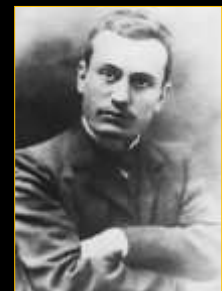
For three generations, you'll have to slave away!
\$26,350,000,000 to be paid over a period of 58½ years.

Weimar Germany: Political Representation [1920-1933]

| Political Parties in the Reichstag | May 1924 | Dec. 1924 | May 1928 | Sep. 1930 | July 1932 | Nov. 1932 | Mar. 1933 |
|------------------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Communist Party (KPD) | 62 | 45 | 54 | 77 | 89 | 100 | 81 |
| Social Democratic Party (SPD) | 100 | 131 | 153 | 143 | 133 | 121 | 120 |
| Catholic Centre Party (BVP) | 81 | 88 | 78 | 87 | 97 | 90 | 93 |
| Nationalist Party (DNVP) | 95 | 103 | 73 | 41 | 37 | 52 | 52 |
| Nazi Party (NSDAP) | 32 | 14 | 12 | 107 | 230 | 196 | 288 |
| Other Parties | 102 | 112 | 121 | 122 | 22 | 35 | 23 |

Italy

Benito Mussolini [1883-1945]





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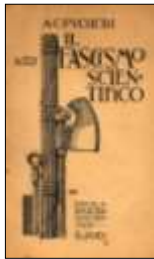
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 - 75% of Italian Jews survived World War II.
 - 8,000 died in German extermination camps.
- 1938 → anti-Semitic laws passed
 - *Manifesto degli Scienziati Razzisti* [The Manifesto of the Racist Scientists].
 - Excluded foreign Jews [most of them were sent to German death camps]
 - Forbade all Jews from teaching.
 - Excluded Jews from serving in the government or in the military.

Gli Ebrei in Italia (1937)

- Provided the intellectual premise for the 1938 racial laws.
- Attacked Jews for:
 - Their alleged Zionist sympathies.
 - Their championing of degenerate *avante-garde* cultural expressions.
 - For their doubtful loyalty to the Fascist regime and its imperial claims.



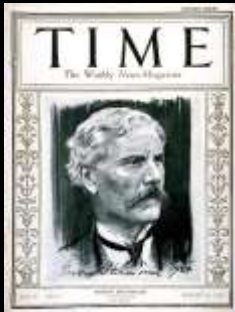
Mussolini Was Hitler's Role Model



Italian Fasces



England

Ramsay MacDonald: 1924, 1929

Labour Party

Stanley Baldwin

Conservative Party

1926 General Strike**Trades Disputes Act (1927):**

- All general or sympathy strikes were illegal.
- It forbade unions from raising money for political purposes.

France**Raymond Poincaré & the Conservative Right**

- He sent French troops into the Ruhr in 1923.
- Pushed for large-scale infrastructure reconstruction programs [counting on German reparations to pay for them].
- After 1926-29:
 - New taxes & tightened tax collections.
 - Drastic decline in govt. spending that stabilized the franc [the threat of runaway inflation was avoided!]

**Edouard Herriot & the French Socialists**

- 1924-1926.
- Progressive social reform.
- Spoke for the lower classes, small businessmen, and farmers.
- Committed to private enterprise and private property.
- Fervently anti-clerical.

