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M.A POLITICAL SCIENCE II SEM
POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY: MORDERN INDIAN
POLITICAL THOUGHT, THEORY &
CONTEMPORARY IDEOLOGY(201)
UNIT-IV

Topic Name-fascism

Introduction

- **Fascism** is a form of government that is a type of one-party dictatorship. They work for a totalitarianone-party state.^[1] This aim is to prepare the nation for armed conflict, and to respond to economic difficulties.^[2] Fascism puts nation and often race above the individual. It stands for a centralized government headed by a dictator.^[3] Historically, fascist governments tend to be autocratic, militaristic, and racist. In the Third Reich, the national socialist party, ethnic German society was pictured as a racially unified hierarchy, the *Volksgemeinschaft*.
- Fascism appeared in Italy in the early 1920s and developed fully in the 1930s.^[4] The fascist party in Italy was ruled by a "grand council" from 1922 until the end of World War II.^[5] However, in practice it became ruled by the first of the fascist leaders, Benito Mussolini.
- Hitler in Germany, Franco in Spain and Salazar in Portugal took control in the 1930s in their countries. After World War II, fascism continued in the form of military dictatorships in Portugal, Spain, in some parts of Latin America, Africa, and Asia.
- Fascism was supposed to bring national unity and solidarity instead of the divisions of class struggle and party politics. Fascism is generally considered to be a facet of totalitarianism; although often with majority support of its population (e.g. in Germany and Italy in WW2).

Definition of fascism

- a political system headed by a dictator in which the government controls business and labor and opposition is not permitted

History of fascism

- Mussolini coined the term "fascism" in 1919. He had been a communist but changed his opinions in the wake of World War I, Montague said. The word "fascism" comes from the Italian "fascio," meaning a bundle or group, and is considered a term for a militant brotherhood. According to the history department at [King's College](#), the word "fasces" means an ax tightly bound with sticks, which became a symbol of the fascist movement.
- Mussolini's 1919 fascism mixed extreme nationalist expansion with social programs like women's suffrage and workers' power. Fascist leaders quickly moderated their message, allied with conservatives and the existing governments and gained power. Fascist movements appeared in other European countries that were struggling after World War I or nervous about socialism. Montague identified the Australian New Guards, the British Union of Fascists and, of course, the German National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nazi Party) as prominent European fascist parties

History of fascism

- According to the American Historical Association, in Italy in 1922, strong-armed squads known as the Blackshirt Militia, who were financed by industrialists, fought socialist farmer organizations, conducted raids on socialist newspapers and occupied socialist-led towns. They threatened to march on Rome in 1922. The government tried to placate Mussolini by naming him prime minister, but in 1925, he established himself as dictator. What followed was violent suppression of dissent; the deification of Mussolini; violent expansion into Ethiopia, Albania and other countries; and in 1939, alliance with Nazi Germany and participation in World War II.
- Hitler learned many lessons from Mussolini, including the importance of propaganda and violence. In the 1920s, he led his Nazi Party to prominence through dramatic speeches, grand entrances and passionate rhetoric against Jews, Marxists, liberals and internationalists, Paxton wrote. In January 1933, Weimar Republic President Paul von Hindenburg named Hitler chancellor, hoping Hitler would stop the growing Communist Party. By the summer, Hitler's rule had become a personal dictatorship.

History of fascism

- In violation of the Versailles Treaty, Hitler rearmed Germany and began invading neighboring lands. The invasion of Poland on Sept. 1, 1939, kicked off World War II and the Holocaust.
- European fascist ideas inspired regimes throughout Latin America, including in Bolivia and Argentina. "These countries also had a very difficult time during the Depression, and ordinary middle-class parties operating parliamentary systems were notably unsuccessful," Paxton said.
- "Argentina had been a wealthy country in 1900, exporting grain and meat, but the bottom fell out of those markets and Argentina became a poor country. It was like losing a war. They turned to a military leader who had populist appeal."
- Spain and Portugal were dictatorships until 1975, but those governments were a mix of conservative and fascist parties.

Characteristics Of Fascist Movements

- There has been considerable disagreement among historians and political scientists about the nature of fascism. Some scholars, for example, regard it as a socially radical movement with ideological ties to the Jacobins of the French Revolution, whereas others see it as an extreme form of conservatism inspired by a 19th-century backlash against the ideals of the Enlightenment. Some find fascism deeply irrational, whereas others are impressed with the rationality with which it served the material interests of its supporters. Similarly, some attempt to explain fascist demonologies as the expression of irrationally misdirected anger and frustration, whereas others emphasize the rational ways in which these demonologies were used to perpetuate professional or class advantages. Finally, whereas some consider fascism to be motivated primarily by its aspirations—by a desire for cultural “regeneration” and the creation of a “new man”—others place greater weight on fascism’s “anxieties”—on its fear of communist revolution and even of left-centrist electoral victories.

