

"Every fascist regime thrives on identity politics. Hindutva is repetition of this tradition." Critically analyze the statement through explaining the concept of fascism and comparing the fascist agenda of Modi's regime with that of German and Italian Fascism of 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## Introduction

Identity politics is the main agenda of every past & present Fascist regime. Currently, Hindutva is following the same concept of Fascism.

Basically, Fascism is an ideology of authoritarian dictatorship that promotes extreme nationalism. In 20<sup>th</sup> century German Fascism of Hitler and Italian Fascism of Mussolini was seen to be having anti-Semitic and anti-democratic movements & politics respectively.

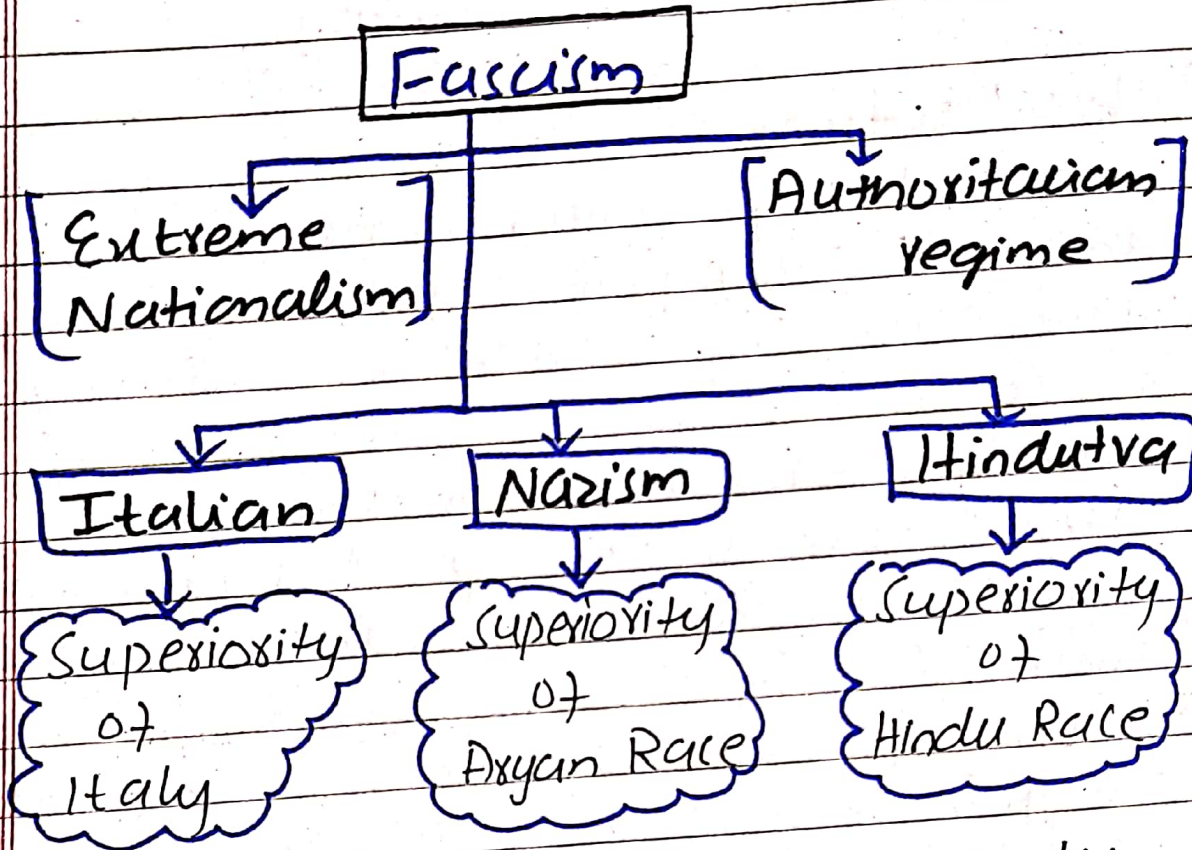
There is a uncanny resemblance of the current policies of Modi government ingrained in the ideology of Hindutva with the ideological policies of Fascism of 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## Identity Politics

Identity politics is a political approach wherein people of a particular race, nationality, religion, gender, sexual orientation, social background, social class, or other identifying

factors develop political agendas that are based upon these identities

Identity politics of Fascist regimes i.e German Fascism, Italian Fascism, Modi's Fascism



① Identity politics of Nazi party  
 ~ Ideological expansionist nationalism  
 The Nazi party of Germany was based on the ideology of Nazism which propagated the superiority of Pure Aryan race. The ideology of Nazi is **ideologically expansionist** which believes in the superiority over its own nation and its dominance over another as in this case dominance over Jews residing in Germany.

