

POLITICAL IDEOLOGY OF FASCISM IN THE GLOBAL SCENARIO

Vikram Singh

Open Researcher (Public Administration), Jind, Haryana, India

Email ID: vikram121289@rediffmail.com

Accepted: 06.05.2022

Published: 01.06.2022

Keywords: Ideology of Fascism, Treaty of Versailles, Mussolini, Europe, World Wars.

Abstract

It is common knowledge that the axis powers played a significant role in the first global war. Most experts believe that Benito Mussolini, Europe's first fundamentalist leader, got the name of his organisation from the Latin word 'fasces,' which referred to a mound of elm or birch bars (often with a hatchet) used as a symbol of penal specialist in ancient Rome. Nonetheless, the Treaty of Versailles imposed severe economic and political sanctions on these nations. This is why these powers endured so much injustice following the end of the global war. Consequently, many nations viewed superpowers as their rivals and wanted retribution. In the meantime, Mussolini rose to prominence as the leader of Italy. By 1939, there were at least seven Arab "shirt" groups, including the Syrian People's Party, also known as the Syrian National Socialist Party, the Iraqi Futuwa Movement, and the Young Egypt Movement, also known as the Green Shirts. Numerous proto-fascist and fascist organisations formed in Japan and Germany after 1918, and their acts led to the development of fascist ideology in their respective countries. In addition, these fascist forces contributed to the onset of World War II. This article explores the political theory of fascism in a global framework.

Paper Identification



Introduction

Despite the fact that fundamentalist groups and movements were vastly different from one another, they had many characteristics, including being exceptionally battle-ready. Although fascist parties and movements differed greatly from one another, they shared many characteristics, including extreme militaristic nationalism, contempt for electoral democracy and political and cultural liberalism, a belief in natural social hierarchy and the rule of elites, and the desire to establish a Volksgemeinschaft (people's community) in which individual interests would be subordinated to the good of the nation. Prior to gaining power, fascists frequently denied totalitarian goals.

This was especially true in France, where conservatives were disturbed by news of the persecution of conservative dissidents in Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany. After Hitler's 1934 and 1935

crackdown on Roman Catholic dissidents in Germany, French fascists took steps to conceal that they were totalitarians so as not to lose prospective Catholic followers in France. In fact, they called for a more decentralised government that would benefit local economic elites.

If we review the ideology of fascism, it comes out to be true that political ideology impose strict social and economic measures as a method of empowering the government and stripping citizens of rights. This authoritative system of government is usually headed by an absolute dictator who keeps citizens suppressed via acts of violence and strict laws that govern the people. The most noted form of Fascism was implemented under Benito Mussolini and Adolf Hitler, who both stripped citizens of their rights and maintained strict regimes that resulted in the deaths of thousands of humans. Here it is also noteworthy that fascists made no secret of their hatred of Marxists of all stripes, from totalitarian communists to democratic socialists. Fascists promised to deal more firmly with Marxists than had earlier, more democratic rightist parties. Mussolini first made his reputation as a fascist by unleashing armed squads of 'Black-shirts' on striking workers and peasants in 1920–21. Some of the defining characteristics of fascism are:

- Favour of Racism.
- Extreme Nationalism.
- Revolutionary Image.
- In Support of Militarism.
- Belief in Dictatorship.
- Destructive Nationalistic Policies.
- Glorification of Youth.
- Conservative Economic Programs.

Furthermore it is to say that Italy was one of the important places where fascism became a popular movement during 2nd world war. It is also known simply as Fascism, is the original fascist ideology as developed in Italy. The ideology is associated with the Fascist Revolutionary Party (PFR), founded in 1915;

the succeeding National Fascist Party in 1921, which under Benito Mussolini ruled the Kingdom of Italy from 1922 until 1943; the Republican Fascist Party that ruled the Italian Social Republic from 1943 to 1945; and the post-war Italian Social Movement and subsequent Italian neo-fascist movements.

