[Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates" \o "Template:Use dmy dates) [Template:Pp-pc1](/wiki/Template:Pp-pc1) [Template:For](/wiki/Template:For) [Template:Fascism sidebar](/wiki/Template:Fascism_sidebar) **Fascism** [Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en) is a form of radical [authoritarian](/wiki/Authoritarianism) [nationalism](/wiki/Nationalism)[[1]](#cite_note-1)[[2]](#cite_note-2) that came to prominence in early 20th-century Europe, influenced by [national syndicalism](/wiki/National_syndicalism). Fascism [originated in](/wiki/Italian_Fascism) [Italy](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Italy) during [World War I](/wiki/World_War_I) and [spread to other European countries](/wiki/Fascism_in_Europe). Fascism opposes [liberalism](/wiki/Liberalism), [Marxism](/wiki/Marxism) and [anarchism](/wiki/Anarchism) and is usually placed on the [far-right](/wiki/Far-right_politics) within the traditional [left–right spectrum](/wiki/Left–right_politics).[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[4]](#cite_note-4) Fascists saw [World War I](/wiki/World_War_I) as a [revolution](/wiki/Revolution) that brought massive changes in the nature of war, society, the state, and technology. The advent of [total war](/wiki/Total_war) and total mass mobilization of society had broken down the distinction between civilian and combatant. A "military citizenship" arose in which all citizens were involved with the military in some manner during the war.[[5]](#cite_note-5)[[6]](#cite_note-6) The war had resulted in the rise of a powerful state capable of mobilizing millions of people to serve on the front lines and providing economic production and logistics to support them, as well as having unprecedented authority to intervene in the lives of citizens.[[5]](#cite_note-5)[[6]](#cite_note-6) Fascists believe that [liberal democracy](/wiki/Liberal_democracy) is obsolete, and they regard the complete mobilization of society under a [totalitarian](/wiki/Totalitarianism) [one-party state](/wiki/One-party_state) as necessary to prepare a nation for armed conflict and to respond effectively to economic difficulties.[[7]](#cite_note-7) Such a state is led by a strong leader—such as a [dictator](/wiki/Dictatorship) and a [martial](/wiki/Militarism) government composed of the members of the governing fascist party—to forge national unity and maintain a stable and orderly society.[[7]](#cite_note-7) Fascism rejects assertions that violence is automatically negative in nature, and views political violence, war, and [imperialism](/wiki/Imperialism) as means that can achieve national rejuvenation.[[8]](#cite_note-8)[[9]](#cite_note-9)[[10]](#cite_note-10)[[11]](#cite_note-11) Fascists advocate a [mixed economy](/wiki/Mixed_economy), with the principal goal of achieving [autarky](/wiki/Autarky) through [protectionist](/wiki/Protectionism) and interventionist economic policies.[[12]](#cite_note-12) Since the end of [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II) in 1945, few parties have openly described themselves as fascist, and the term is instead now usually used [pejoratively](/wiki/Fascist_(insult)) by political opponents. The descriptions [neo-fascist](/wiki/Neo-fascism) or [post-fascist](/wiki/Post-fascism) are sometimes applied more formally to describe parties of the far right with ideologies similar to, or rooted in, 20th century fascist movements.[[13]](#cite_note-13)

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## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

The Italian term *fascismo* is derived from *fascio* meaning a bundle of rods, ultimately from the [Latin](/wiki/Latin_language) word [*fasces*](/wiki/Fasces).[[14]](#cite_note-14) This was the name given to political organizations in Italy known as [fasci](/wiki/Fasci), groups similar to [guilds](/wiki/Guild) or [syndicates](/wiki/Syndicate) and at first applied mainly to organisations on the political Left. In 1919, [Benito Mussolini](/wiki/Benito_Mussolini) founded the [Fasci Italiani di Combattimento](/wiki/Fasci_Italiani_di_Combattimento) in Milan, which became the *Partito Nazionale Fascista* ([National Fascist Party](/wiki/National_Fascist_Party)) two years later. The Fascists came to associate the term with the ancient Roman fasces or [*fascio littorio*](/wiki/Fascio_littorio)[[15]](#cite_note-15)—a bundle of rods tied around an axe,[[16]](#cite_note-16) an [ancient Roman](/wiki/Ancient_Rome) symbol of the authority of the civic [magistrate](/wiki/Roman_Magistrates)[[17]](#cite_note-17) carried by his [lictors](/wiki/Lictor), which could be used for [corporal](/wiki/Corporal_punishment) and [capital punishment](/wiki/Capital_punishment) at his command.[[18]](#cite_note-18)[[19]](#cite_note-19) The symbolism of the fasces suggested *strength through unity*: a single rod is easily broken, while the bundle is difficult to break.[[20]](#cite_note-20) Similar symbols were developed by different fascist movements; for example, the [Falange](/wiki/Falange) symbol is five arrows joined together by a yoke.[[21]](#cite_note-21)