## (2) Ideological expansionist nationalism of Mussolini

Politics of Mussolini was based on extreme nationalism and chauvinism. Fascist party triumphed on the jingoism and Mussolini had imperialistic aspiration.

**Expansionist nationalism** was the main goal of Mussolini's foreign policy. He pursued his policy of more and more land and more colonies. According to him war is extremely important for a nation  
"A nation should fight every twenty-five years to stay healthy"

## (3) Hindutva ~ Ideological expansionist aspirations of Narendra Modi

The politics of Narendra Modi are deeply ingrained in the nationalist ideology of Hindutva. According to Hindutva ideology, only Hindu race should be dominant and hegemonic in India, all other classes, groups and religion should be subservient to the superior Hindu race of India. The discriminatory policies of Modi government towards muslim clearly shows the **hegemonic designs of ideological expansionist nationalism of Hindutva**

# Characteristics of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fascism of Italy and Germany

(1)

## Totalitarian Regimes ~ State as a unitary actor

Fascist regimes sacrificed the individual at the altar of state. The state claimed and exercised an extremely high if not complete degree of control and regulation over public and private life. The theory of Realism deems state as the unitary actor in all its policies. In the same way state exercised complete control over all aspects of the citizens' life !!

(2)

## Opposition painted as anti national ~ Realism

The theory of Realism states that the best way to survive in the world is to crush your enemies with an iron fist. The fascist regimes of 20<sup>th</sup> century labelled all their opposition as anti nationals and banned free speech.

"If we do not argue with those who disagree with us, we destroy them"

(3)

Complete control over mass media ~ Theory of Post modernism

Fascist regimes had complete control over mass media and speeches.

They used propaganda and narrative building to shape the perception of people. According to Post modernist media is used to show subjective reality instead of objective reality to shape perception. In the same way of Public opinion of the citizen was shaped by dictatorial regimes of Italy and Germany.

(4)

Fascist regimes against peace ~ Democratic peace theory

As the dictatorial and totalitarian regimes are against democracy, they do not entertain the opposing thoughts. According to democratic peace theory democratic regimes are very less likely to go to war. But the Fascist regimes saw war as a way to achieve national glory. As Mussolini once said.

Going for peace is against the glory of nation  
~ Mussolini

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## Aggressive Nationalism and Anti-Pacifism

Fascist regimes strongly opposed peace and pacifism and believed that war was a natural duty of national life. They considered peace as a coward's dream and glorified war through media and narrative building. Expansionist nationalism of these regimes encouraged them to go to war with neighbouring countries and eventually started the world war II.

(6)

## Created Us vs Them divide by demonizing another group

Fascist regimes focus on creating a divide in a society. They demonize another group, race or religion to grasp the power of masses against the "The Others". Nazis demonized the Jews and Fascist party of Italy demonized all other nations to ingrained nationalism in the masses.

Fascist agenda of Modi regime is identical to Fascism of the Germans and Italians

(1)

Revocation of Article 370 and 35A in Kashmir ~ Expansionist nationalism

If the existing crisis of Kashmir is interpreted through the lens of ideological nationalism, the act of revoking Article 370 is a direct manifestation of expansionist Hindu supremacist agenda of dominating the weaker Kashmiri demographic fraction - mainly Muslims. The expansionist tendency of Modi regime are identical to the imperialistic designs of Fascism of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

(2)

### Demonizing and targeting muslim

Modi's regime has created a social polarization in the society by making a Hindu vs Muslims divide.

Muslims are being demonized on every occasion to fuel hatred against them. During Covid 19 pandemic, Muslims were targeted and blamed for its spread. Along with this Muslims are being targeted and incidence of lynching are increasing day by day.

(3)

### Totalitarian tendencies

Totalitarian tendencies in the so called "biggest democracy of the

world is on fire. Any opposing view in India is termed as Anti-nationalists by the extremist. State is given the highest status as ~~is~~ explained by the theory of Realism and the interest of Indian Muslims, Kashmiris, Sikhs and Christians are held subservient to it. Daniel J. Mackey terms India as illiberal democracy

(4)

### Aggressive nationalism and Militarism ~ Theory of Realism

The theory of Realism propagates that State should procure more and more arms and weapons to ensure its survival. Modi government in this regard is massively enhancing its military capabilities. India has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest defense budget in the world (SIPRI), combined with Aggressive diplomatic and foreign policy shows the realist tendencies of this extremist government, very similar to Fascism of the Nazi and Fascist party

(5)

### Control of State media and use of Propaganda

Just like the Fascist regimes of 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Modi government practices full control over mass media. It uses media to fuel hatred against



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its ~~en~~ neighbours like Pakistan. Media is also being used against the muslims of India and the opposition of the Modi government. India's rank in press freedom index has fallen from 142 to 150 out of 180 countries in 2022. This shows that freedom of media is being complicated in India under the Modi regime.

Conclusion