In addition, Italian Fascism had its origins in Italian nationalism and the ambition to recover and expand Italian borders, which were believed essential for a nation to express its supremacy and strength and avoid deterioration. Italian Fascists asserted that modern Italy is the heir to ancient Rome and its tradition, and historically supported the establishment of an Italian Empire to offer spazio vitale, or living space, for colonisation by Italian settlers and to assert sovereignty over the Mediterranean Sea. It is also true that Italian Fascism sponsored a corporatist economic structure in which employer and employee syndicates were joined in associations to collectively represent the nation's economic producers and collaborate with the state to determine national economic policy. This economic system was meant to resolve class strife through class collaboration.

In addition, the inaugural meeting of the Fascism of Revolutionary Action was led by Benito Mussolini on January 24, 1915. In the following years, the relatively modest group engaged in several political activities. In Italy, industrial workers' militant strike activity reached its height in 1920. Mussolini and the Fascists exploited the situation by allying with industrial corporations and assaulting workers and peasants in Italy in the guise of maintaining order and internal peace. Fascists identified the majority of socialists on the left who opposed intervention in World War I as their chief adversaries. The Fascists and the Italian political right shared a same position on Marxism, class consciousness, and elite power. Fascism began to accommodate Italian conservatives by making significant changes to its political agenda, including abandoning populism, republicanism, and

anticlericalism, adopting policies in support of free enterprise, and accepting the Roman Catholic Church and the monarchy as Italian institutions.

To appeal to Italian conservatives, Fascism pursued policies such as promoting family values and limiting the role of women to that of a mother in order to reduce the number of women in the working. In 1926, the fascists outlawed birth control material and enhanced penalties for abortion, considering both to be crimes against the state. Though Fascism embraced a number of ideas aimed to appeal to reactionaries, the Fascists attempted to keep Fascism's revolutionary spirit. Angelo Oliviero Olivetti observed that Fascism would like to be conservative, but it can only do this by being revolutionary. To appeal to both conservatives and syndicalists, the Fascists supported revolutionary action and pledged to maintain law and order.

In addition, we can determine that by the beginning of 1922, fascist paramilitaries had shifted from attacking socialist offices and the houses of socialist leaders to violently occupying cities. The Fascists proceeded to seize control of a number of Italian cities in the north with minimal opposition from the authorities. The Fascists assaulted the headquarters of socialist and Catholic labour organisations in Cremona and compelled the German-speaking populations of Trent and Bolzano to become Italianized. After capturing these cities, the Fascists planned to conquer Rome. On October 24, 1922, the Fascist party conducted its annual meeting in Naples, where Mussolini issued orders for "Blackshirts" to seize control of public buildings and railroads and converge on three places in Rome. Fascists were able to capture control of a number of post offices and railways in northern Italy while the Italian government, led by a coalition of left-wing parties, was internally divided and unable to respond to Fascist advances. King Victor Emmanuel III of Italy believed that the risk of bloodshed in Rome was too great to disperse the Fascists. Victor Emmanuel III appointed Mussolini as Italy's prime

minister, and Mussolini arrived in Rome on October 30 to receive the position. Fascist propaganda glorified this incident, known as the 'March on Rome,' as a 'seizure' of power due to the heroic actions of Fascists. Now, on the basis of an analytical study of the concept of fascism in global scenario we can point out some key aspects of fascism:

- The term originated in Italy and is derived from fascio, meaning a bundle of rods, and is used to symbolize strength through unity: a single rod is easily broken, while the bundle is difficult to break.
- It is a far-right authoritarian political ideology that emerged in the early 20th century and rose to prominence after World War I in several nations, notably Italy, Germany, and Japan.
- Fascists believe that liberal democracy is obsolete and regard the complete mobilization of society under a totalitarian one-party state, led by a dictator, as necessary to prepare a nation for armed conflict and respond effectively to economic difficulties.
- Fascist regimes are often preoccupied with community decline, humiliation, or victimhood and by compensatory cults of unity, energy, and purity, culminating in nationalistic and racist ideologies and practices, such as the Holocaust in Nazi Germany.
- After the end of the World War I, fascism rose out of relative obscurity into international prominence, with fascist regimes forming most notably in Italy, Germany, and Japan, the three of which would be allied in World War II.
- Fascist Benito Mussolini seized power in Italy in 1922 and Adolf Hitler had

successfully consolidated his power in Germany by 1933.

