1. Fascism
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fascism perceived conservatism as partly valuable for its support of order in society but opposes its typical opposition to change and modernization. Advocates state controlled modernization that promotes orderly change while resisting the danger of pluralism and independent initiative to order in society.

They support a "third position" in economic policy which they believe superior to both the rampant individualism of laissez-faire capitalism and the severe control of state socialism. They promote corporatist economy in which representatives of capital and labor interest groups work together with in sectoral corporations to create both harmonious labor relations and maximisation of production that would serve the national interest.

corporatism (Latin word corpus - body)

It is a system of economic, political, or social organisation that views a community as a body based on organic social solidarity and functional distinction and roles amongst individuals.

Formal corporatist models are based upon the contract of corporate groups such as agrarian, business, trade, labor, military, patronage, scientific, or religious affiliations, into a collective body.

Related to sociological concept - "structured functionalism"?

Corporatism has been utilized by many ideologies across the political spectrum, namely absolutism, capitalism, conservatism, fascism, liberalism, progressivism, reactionism, social democracy, socialism, syndicalism.

Etymology

Italian word: "fascio" which means bundle or group.

Latin word: "fascis" - a bundle of rods.

Fascismo - political orga known as fasci - group: similar to guilds or syndicates.

Symbolically it represents strength through unity.

Definitions

Position of the political spectrum:

Difficult to place on conventional left-right political spectrum. It is normally described as extreme right. But it is wrong.

It is a centrist doctrine. Left and right factions in Italian Fascism.

Right - what is it? Opposition to egalitarianism & democracy?

Mussolini promoted ambiguity about fascism's positions in order to rally as many people as possible.
Initially Mussolini pursued liberal economic policies. Conservative party merged with Fascists in 1923. Acerbo law was passed to which amended the election procedure so that party which got most of votes were to have two-thirds representation in parliament. Other parties get remaining 1/3rd according to their vote share.

1924: Elections - Fascists won through violence & intimidation.
1925: Socialist leader was killed by fascists. Mussolini declared his dictatorship. Parliament was dissolved. Elections were abandoned.

Consolidation of power (1925-): Mussolini was made responsible only to King. Censorship was introduced, Fascists occupied all positions in govt administration.

Fascists made peace with church in 1929. (Lateran treaty). Italy gave that the papacy state sovereignty. Vatican city was created. Religious education in schools. Vatican recognised.

Italy didn’t become a 100% totalitarian state as King remained head of the state, military, judiciary retained some autonomy, Fascist militias were under military control.

Corporatist economic system from 1925, employee organisations from only Fascist trade unions. Minister of Corporations - created in 1924.

It organised economy into 22 sectoral corporations. Worker strikes were illegal. Worker rights, duties were codified. Labour tribunals were created to arbitrate employee-employer disputes.

In practice, sectoral corporations exercised little independence and were controlled by the govt. Employee organisations were rarely led by employees themselves but instead appointed fascist party members.

National Socialism - a unique variety of fascism that involved biological racism and anti-Semitism. A syncretic model which incorporated policies, tactics, philosophies from right and left wing.

It stressed in the belief of supremacy of Aryan master race and claimed that Germans represent pure Aryan race.

Nazis considered Jewish race as a threat to Aryan race and felt that it was a parasitic race that attached itself to various ideologies and movements to secure its self-preservation, such as enlightenment liberalism, democracy, parliamentary politics, capitalism, marketing, trade unions, industrialisation.

Nazis claimed that Germany's survival as a modern great nation required it to create a new order - an empire in Europe that would give Germany the land mass resources required for its ever increasing population (living space).

Denounced both capitalism and communism, as they felt both were associated with Jews. Capitalism damaged Germany due to international finance. Communism is dangerous to national, as it promotes class conflict.

Nazis supported a form of socialism - economic security and social welfare, programs for workers, minimum wage, honour for workers, protection from capitalist exploitation.

Nazis rejected class conflict-based socialism and economic egalitarianism, favoured a stratified economy with classes based on merit and talent, retaining private property, creation of national solidarity. Third position on economic policies.

Etymology

NSDAP - National Socialist German Workers' Party.
National Socialist (Nazis) (National Socialists)

Ideological roots

Romanticism, idealism, biological interpretation of Nietzsche's concepts of "breeding upwards" towards the "Superman".

In the 15th & 16th centuries, a powerful surge of German patriotism was stimulated by the disdain of Italians for German culture.
Nazi party

Leader - Anton Drexler 1920 - 22
Himmler Adolf 1921 - 45

Militant nationalist - opposed Versailles treaty
anti-Semitism, anti-monarchist, anti-Marxist, superiority of Germans
viewed capitalism as being Jewish-dominated movement, denounced
capitalists for war profiteering during WwII.

Favour of strong central govt, economic socialism, popular-centrist
nationalist-oriented workers movement.

5 Jan 1919 - Drexler, Dietrich Eckart &c formed German Workers
party. Unlike Marxists, they supported middle class. "National
community" free of Jews was their goal. Its Nazi party were from Dr. Arhier's
"less than 60 members, Hitler (a young corporal) was made to infiltrate
it by true intelligence authorities to gather intelligence about it.

Hitler became 55th member on 15 Sep 1919
1920 - Feb - "National Socialists" invited to NSDAP
Hitler became chief member. Master of propaganda. Became
dominant. Established "Führerprinzip" (leader principle) by 1921
sole leader. Decided its policies and strategy.
He believed in violent overthrow of govt. (Revolutionary). Controlled
by "November criminals."

Less interested in socialist aspect of National Socialism.
2 goals - Anti-Semitism, German expansion.
In German nationalist circles, "Germanness" was considered a symbol of
Aryan race.