Characteristics Of Fascist Movement

- One reason for these disagreements is that the two historical regimes that are today regarded as paradigmatically fascist—Mussolini’s Italy and Nazi Germany—were different in important respects. In Italy, for example, anti-Semitism was officially rejected before 1934, and it was not until 1938 that Mussolini enacted a series of anti-Semitic measures in order to solidify his new military alliance with Hitler. Another reason is the fascists’ well-known opportunism—i.e., their willingness to make changes in official party positions in order to win elections or consolidate power. Finally, scholars of fascism themselves bring to their studies different political and cultural attitudes, which often have a bearing on the importance they assign to one or another aspect of fascist ideology or practice. Secular liberals, for example, have stressed fascism’s religious roots; Roman Catholic and Protestant scholars have emphasized its secular origins; social conservatives have pointed to its “socialist” and “populist” aspects; and social radicals have noted its defense of “capitalism” and “elitism.”
- For these and other reasons, there is no universally accepted definition of fascism. Nevertheless, it is possible to identify a number of general characteristics that fascist movements between 1922 and 1945 tended to have in common.

Types of Fascism

- Classical
- National fascism
- British fascism
- Strasserism
- Falangism fascism
- Austrian fascism
- Rexism
- Meraxism
- Brazilian
- Integralism

National Fascisms

- Fascist parties and movements came to power in several countries between 1922 and 1945: the National Fascist Party (Partito Nazionale Fascista) in Italy, led by Mussolini; the National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei), or Nazi Party, led by Adolf Hitler and representing his National Socialism movement; the Fatherland Front (Vaterländische Front) in Austria, led by Engelbert Dollfuss and supported by the Heimwehr (Home Defense Force), a major right-wing paramilitary organization; the National Union (União Nacional) in Portugal, led by António de Oliveira Salazar (which became fascist after 1936); the Party of Free Believers (Elefterofronoi) in Greece, led by Ioannis Metaxas; the Ustaša (“Insurgence”) in Croatia, led by Ante Pavelić; the National Union (Nasjonal Samling) in Norway, which was in power for only a week—though its leader, Vidkun Quisling, was later made minister president under the German occupation; and the military dictatorship of Admiral Tojo Hideki in Japan.

Who created fascism?

- Mussolini was a journalist who founded the Milan-based newspaper *Il Popolo d'Italia*. Originally a socialist party member, he left the group when he fought in World War I. After the war, fascists declared the socialists public enemy number one over their anti-war positions. He became Italy's prime minister in 1922 and over the next few years turned that position into one of dictatorial power.
- Benito Mussolini came up with the term *fascism*, he created the first one-party fascist state and he set the playbook and template for everything that came after," Ben-Ghiat says.
- An important part of that was the cult of personality that emerged around the Italian leader. "[Mussolini] was in newsreels, and he would strip his shirt off," she says. Though others, like Lenin and Stalin, may be more associated with the idea of such a cult of personality, "of these cheering fans idolizing a leader," she gives Mussolini credit for creating the mold.

What contributed to the rise of fascism?

- Mussolini's establishment of the proto-Fascist Party took place not too long after the Russian Revolution, and the fear of communism's spread played a key role.
- "The main way the fascists got to power was by killing off and intimidating what was the largest and most popular party, the Socialist Party," Ben-Ghiat explains. "Squadrists — terrorists who would descend upon towns in trucks, uniformed in black shirts — had knives and they killed thousands of people in the years 1919 to 1922. The killing went on after Mussolini became prime minister."
- Landowners and businessmen in particular supported the suppression of socialism, and their support allowed Mussolini to come to power. Afraid of the might of labor, they "cast their lot with Mussolini" instead. And that group included none other than King Victor Emmanuel III, whose authority would be considerably diminished under Mussolini's dictatorship.
- "Without that early support," Ben-Ghiat says, "Mussolini wouldn't have gone anywhere and wouldn't have had the first fascist dictatorship."

Political Ideologies: Fascism

- Fascism is an effective political ideology whose central theme is the notion of an organically combined national community, exemplified in a belief in 'strength through unity'. The individual, in a factual sense, is nothing; individual identity must be completely absorbed into the community or social group. To simply elaborate, Fascism is an authoritarian Nationalist political ideology that promotes nation above the individual, and that stands for a centralized autocratic government controlled by a dictatorial leader, severe economic and social regulation, and powerful suppression of opposition. It often claims to be concerned with concepts of cultural decline or decadence, and seeks to achieve a national rebirth by subduing the interests of the individual, and instead promoting cults of unity, energy and transparenc

Concept of fascism:

- the "fascist negations": anti-liberalism, anti-communism, and anti-conservatism;
- "fascist goals": the creation of a nationalist dictatorship to regulate economic structure and to transform social relations within a modern, self-determined culture, and the expansion of the nation into an empire; and
- "fascist style": a political aesthetic of romantic symbolism, mass mobilization, a positive view of violence, and promotion of masculinity, youth, and charismatic authoritarian leadership.

