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① Critically examine the basic principles of Fascism.

Ans

1 Introduction

Fascism is a far-right, authoritarian ultranationalist political ideology characterized by dictatorial power. It emerged after World War I in Italy. In WWI Italy joined allied forces in hope of getting colonies. But, her hopes were dashed to pieces by the Allies at the Paris Peace Conference, where she was given no colony. It created sharp feelings of resentment, and the after-effects of WWI further added insult to injury by causing political, social and economic turmoil in Italy. This enabled Benito Mussolini and his Fascist Party to capture political power. Authoritarianism, militarism, Propagand and censorship, and economic controls are few basic principles of Fascism which are critically examined in the following discourse.

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2, Critical Examination of the Basic Principles of Fascism

2a, Fascist state is a total state which leads to human rights abuses

Fascism advocates for a centralized, dictatorial government led by a single leader. The state holds absolute power over all aspects of life, such as political, social, and economic.

In his book, "Fascism", Mussolini wrote that a Fascist state is first of all anti-individualistic. Thus, a Fascist Italy in all its political, social and economic aspects, was organized hierarchically under the Duce who stood at its top. However, such a totalitarian principle leads to human rights abuses and the suppression of dissent. Benito Mussolini created

the OVRA (Organization for Vigilance and Repression of Anti-Fascism) to monitor and suppress any dissent.

Mussolini's Italy: Life under the Fascist Dictator by R. J. B. Bosworth.

It is evident from such examples that citizens of Italy were deprived of

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their basic human rights.

2b) Fascism glorifies war and violence which leads to unnecessary conflicts.

Fascism is a theory of force of action and violence. Force and violence are the first principles of fascism; they are also its final ends and ideals. Mussolini once said, "Indeed, war is beautiful. Though words are very beautiful things." He also once said, "Rifles, machineguns, ships, aeroplanes, and cannons are more beautiful things still." He glorified war and dreamt of reviving the glory of ancient Rome by force and conquest. However, this leads to unnecessary conflict, loss of lives and destruction as seen in Italy's invasion of Ethiopia in 1935 and later invasions of Albania and Egypt.

3b) It repudiates democracy, which lacks accountability and transparency in governance.

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Fascism does not believe in democracy, and rejects the democratic principles and processes. According to Mussolini, Fascism denies that the majority, by the simple fact that it is majority, can direct human society. Therefore, when he came to power, he ~~immediately~~ dismantled all democratic institutions through Acerba Law of 1923. However, the rejection of democratic principles leads to a lack of accountability and transparency in governance. It is evident from the fact that the Mussolini ~~was~~ used public funds for personal enrichment as stated in ~~his~~ ~~book~~ by R. J. B. Bosworth in his book "Mussolini's Italy: Life under the Fascist Dictator".

2d, Fascism emphasizes extreme nationalism which tends to marginalize minority.

Fascism promotes the idea of national superiority and advocating for the unity and purity of the nation. Hitler always boasted of Aryan supremacy while Mussolini dreamt of

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reviving Roman glory. This ultranationalism fosters xenophobia, racism, and intolerance. It tends to marginalize and persecute minority groups. It is evident from the actions of Fascist regimes. In Nazi Germany, Hitler massacred millions of Jews in concentration camps in order to achieve racial purity.

Moreover, in Fascist Italy, Mussolini, reviving ancient Roman glory, pursued expansionist strategies and invaded Ethiopia in 1935. All these actions were carried out because of ultranationalism.

2e) State intervention and control over economic activities, which stifled economic innovation and efficiency.

Fascism supports strong state intervention and control over economic activities.

In Fascist Italy, Mussolini created Corporations to regulate economic activities. Their officers were appointed from above by the state, not elected from below by their members. These officers were

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who determined
the ones to ~~decide~~ wages, working
hours, holidays and conditions of work.
This control stifled economic innovation
and efficiency, leading to stagnation.
It also concentrated economic power
in the hands of the state, which
can be used to further political
aims rather than public welfare.
As discussed by R. J. B. Bosworth
in his book "Mussolini's Italy:
Life under Fascist Dictator". Furthermore,
despite initial growth and stability,
Italy faced persistent economic challenges
under Mussolini - "Italy in the
Age of the Risorgimento" by
H. Hearder.

2f / Fascist regimes use propaganda to
manipulate public opinion which
inhibit informed public discourse

Fascist regimes employ censorship to
suppress opposing viewpoints and information.
They use propaganda to manipulate
public opinion and maintain control.
The press and media are
in state's control. For example,

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in Nazi Germany, Hitler ~~also~~ created a Ministry of Propaganda and Joseph Goebbels was minister of Propaganda. However, Propaganda and Censorship undermine the free flow of information and inhibit informed public discourse. They contribute to a culture of misinformation and fear, which can perpetuate the regime's power at the expense of truth and justice.

29) Fascism strongly opposes communism and socialism which leads to the persecution of opponents.

Fascism strongly opposes communism and socialism, viewing them as threats to national unity and stability.

This opposition can lead to the persecution of political opponents, ~~and~~ the suppression of labour movements and social justice initiatives.

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2h, Fascism regards individual as means and state as end

The fascist held state as absolute, all embracing, omnipotent to which the individual is completely subordinate.

As a fascist writer says, "For fascism, state is the end, individual, the means, and its whole life consists in using individuals as instruments for its ends." Whereas in reality, the state is established for individuals to pursue a good life, where he has the freedom to chase his dreams and utilize state's resources. Therefore, state is the means, and individual is the end.

2i, Fascism centers around a charismatic leader, this cult of personality leads to despotic rule.

Fascism centers around a charismatic leader who is portrayed as the savior of the nation. For example, ~~the~~ during the aftermath of the WWI and the dismal social, political and economic conditions of Italy, ~~and~~ Mussolini presented himself as the

Savior of Italy. This give a leader a near-divine status and unquestionable authority. The leader is worshiped and preached. For instance, "Heil Hitler" in Germany. This cult of personality can result in dangerous levels of power vested in one individual, increasing the risk of despotic rule.

3, Conclusion

In conclusion, the basic principles of Fascism revolves around authoritarianism, ultranationalism, economic controls, militarism and the subordination of individual rights to the state. These principles collectively emphasize a centralized government led by a charismatic leader, promoting national unity and purity while rejecting democracy and individual freedoms. Fascism is an inhumane political ideology, incompatible with the modern political thought as the modern world is more inclined towards democracy and individual rights.

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Therefore, efforts should be made at national and international level to reject and discard these fascist principles for the sake of human rights and democracy.