

Q

What is Facism and Nationalism? Discuss the enabling conditions for Fascism with reference to Germany and Itly.

Introdouction

Fascism is an effective political ideology whose central theme is the notion of an organically combined national community; exemplified in a belief in strength through unity. The consolidation of political economy for superiority of single race under a single political party and single political leader is called **fascism** people who have the same race, language, religion, history, literature, economic interests and political aspirations called **nationalism**. Nationalism teaches us love for motherland. They say motherland is better than paradise. Fascism development in **Italy** by **Benito Mussolini**

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in (1922-1943) and in Germany.
by **Adolf Hitler**, since 1945.

Both the personalities gave new
ideology on the basis of
superiority of individual on
the basis of color, race, creed
and ethnicity.

Fascism

By a philosopher of
Europe

Stanley G. Payne

Fascism characterized three
strands.

Fascism Negations

Anti communism, Anti-liberalism

Fascism Goals

Nationalist Dictatorship, Expansionism

Fascism style

Emphasis on Violence, Authoritarianism

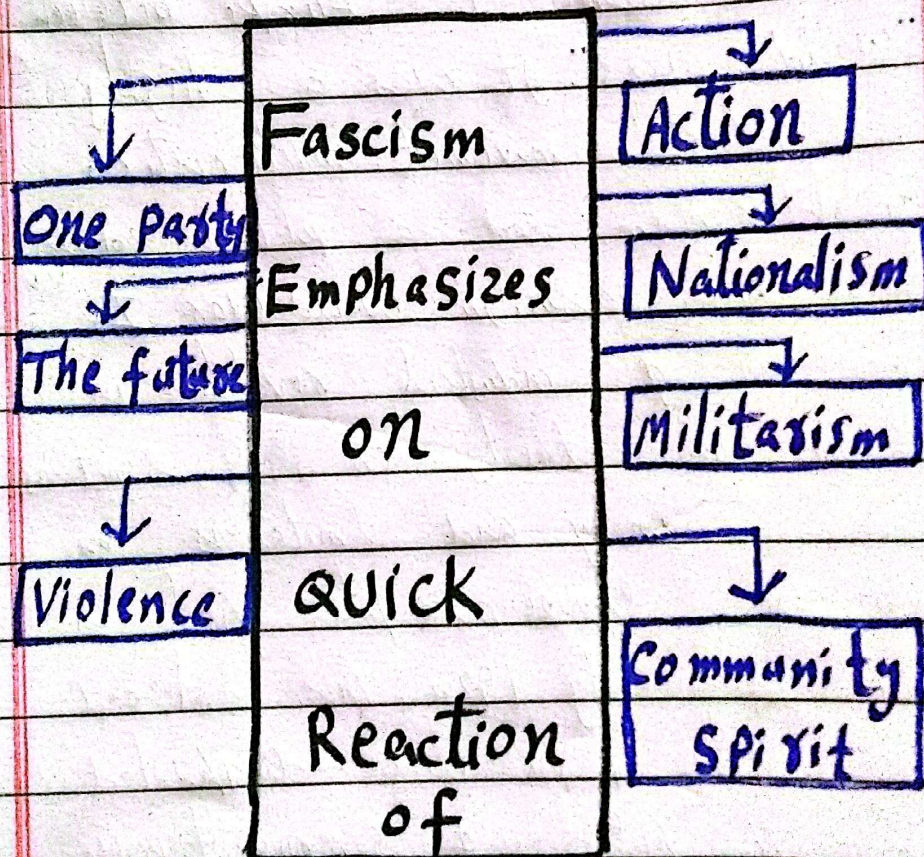
concept of Fascism

Fascism by Italian Fascist Benito Mussolini (1863-1945). The term derived from word "fasces" an ancient Roman symbol consisting of bundle of rods tied around an axe, used to suggest strength through unity. Mussolini ruled (1922-1943). This revolution came in Europe between "World Wars". It was a highly nationalist movement, militaristic, totalitarianism and a political ideology with one person in World War I, an era of industrial revolution in Europe and Treaty of 1919, sanctions on Germany and limitations on Ottoman Empire also put fuel on fire. In early 1920, this entered in Italy, people were disappointed from the pattern of government. People of Germany and Italy were very disappointed that country gained very little for the price it paid.

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in this flowing stream, several countries tilted towards some kind of Nationalism from Asia it was Japan before World War-II. After Great Depression (1929) most of the European countries with fascist mindset i.e. Greece, Poland, Lithuania, Yugoslavia.



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Fascism involve following elements

Nationalism

→ in culture and race.

Totalitarianism

→ On every public and private issue.

Statism

→ State interference in personal affairs.

Patriotism

→ Positive attitude for fatherland.

Autocracy

→ Ruling of a single class.

