

17. Anatomy of Fascism

In the globalizing consumer culture, there is a danger of the loss of national identity and the loss of anything that we could have felt proud of. German national socialist movement was a movement for national revival.

In Germany there was huge disparity between the riches of the aristocracy and the poverty of the working class people. The workers were persuaded to follow a Marxist movement. Neither the aristocracy nor the Marxist seemed to be interested in anything distinctively German. Behind both of them there was a role of the Jews. The single enemy for Hitler was Jews.

Germany was destined to be the next in a line of Aryan nations that would advance the course of human civilization. Aryan is a race with unique ability to found culture. He concluded that the fall of old glorious civilizations was the result of mixing of blood in intermarriage.

According to Hitler, steps towards national regeneration are as follows:

- ☐ Excluding people of Non-German blood from national life
- ☐ Compulsory service in the army for citizenship
- ☐ Health certificate for marriage
- ☐ The disabled and those with hereditary diseases are not allowed to have children
- ☐ An end to all Non-German immigration
- ☐ No any economic activity without national interest
- ☐ Central control of the media, outlawing Non-German newspapers
- ☐ Legal prosecution of all forms of art and literature considered to be degenerate

- Obligatory gymnastics and sports to raise the health of the nation

According to Hitler, German supremacy could only be achieved through a strong leadership. The authority should be in the hand of the strongest individual. Democratic political systems cannot last for long.

The greatness of the movement lies in the spirit of fanaticism and intolerance with which it attacks all others, being fanatically convinced that it alone is right.

Regarding education Hitler says that conventional education system has not produced strong German citizens with the spirit of patriotism. The new priority of education should be the cultivation of character-inculcating willpower, the joy of responsibility, national pride, and a spirit of self sacrifice.

Physical and moral education should be introduced so that the life of the people becomes free from the asphyxiating perfume of modern eroticism.

A man of moderate education, but sound in body, firm in character and filled with joyous self confidence and power of will is of more value to the nation than a highly educated weakling.

Corporal training should be a compulsory part of education policy. To complete education every boy must enter the army- the highest school of national instruction. There the boy shall be transformed into a man... He shall learn to be silent, not only when he is justly blamed, but to bear injustice in silence if necessary.

Fortified by confidence in his own strength, filled with the fellow feeling of his regiment, the young man shall be convinced that his nation is unconquerable.

For girls, physical training was also of prime importance, not with a view to military service but to ensure that they would become strong and healthy mothers.

Hitler thought that he was picking up where the Romans had left off and advancing human civilization. But he reduced civilization to power and a single principle: unquestionable authority.

Hitler brought politics into the age of mass production. He produced the modern political mass. He was a gifted orator but he also saw how to organize huge rallies, produce the most effective propaganda and use the new medium of cinema to generate such a forceful political movement.

To reduce the complexities of political and economic situation to a struggle between one race and another is an insult to the intellect. Eliminating all public debate and identifying the nation with the will of a single individual cannot be virtue. Germany was Hitler and Hitler was Germany. Anyone who had doubts about him was an enemy of the state.

For Hitler the elimination of political opposition was not a political necessity, it was also a source of pleasure. He took pleasure from watching people suffer.

Fascism is not just a matter of giving all authority to a single individual. It is also an identification of politics with war. The mass of population must be mobilized in a struggle against enemy, and it must seem that everything can be sacrificed to achieve that final goal. Fascism is not unfortunate temporary state of a nation; it is the way politics ought to be.

Hitler could have achieved nothing if an entire nation had not been prepared to sacrifice all other political values for the sake of national supremacy and military victory.