What are the basic principles of

fascism? Fascism is a form of government that is characterized by extreme nationalism. It is/was a style of government that began in the early part of the 1900s. Its roots can be traced back to World War I, a war in which whole country engagement was necessary for the first time due to military advancements that had been made leading up to and during that war. Due to these advancements, troops being sent off to battle were far from the only casualties that a country could be expected to experience. Because of the perceived need for entire countries to be mobilized for war, one basic principle of fascism is that the state must have absolute power. In addition, there is a distinctive authoritarian leader who runs the government and the country. Furthermore, there is a very clear social order which every member of a country's society must follow. One of the main components of the social order is that people must refrain from speaking out against the government or sympathizing with those who are not in the government's favor. Moreover, fascist regimes have an unwavering sense of national pride and the people are often rallied around views which are considered to be 'national' views.

International flow of fascism:

- The happenings of the Great Depression caused an international swell of fascism and the creation of several fascist administrations and regimes that adopted fascist strategies. The significant fascist regime was Nazi Germany, under the leadership of Adolf Hitler. With the upsurge of Hitler and the Nazis to power in 1933, liberal democracy was dissolved in Germany, and the Nazis mobilized the country for war, with expansionist territorial aims against several countries. In the decade of 1930s, the Nazis executed racial laws that deliberately discriminated against, disenfranchised, and persecuted Jews and other racial and minority groups. Hungarian fascist Gyula Gombos rose to power as Prime Minister of Hungary in 1932 and visited Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany to consolidate good relations with the two regimes. He attempted to establish his Party of National Unity throughout the country; created an eight-hour work day, a forty-eight-hour work week in industry, and sought to entrench a corporatist economy; and followed irredentist claims on Hungary's neighbours. The fascist Iron Guard movement in Romania floundered in political support after 1933, gaining representation in the Romanian government, and an Iron Guard member assassinated Romanian prime minister Ion Duca. During the crisis in 6th February 1934, France faced the greatest domestic political disorder since the Dreyfus Affair when the fascist Francist Movement and manifold far right movements rioted en masse in Paris against the French government resulting in major political violence. Several para-fascist governments that copied elements from fascism were formed during the Great Depression, including those of Greece, Lithuania, Poland, and Yugoslavia

Fascism emphasizes:

- purpose by acting, not by reasoning or thinking.
- Community spirit: People need to be part of a community. Individualism is dangerous because it turns people away from their community.
- Nationalism: The community that matters the most is the nation. People should work together to promote the glory and power of the nation.
- Militarism: The nation must have a strong, powerful military. The nation displays its power by expanding its territory.
- The future: Fascists love the speed and power of technology. They look optimistically to the future.
- One party: The nation must be unified and speak with one voice. Therefore, only one political party is allowed, and that party rules with absolute power.
- Violence: The government rules its people through violence or the threat of violence.

Fascism today

- After World War II, fascism largely fell out of fashion in Europe and North America. It became a go-to political insult, resulting in overuse and reduced meaning, said Paxton. Nevertheless, there have been growing fascist or proto-fascist movements in Europe and North America for the last few decades, Paxton said. "As Communism declined after 1989, proto-fascism became the main vehicle for protest voting in Europe," Paxton wrote.
- The rise of populism across Europe and the United States in the 2000s has caused many to wonder if fascism is taking hold again. However, Paxton said he does not think fascism is on the rise in the United States.
- "What I think we have in this country is much more traditional conservatism," he said. "The basic social political program is individualism, not for everyone, but [for] entrepreneurs. It supports the right of businesspeople to seek maximum profit without rules of regulations.
- "We've got an oligarchy [Defined by the Oxford English Dictionary as "a small group of people having control of a country or organization"] that has learned some clever maneuvers to win popular support with rhetorical devices that resemble fascism," Paxton continued. "For instance, the United States is in significantly better shape than Germany or Italy were after World War I. However, some politicians have convinced many Americans that the situation is similarly dire."

When did fascism end?

- The defeat of the Axis powers in World War II meant the end of one phase of fascism — with some exceptions, like Franco's Spain, the original fascist regimes had been defeated. But while Mussolini died in 1945, the ideas he put a name on did not.

Thank you