Militarism

→ Use of military in every affair

Corporatism

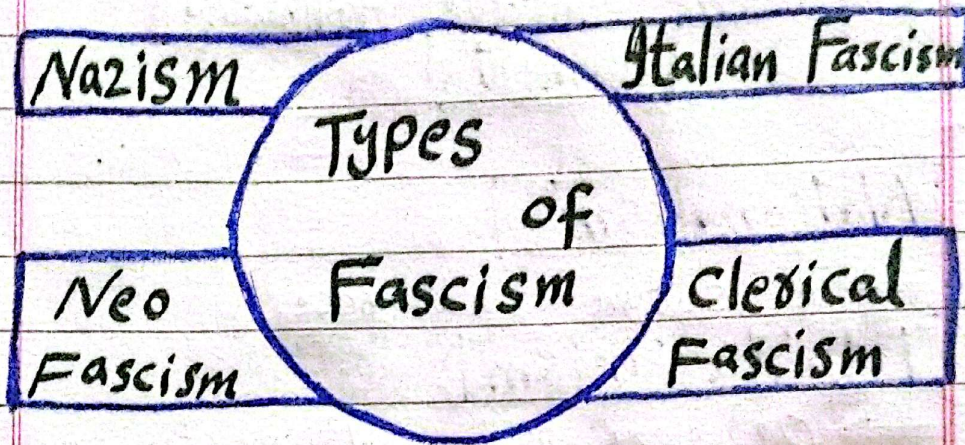
→ Encouragement of unelected bodies

Populism

It also stress on the human interdependence. Some historians say that it is inter-war-phenomenon. Democratic values in Europe changed. It was a threat to the lower middle class.

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Nationalism

In nationalism, people of the same race, colour and creed fight for their motherland. They believe that motherland is better than paradise.

Hans Kohn says that Nationalism is an idea force which fills man's brain and hearts with new thoughts and sentiments and drives him to translate his consciousness into deeds of organised action.

Types of Nationalism

There are five types of nationalism, all are described as under.

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1. Civic Nationalism

This type of Nationalism in which there is a strict adherence to legal system. The adopted nations follow rules and regulations in private life for example **USA, Russia**

2. Cultural Nationalism

This type of nationalism is shared base, people are of same heroes, cultures and historic persons. Followers are culturally homogeneous. Difficult to separate between de-jure and de-facto adhere.

3. Ethnic Nationalism

Ethnic Nationalism based on the ethnicity of the community. National belongings and language is common factor among the masses.

4. Racial Nationalism

The idea matches to the same racial or sub-racial groups. White or European is not an ethnicity.

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5- Religious Nationalism

Nationalism on the basis on same religion of the citizens. Nationalist's countries are usually religiously homogeneous, but not socially, ethnically and culturally. It is the most inclusive form of nationalism and least popular form.

Characteristics of Nationalism

- 1- Combatant against foreigners
 - 2- Eulogizing and almost worship national personalities and historical heroes.
 - 3- Revival of past traditions
 - 4- Tendency to distort historical facts to glorify one's country.
 - 5- Special emblems in nationalism
- The flag, national anthem are considered sacred, for each of which a human being has the duty of self sacrifice.

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Merits of Nationalism

- 1- Helpful in liberating from foreign yoke
- 2- It leads to social unit
- 3- It leads to spirit of self-sacrifice/heroism
- 4- It leads to economic prosperity
- 5- It empowers country economically and politically
- 6- It leads to political unity and stability

Demerits of aggressive Nationalism

- 1- Aggressive nationalism leads to racism
- 2- It encourages colonialism and imperialism
- 3- It is likely to endanger world peace
- 4- It hinders in world federation and cooperation

Enabling conditions in Germany

The enabling conditions of fascism in Germany, specifically referring to the rise of the Nazi party, include

i- Economic Crisis

After the WWI, the economic condition was miserable in Germany.

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Hyperinflation in early 1920 and global economic downfall of the Great Depression with poverty, unemployment and discontent

2- National humiliation

The Treaty of Versailles 1919 imposed harsh penalties on Germany, including territorial losses, separation and military limitations and injustice.

3- Weak democratic institutions

The Republic after WWI (1914-18) proved a weak democratic institution. It lacked strong support from the various segments of German society.

4- Fear of Communism

The Russian revolution 1917 and the rise of Communism in Germany created fear among the middle class of Germany. Also the industrialists also saw the Nazi Party as a bulwark against Communism.

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5- Charismatic leadership

Hitler charisma about the unification of Germany with zeal and zest gave a way in fascism.

6- Propaganda and manipulation

The Nazi party effectively use propaganda to spread its ideology to manipulate public opinion.

7- Scapegoating

The Nazis blame minority for the German's problems in WW-I.

8- Militarism and Nationalism

The Nazi party Fascist emphasis on military strength to take revenge of Treaty of Versailles.

9- Weak opposition

The clergy and other opposition forces Hitler to rule like a fascist leader.

10- Enabling Act (1933)

The Enabling Act empowered Hitler absolutely, marked the beginning of Nazi dictatorship.

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Enabling conditions for fascism in Italy

The enabling conditions for fascism in Italy, specifically referring to the rise of Benito Mussolini (1922-1943)

Post World War instability

Fear of Communism

Weak Democratic institution

Nationalist sentiment

Use of violence and intimidation

Support from key institution

Acerbo Law and electoral reform

Conclusion

Economic crisis in Germany and Italy highly hit the labour class of the countries. Fascism was the product of great depression of the world. Fascist leaders Hitler and Mussolini are considered the fascist leaders of the world.