In medieval and early modern history religion was a cultural phenomenon that played a central role in people’s lives.[[1]](#footnote-1) Particularly in Europe, the Catholic church played in important role. The enlightenment however brought about new ideas which challenged the existing power structures which the church relied on.[[2]](#footnote-2) Ever since the church has been trying to reckon with a changed world.[[3]](#footnote-3) That is not to say however that the Catholic church had no influence in world events. Notoriously the Catholic church played an important role in legitimizing Mussolini’s fascist regime.[[4]](#footnote-4) However there is not a united Catholic experience of fascism.[[5]](#footnote-5) *Political Catholicism in Europe, 1918-1965* traces the various experiences of catholic mobilizing during the world wars and their aftermath. In particular this work will look at how Buchanan and Conway discuss the experiences of Catholics during fascism, paying particular attention to the differences between Mussolini and Hitler. To provide a framework of critique I will use Bloch’s work.[[6]](#footnote-6)

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1. (Greyerz 2007, 5) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. (Anderson 2006, 11) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. (Daly 1985, 774) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. (Kertzer 2014, 48) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. (Conway 2009, 56) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. (Bloch 2022) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)