

EVERYBODY'S EDUCATED TO BE A HERO:
Fascism needs heroism and martyrdom to be the norm. The ideal fascist warrior is hyped to die a heroic death. Inevitably, this results in increased violence and death to any surrounding these "heros".

MACHISMO:
Linking into themes of deathcults and warrior culture, fascists become obsessed with masculinity. Because they also hate the weak, this manifests as violent misogyny and overall hatred of anyone who is not practicing zealous heterosexuality.

SELECTIVE/QUALITATIVE POPULISM:
Individuals don't matter, instead, they are instruments of a Common Will. The leader serves to interpret this will into law and practice, even if this is not the most quantitatively popular opinion. Using this logic, fascists cast doubt on elected institutions, speculating that they no longer represent the voice of the people. By reducing people's faith in democracy, fascists are able to destroy democracies.

NEWSPEAK:
We all know George Orwell's 1984. Authoritarian structures erase history and simplify language and education to prevent critical reasoning. When the language is impoverished, so are the tools for dismantling an oppressive force.

OBSESSION WITH A PLOT:
Your nationality is your identity, so anybody else from anywhere else is an enemy. However, when your entire identity is your nationality, and your nationality is perfect, if the nation has problems, it must be the fault of some secret inner enemy. To maintain unity, Fascism relies on paranoid notions of enemies from within and without.

ENEMIES ARE BOTH STRONG AND WEAK:
The enemies have all kinds of magical advantages like wealth, hidden networks of power, and secret technologies. Regardless, fascist regimes must convince the people that they can overwhelm the enemy...somehow(?). Fortunately for us, this means that fascists can rarely ACTUALLY estimate the abilities of their enemies.

PACIFISM IS TRAFFIKING WITH THE ENEMY:
Life is struggle, life is a battle. It's a death cult. This creates a romanticization of some kind of final battle, some armageddon where all the enemies are defeated. After that, fascists argue that everything will be all peaches and cream, but no fascist has ever accomplished this, so I guess we will never know.

POPULAR ELITISM AND CONTEMPT FOR THE WEAK:
Our populace is the best in the world and the leader is the best of the populace! However, the people can't choose the leader for themselves democratically they're too weak and stupid for that. This logic continues down the heirarchical structure, so that every person with any modicum of power (real or imagined) resents the people under him.

6
APPEAL TO A FRUSTRATED MIDDLE CLASS:
Class anxiety? Political humiliation? Fascism has answers for you! Fascism claims that society's crazy new ideas just aren't working for the average person, so they'd be better off with this hateful and regressive ideology.

5
RACIST BY DEFINITION:
Disagreement comes from diversity in thought, culture, education, etc. etc.
By this logic, no diversity = no disagreement.

4
DISAGREEMENT IS TREASON!
Fascist ideology doesn't make logical sense, but that doesn't mean you get to point it out. Science and critical reasoning use disagreement to suss out the truth, but fascists just scoop ideas from the past, no matter how contradictory. Therefore, if you're disagreeing, you're threatening the entire body of knowledge of the perfect past.

3
ACTION FOR ACTION'S SAKE:
Shoot first, ask questions later. Thinking is for pussies. This manifests as anti-intellectualism, and any fascist "intellectuals" will spend most of their time picking on modern culture and modern thinkers for abandoning tradition.

Ur-fascism is still around us, sometimes in plainclothes. It would be so much easier, for us, if there appeared on the world scene, somebody saying, "I want to reopen Auschwitz, I want the black shirts to parade again in the Italian squares. Life is not that simple. Ur-fascism can come back under the most innocent of disguises. Our duty is to uncover it and to point our finger at any of its new instances – every day, in every part of the world.

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2
REJECTION OF MODERNISM:
The past was perfect, so enlightenment. technology, globalism, the age of reason, and even democracy are new-fangled degenerate garbage. This idea is otherwise known as *irrationalism*.

1
CULT OF TRADITION:
There is some old perfect truth from the past, so there can be no advancement of learning. Moreover, Fascism rips off knowledge from other cultures to create a fake form of ultimate knowledge. This process, called SYNCRETISM, feigns open-mindedness while advocating for an imagined past.

archetypes of fascism
UR-FASCISM, or ETERNAL FASCISM.
These 14 characteristics contribute to a "family resemblance", but not all are required to define a movement as fascist. Even though Fascist ideology is vast and contradictory, it does tend to rely on a series of tropes.

14
Fascism takes on a different flavor every time it pops up, so it can be difficult to point out right away. Eco attempted to define a set of characteristics of something he called UR-FASCISM, or ETERNAL FASCISM. These 14 characteristics contribute to a "family resemblance", but not all are required to define a movement as fascist. Even though Fascist ideology is vast and contradictory, it does tend to rely on a series of tropes.

FURTHER READING:
Full text of this essay available on thearachistlibrary.org

HANNAH ARENDT, "The Origins of Totalitarianism" (1951)
THEODOR ADORNO, "The Authoritarian Personality" (1950)
Luther Thomas "Radio Addresses" (1943)
WALTER BENJAMIN, "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction" (1935)
SIMONE WEIL, "On the Abolition of All Political Parties" (1943)
ROBERT O. PAXTON, "The Anatomy of Fascism" (2004)
JASON STANLEY, "How Fascism Works", 2018

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Who was UMBERTO ECO?

Grew up in Fascist Italy, wrote pro-mussolini essays as a child, felt bad about it

studied medieval history, learned how cultural images can be manipulated by systems of power

Semiotics guy:
Studied how meaning is generated, wrote about Semiological Guerrilla Warfare, or how to protect against misinformation

wrote some kickass novels you will absolutely enjoy

Predicted that the internet would create a new type of fascism

UMBERTO ECO
From "Ur-Fascism",
The New York Review of Books,
June 22 1995