End of Fascism

As a revolutionary movement, its popularity spread throughout Europe. However, the defeat of fascist nations during the Second World War marked its conclusion. In July of 1943, Mussolini was dismissed from power by the king and the Grand Council owing to pressure on the home front resulting from increasingly severe wartime conditions and rebellion within his own forces. The Allies had recaptured northern Africa from the Italians, and Sicily was now under their control as they prepared to invade Italy. The days of Il Duce were numbered. Mussolini was captured and imprisoned by forces loyal to the king of Italy. They held him captive in a remote hotel in the Abruzzi Mountains. Initially, German forces thought there would be no rescue, but they quickly changed their minds. German commandos crashed gliders into the hillside behind the hotel, freed Mussolini, and then airlifted him back to Munich so he could consult with Hitler. The Führer urged Il Duce to establish a Fascist state with its capital in Milan in northern Italy, where it all began. Thus, Mussolini was able to preserve power while Hitler maintained an ally. Mussolini returned victorious and continued to repress his opposition. Members of the Fascist Party tortured those with opposing opinions, deported those with non-Italian names, and maintained an iron hold on the north. Alongside the Black-shirts, German forces maintained order. The peak of this reign of terror occurred on August 13, 1944. In Milan's Piazzale Loreto, fascists picked up 15 suspected anti-fascist partisans or those loyal to the new Italy. It helped pave the path for the end of fascism throughout Europe.

Conclusion

Therefore, by the spring of 1945, the European war was done and Italy was bankrupt. As the Allies

progressed, the south was left in ruins. Many believed that Il Duce was solely responsible for the devastation of the nation. However, arresting Il Duce was no longer a plausible option. Even though Hitler was surrounded by Allied soldiers in Berlin, Italy refused to take any more risks with its own fate. As Hitler remained unyielding, the only alternative left to the duce was to convey Berlin dire warnings about Hitler's precarious internal position. Mussolini's rising apathy and remarkable passivity in the face of domestic resistance, as well as his demeanour during the Grand Council of Fascism on 24 and 25 July 1943, which ultimately sealed his fate, were frequently attributed to his deteriorating health or overconfidence. In his frantic attempt to persuade Hitler, Mussolini needed to offer Hitler with a final and irrefutable demonstration of how dire the situation had become for the Italian state and for himself. In the aftermath of the second world war, democratic authorities became decision-makers, and all such ideologies as Nazism and Fascism were repudiated by the ordinary man.

RÉFÉRENCIAS

- [1] Corner, P., 'Everyday Fascism in the 1930s: Centre and Periphery in the Decline of Mussolini's Dictatorship', *Contemporary European History*, Volume: 15, 2006.
- [2] Fadia, B. L., *International Relations*, Sahitya Bhawan, Agra, 2018.
- [3] Finaldi, G., *Mussolini and Italian Fascism*, Harlow, 2010.
- [4] G. Zachariae, *Mussolini si Confessa*, Milan, 2004.
- [5] H. Boog, et. al., *The Global War*, New York, 2014.
- [6] Knox, M., *Alleati di Hitler*, Milan, 2002.
- [7] Morgan, P., *The Fall of Mussolini*, New York, 2007.

- [8] Pollard, J., The Fascist Experience in Italy, London and New York, 1998.
- [9] www.econlib.org › library › Enc › Fascism.
- [10] www.crf-usa.org › bill-of-rights-in-action.
- [11] www.merriam-webster.com › dictionary › fascism.

