

LECTURE / DISCUSSION / DEBATE
FASCISM

Terms and concepts to know:

Fascism	Italian fascism
Nazism	National Socialism
Fascism and communism	Fascism and religion
Fascism and conservatism	Corporatism
Mosca, Pareto, Michels	Statism, women, colonialism
Fascism and capitalism	Fascism and liberalism
Stalinism and fascism	Eurofascism

Study and discussion questions:

1. Can fascism be defined, and if so, how? Is Britt's method of examining characteristics a more logical way of 'defining' fascism?
2. Is fascism a purely Italian (or German) phenomenon? What would American fascism look like? (Sinclair Lewis said "When fascism comes to America, it will be wrapped in the flag and carrying a cross.")
3. Why does fascism reject liberalism and the Enlightenment? What about Goldberg's notion of 'liberal fascism'?
4. Can Stalinism be a form of fascism? Why or why not?
5. Some have argued that fascism is primarily a movement of the inter-war period, implying that it could not be resurgent in the contemporary period. Would you agree or disagree with that assessment?
6. What is unique about Britt's approach to explaining fascism? Out of the 14 common characteristics he sees in 'proto-fascist' states, which 3 do you see as the most prominent in the U.S.?
7. In 2007, Naomi Wolf saw what she described as '10 Steps' toward developing fascism in the U.S. under Bush. Which of these has become worse or better under Obama?
8. William Robinson describes 3 types of crises (cyclical, structural, and systemic) unfolding historically. Which one does he observe presently manifesting itself and how are current circumstances unique?

Readings:

Hoffman and Graham: Chapter 13.

Video:

Capitalism: (Episode 5) – Keynes vs. Hayek: A Fake Debate?