1921 - 22: Nazi party grew because of Hitler's oratory, SA's appeal
to unemployed young men, backlash against liberal, socialist politics
WwI soldiers, small businessmen.
Nazi meetings were held in beer halls where poor could get free
beer (sponsored by Nazis). So support for Nazis ↑
Bavaria - birthplace of Nazism
Social policy

Education - Racial biology, population policy, culture.

Social welfare - "Vergangenheit" - people's car to organs.

Health - From church to state.

Most powerful anti-tobacco movement. German scientists proved that smoking cigarettes could cause cancer. Also proved that asbestos was harmful. Water supplies were cleaned up.

Women's rights - opposed feminism. Discouraged employment, education.

Sexual emancipation.

Environmental -
US also acquired German scientists & technicians.
Morgenthau plan-1944 called for stripping Germany of the industrial resources required for war. Ruhr & Silicia (Industrial area) were to be removed & iron & coal sources of Saar & German-speaking Alsace-Lorraine were to be removed. This plan was not implemented in full.
It influenced other plans which were implemented. (Potsdam conference)
Complete or partial de-industrialisation plans were implemented to reduce Germany's economic might, to destroy its war wageing capabilities in US occupied area (South-East Germany). No help was to be given to Germans in rebuilding their nation except to reduce starvation.
Germany had been the industrial giant of Europe. Poverty and starving of occupied Germany forced it to seek Federation.
Fear of takeover by communism because of poverty & hunger which can drive the people to revolt. So after 20 years, on realisation that economic recovery of Europe cannot go forward with Germany in poverty, US pres Truman took steps for reconstruction of Germany.
Marshall Plan (Marshall Plan, or the European Recovery Program) continued poverty & famine in Europe. To bring Germany into western camp.
Aims- reconstruction of Europe, rebuilding capitalism, called for the US to allocate billions of dollars.
It aided to all other countries except & loan to Germany (Eastern Germany not included). Germany received only half of what UK got.

End of European Imperialism
WWI ruined the reputation of European colonial powers. Enormous expenses drove European powers into bankruptcy. Empire was perceived to be an unnecessarily expensive possession. So rapid decolonisation process. By 1950 many Asian colonies were independent.

Superpowers
UK USSR US didn't suffer any destruction in World War II.
AJP Taylor


Taylor wrote “the Habsburg Monarchy 1809 – 1918.” Taylor had favourable views of... Taylor stated that Habsburgs saw their realms (lands) entirely as a tool for foreign policy and thus could never build a genuine nation-state. They resorted to playing one ethnic group against another and promoted German & Magyar hegemony over the other ethnic groups to hold their lands together.

Until 1936, he opposed British rearmament as he felt that UK would align against Nazis against USSR. But after 1936, he opposed British policy of appeasement and called UK to face Nazi menace. He denounced “Munich agreement” of 1938 which was popular among the public.

WWII further increased his pro-Soviet feelings as USSR destroyed Nazis.

He was critical of Stalinism; he blamed US for the cold war.

He held fierce Germanophobic views. He argued that Nazism was the inevitable product of the chaotic legacy of Germans going back to the days of Ferdinand in the “Sonderweg” (Special way) German culture and thinking developed over centuries in such a way as to allow Nazi German inevitability. Symbiotic relationship between Hitler & Germans. Hitler needed Germany to fulfill his dreams of conquest, Germans needed Hitler to fulfill their dreams of subjugation of their neighbours.

Argued that majority of Germans were still Nazis at heart, and European economic community was little more than attempt by Germans to achieve via trade what they failed to achieve through arms.

Philosophy of history

Taylor’s approach to history was a populist one. He favoured an anti-great man theory — history being made for the most part by towering figures of stupidity rather than of genius.

President the best up with his work - by doing none.

In his view, leaders did not make history, they reacted to events.
In his biography of Bismarck, he argued that Iron chancellor had unified Germany more by accident than by design.


Taylor argued against widespread belief that outbreak of war was the result of an intentional plan on the part of Hitler. He argued that many people accepted uncritically what he called "Nuremberg thesis" that WWII was the result of criminal conspiracy by a small gang comprising Hitler & his associates. This thesis is too convenient for too many people, it shielded the blame for war from the leaders of other states, let the Germans avoid any responsibility for the war and created a situation where west Germany was a respectable cold war ally.

Taylor's thesis was that Hitler was not the demonic figure of popular imagination but in foreign affairs a normal German leader.

Foreign policy of 3rd Reich was same as 1st Reich & Weimer republic. His argument was that Hitler wanted Germany to become stronger European power but he did not want or incite war, the outbreak of WWII was an unfortunate accident caused by mistakes on everyone's part.

Taylor portrayed Hitler as a, grudging opportunist with no other beliefs otherwise pursuit of war and anti-Semitism. His foreign policy was one of drift but seizing chances as they offered themselves. Hitler was an anti-Semite as millions of Germany & Austrians.

Taylor argued that flawed Versailles treaty was sufficiently burdensome to ensure that Germany would always hate it, but not sufficiently burdensome to weaken Germany to the extent that they didn't wage another war. Versailles treaty was disabling.

Taylor argued that Hessbach memorandum of 1934 (which outlined the pre requisites for war such as Spanish Civil war leading to a war between Italy and France in the Mediterranean etc) was a meaningless document as they didn't occur. Many criticised Taylor that what really mattered was Hitler's intention to wage a war rather than his plans at the time.

Taylor dismissed Hitler's foreign policy in Mein Kampf, in particular, the remilitarization of the Rhineland, as a flummery of idle thoughts written down under the impact of French occupation of Ruhr.