I. Fascism

A. Fascist movements

1. 1920s and 1930s

a. Germany: Nazi

b. Italy: Fascist

c. other European countries

i. Portugal: Clerical Fascism

ii. Spain: Falange

iii. Hungary: Arrow Cross

iv. England, Ireland, Norway

d. Japan?

e. U.S.

i. Father Coughlin

National Union of Social Justice

Christian Front

ii. groups: Black Legion, Defense of

Christian Faith, Silver Legion, Silver Shirts

iii. German American Bund

2. Characteristics of movement

a. nationalistic

i. unique

ii. sacred

iii. “holy mission”: ordained by god

iv. highest “calling”: patriotism

v. charismatic leader

b. nostalgic

i. idealized/romanticized past

ii. recovery and renewal

c. racist

i. inferior and superior races

ii. superior races need to rule

iii. threat: mongrelization

d. “lying world”: social construction of unreality

i. appeal: emotions, dreams, fantasies

ii. means: images, slogans, repetition, destruction of language

iii. freedom=obedience, peace=war, attack =self-defense

f. “populist”

i. glorifying the people: “Das Volk” “Il Popolo d’Italia”

ii. obedience to country: Italy: “Believe, obey, fight.”

iv. elite-driven, or coopted by elite

g. violent

i. paramilitary

ii. Brown shirts, Black Shirts, Christian Front, Blue Shirts

iii. against: political opponents, socialists, communists, intellectuals

iv. anyone who criticizes

B. Fascist nation

1. strong centralized government

a. dictator= nation=sacred mission

i. power in concentrated

ii. Fuhrer, Duce, Caudillo

b. single political party

c. rituals, spectacles, symbols

2. centralized and highly concentrated economy

a. government controlled

b. large corporations

c. merging of economic and political goals

i. expansion, resources

ii. Nazis/Lebensraum

d. anti-labor

3. military: dominant and privileged institution

a. security from enemies: within and without

b. disproportionate share of resources

c. disproportionate influence on policy: military solutions

d. military values: obedience, respect for authority, courage,

heroism: Italy “believe, obey, fight”

e. universal male conscription: service and sacrifice

f. takes a dominate place in cultural life: rituals, ceremonies,

holidays (reinforces lying world)

4. mass media

a. centralized

b. concentrated

c. propaganda

i. fear

ii. scapegoating, demonization

iii. lying world

5. Legal and Criminal Justice system

a. internal security

b. “creating”, pursuing, and convicting enemies

of the state

c. severe penalties

6. Education

a. history as myth

b. reinforce the “lying world”

c. fascist values: obedience, respect for authority, sacrifice

7. Marriage and Family

a. nuclear family

b. women in domestic sphere

c. procreation is service to country

8. The People

a. Function of the nation

b. Life lived for the Nation: sacrifice to mission

c. Patriotism

d. Dissent: sacrilege

C. Example: Nazi usurption of power

1. political system

a. elections

b. legislation

c. violence

2. administration: appointments

a. indoctrination

b. loyalty oaths

3. church: “elections”

4. public sphere: control

a. media: information

b. public space

6. social construction of fear

1. Jewish Question

b. socialists, communists

c. other countries

D. Failure of German institutions

a. “oppositional” political parties

b. legal system: judges and prosecutors

c. education

d. military

e. Church

E. The failure of the German people

a. occupied with everyday world

b. respect for authority

c. Nazis not taken seriously

d. for most nothing changed

F. At some point it was just too late

a. individual resistance would be self destructive

b. go along, leave, or go to concentration camp

G. Political Process Theory and Fascism

1. Social Strain

a. global depression: failure of capitalism

b. failure and fear of democracy: “the crowd”

c. rise of socialism and communism

d. WWI: Treaty of Versailles

e. Tradition vs Modernity

2. political opportunity

a. lack of elite consensus (1923)

b. breakdown of institutions

3. cognitive liberation

a. legitimation crisis

b. new ideologies: socialism, communism, fascism

c. success: Italian Fascism

d. Fascist propaganda: “lying world”

4. indigenous organizations

a. political parties

b. paramilitary: Freikorps

c. military

d. church

e. youth groups: The Old Prussia Athletics Club, The German National Youth Association

5. formal movement organizations

a. “the party”

b. parallel government

c. paramilitary (Black Shirts, Brown Shirts, Minute Men)

d. youth organizations: Hitler Youth

e. church: German Christian Movement, Protestant Reich Church

6. external support: coalition with wealthy elite

III. It Can’t Happen Here

A. Windrip: Huey Long (11% of popular vote)

B. Sarason: Gerald L.K. Smith

a. Share the Wealth

b. $5000 per family

c. guaranteed income

c. Coughlin’s plan

1. National Union for Social Justice:
2. “organized lobby for the people” against “the mighty lobbies of wealth.”

d. Sixteen principles