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Amarkesh

- Fascism perceives 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 dangers 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 labour interest groups work together within sectoral corporations to create both harmonious labour 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 concept of Corporate groups such as agri, business, etc., labour, military, patronage, scientific, or religious affiliations, into a collective body.
- Related to sociological concept of "structural functionalism"?
- Corporatism has been utilized by many ideologies across the political spectrum, including absolutism, capitalism, conservatism, fascism, liberalism, progressivism, reactionism, social democracy, socialism, syndicalism.

Etymology

Italian word "fascio" which means bundle or group.

Latin word "fasces" - a bundle of rods.

Fascismo - political orgs known as fasci → groups 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.

→ 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 legalitarianism & 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 ~~was~~ ^{was} 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. ^{In 1929} Vatican city was created. Religious education in schools. Vatican recognised Italy.

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. Ministry of Corporations - created in 1924.

It organised economy into 22 sectoral corporations. Worker strikes were banned. 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 ^{by} appointed fascist party members.

Foreign policy: - aggressive foreign policy. Attacked Greek island of Corfu. Wanted to expand in Balkans. Funded Croat & Macedonian separatists in Yugoslavia, made Albania its protectorate. Suppress Libyan freedom fighters.

Nazism

- 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, marxism, 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 Germans the land mass, resources required for ^{their} ever increasing population (living space).
- Denounced both capitalism and communism, as they felt both were associated with Jews. Capitalism damaged nations due to international finance. Communism is dangerous to nation, as it promotes class conflict.
- Nazis supported a form of socialism - economic security and social welfare prog for workers, minimum just 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 priv property, creation of national solidarity. Third position on economic policies.

Etymology

NSDAP - National Socialist German Workers party.
Nationalsozialisten (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

- National Socialist German Workers party.
- Successor of German Workers Party. (1919)
name changed.

Leader - Anton Drexler
1920-21
Hitler Adolf.
1921-45.
a locksmith
in Munich.

Origins & early existence: 1918-1923

Nationalist orientation.

- Anton Drexler - militant nationalist - opposed Versailles treaty, anti semitic, anti monarchist, anti-marxist, superiority of German race viewed capitalism as being Jewish-dominated movement, denounced capitalists for war profiteering during WWI.
Favour of strong central govt, economic socialism, popular-centrist nationalist-oriented workers movement.

5 Jan 1919 - Drexler, Dietrich Eckart etc formed "German workers party" (DAP). Unlike marxists, they supported middle class. "National community" free of Jews. was their goal.

Thule-society. Many founding members of Nazi party were from Thule society. Less than 60 members. Hitler (a young corporal) was made to infiltrate it by the intelligence authorities to gather intelligence about it.

Hitler became 55th member of DAP. Sep 1919

- 1920 - Feb - "National Socialist" added to DAP. Hitler became leader; drew in members. 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, Swastika 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 - "Volkswagen" - people's car to Germans.

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.

Environmentalism -

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AJP Taylor

Alan John Percival Taylor. 1908 - 1990. English historian.

- Strong left wing views. Pacifist. Became supporter of Labour party.
- wrote "The Habsburg monarchy. 1809 - 1918". Taylor had favourable views of it. 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 ^{off} 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~~ with Nazis against USSR. But after 1936, he opposed British policy of appeasement and called UK to face Nazi menace. He denounced "Munich agreement" of ^{till 1961} 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 entire history of Germans going back to the days of Germanic tribes. "Sonderweg" (special way) German culture and society developed over centuries in such a way as to make Nazi Germany inevitable. Symbiotic relationship between Hitler & Germans. Hitler needed Germans to fulfill his dreams of conquest; Germans needed Hitler to fulfill their dreams of subjugation of their neighbours.
- ^{after WWII} Argued that majority of Germans were still Nazis at heart, and European economic community was little more than ^{an} 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.
- "Mussolini kept up with his work - by doing none".
- In his view, leaders did not make history. ^{instead} They reacted to events.

• In his biography of Bismarck, he argued that Iron Chancellor had unified Germany more by accident than by design.

"Origins of 2nd WW" - book-1961.

• 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 ~~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 demoniacal figure of popular imagination but in foreign affairs a normal German leader.

• Foreign policy of 3rd Reich was same as 2nd Reich & Weimer republic. His argument was that Hitler wanted Germany to become strongest European power but he did not want eternal war. The outbreak of WWII was an unfortunate accident caused by mistakes on everyone's part.

• Taylor portrayed Hitler as a grasping opportunist with no other beliefs other than pursuit of power and anti-Semitism. His foreign policy was one of drift and seizing chances as they offered themselves. Hitler was ^{as} anti-semitic as millions of Germans & Austrians.

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

• Taylor argued that Hossbach memorandum of 1937 (which outlined the ^{several} prerequisites 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 jumble of idle thoughts written down under the impact of French occupation of Ruhr.