Despite fascist Italy having a reputation for being anti-Semitic it would be incorrect/problematic to consider anti-Semitism the essence of fascism.

Early fascist flaunted concepts that the bourgeoisie only wanted “to earn money, money, filthy money”.

Contrast to Otto Wagener, fascist did nothing to carry out anti-capitalist threats. Instead enforced violence and threats against socialism.

Conflict between words and actions scholars have drawn up opposite conclusions.

1) Consider fascism a form of radical anti-capitalism
2) Marxists believe that fascists came to the aid of capitalism in trouble.

Fascists’ criticised capitalism for being indifferent to state and the nation- making the country too materialistic (look at the U.S. during the 1920’s, loss of “true values”).

Despite the existing regime of property and social hierarchy, cannot consider Fascism a more muscular version of Conservatism.

Mussolini himself did not know on the political spectrum his party would be. “National syndicalism” would find its own place in time.

Hypocrisy of action and words when it came to modernisation. Openly cursed cities, mostly in the West, for being too materialistic and enforcing their citizens to buy materials that is not needed, along with stopping the “backbone” of countries to fail- the rural farming industry.

However they had the fastest cars in production and forced industries to have up-to-date technologies in order to rearm the country.

Was fascism an anti-modernist reaction or a modernising dictatorship?

Could easily argue both.

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1 Otto Wagner, Hitler aus nächster Nähe
2 Eugen Weber, Varieties of Fascism
3 Kamalāpati Tripāthī, Ghandi and Humanity
4 Bosworth, Mussolini
5 George L Mosse, The Crisis of German Ideology: Intellectual Origins of the Third Reich
6 A James Gregor, Italian Fascism and Developmental Dictatorship.