## Definitions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Historians, political scientists, and other scholars have long debated the exact nature of fascism.[[22]](#cite_note-22) Each interpretation of fascism is distinct, leaving many definitions too wide or narrow.[[23]](#cite_note-23)[[24]](#cite_note-24) One common definition of the term focuses on three concepts: the *fascist negations* of [anti-liberalism](/wiki/Anti-liberalism), [anti-communism](/wiki/Anti-communism) and anti-conservatism; nationalist authoritarian goals of creating a regulated economic structure to transform social relations within a modern, self-determined culture; and a political aesthetic of romantic symbolism, mass mobilization, a positive view of violence, and promotion of masculinity, youth and charismatic leadership.[[25]](#cite_note-25)[[26]](#cite_note-26)[[27]](#cite_note-27) According to many scholars, fascism—especially once in power—has historically attacked communism, conservatism and parliamentary liberalism, attracting support primarily from the far right.[[28]](#cite_note-28) [Roger Griffin](/wiki/Roger_Griffin) describes fascism as "a genus of political ideology whose mythic core in its various permutations is a palingenetic form of populist ultranationalism".[[29]](#cite_note-29) Griffin describes the ideology as having three core components: "(i) the rebirth myth, (ii) populist ultra-nationalism and (iii) the myth of decadence".[[30]](#cite_note-30) Fascism is "a genuinely revolutionary, trans-class form of anti-liberal, and in the last analysis, anti-conservative nationalism" built on a complex range of theoretical and cultural influences. He distinguishes an inter-war period in which it manifested itself in elite-led but populist "armed party" politics opposing socialism and liberalism and promising radical politics to rescue the nation from decadence.[[31]](#cite_note-31) [Robert Paxton](/wiki/Robert_Paxton) says that fascism is "a form of political behavior marked by obsessive preoccupation with community decline, humiliation, or victimhood and by compensatory cults of unity, energy, and purity, in which a mass-based party of committed nationalist militants, working in uneasy but effective collaboration with traditional elites, abandons democratic liberties and pursues with redemptive violence and without ethical or legal restraints goals of internal cleansing and external expansion."[[32]](#cite_note-32) [Umberto Eco](/wiki/Umberto_Eco),[[33]](#cite_note-33) Kevin Passmore,[[34]](#cite_note-34) John Weiss,[[35]](#cite_note-35) Ian Adams,[[36]](#cite_note-36) and Moyra Grant,[[37]](#cite_note-37) mention [racism](/wiki/Racism) (including [anti-semitism](/wiki/Anti-semitism)) as a characteristic of fascism; i.e. fascistic dictator [Hitler](/wiki/Hitler) idealized German society as a racially unified and hierarchically organized [Volksgemeinschaft](/wiki/Volksgemeinschaft).

[John Lukacs](/wiki/John_Lukacs), Hungarian-American historian and Holocaust survivor, argues that there is no such thing as generic fascism. He claims that [National Socialism](/wiki/National_Socialism) and [Communism](/wiki/Communism) are essentially manifestations of [populism](/wiki/Populism) and that, for example, the differences between the political regimes of [Nazi Germany](/wiki/Nazi_Germany) and Fascist Italy are greater than their similarities.[[38]](#cite_note-38)

### Position in the political spectrum[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

Fascism was influenced by both left and right, conservative and anti-conservative, national and supranational, rational and anti-rational.[[39]](#cite_note-39) A number of historians regard fascism either as a revolutionary centrist doctrine, as a doctrine that mixes philosophies of the left and the right, or as both those things.[[40]](#cite_note-40) Fascism was founded during [World War I](/wiki/World_War_I) by Italian [national syndicalists](/wiki/National_syndicalism) who drew upon [left-wing](/wiki/Left-wing_politics) and [right-wing](/wiki/Right-wing_politics) political views.

Some scholars consider fascism to be right-wing because of its [social conservatism](/wiki/Social_conservatism) and authoritarian means of opposing [egalitarianism](/wiki/Egalitarianism).[[41]](#cite_note-41)[[42]](#cite_note-42) Roderick Stackelberg places fascism—including Nazism, which he says is "a radical variant of fascism"—on the political right, explaining that, "The more a person deems absolute equality among all people to be a desirable condition, the further left he or she will be on the ideological spectrum. The more a person considers inequality to be unavoidable or even desirable, the further to the right he or she will be."[[43]](#cite_note-43) Italian Fascism gravitated to the right in the early 1920s.[[44]](#cite_note-44)[[45]](#cite_note-45) A major element of fascist ideology that has been deemed to be far-right is its stated goal to promote the right of a supposedly superior people to dominate, while purging society of supposedly inferior elements.[[46]](#cite_note-46) [Benito Mussolini](/wiki/Benito_Mussolini) in 1919 described fascism as a movement that would strike "against the backwardness of the right and the destructiveness of the left".[[47]](#cite_note-47)[[48]](#cite_note-48) Later, the Italian Fascists described their ideology as right-wing in the political program [*The Doctrine of Fascism*](/wiki/The_Doctrine_of_Fascism), stating: "We are free to believe that this is the century of authority, a century tending to the 'right,' a fascist century."[[49]](#cite_note-49)[[50]](#cite_note-50) Mussolini stated that fascism's position on the political spectrum was not a serious issue to fascists: "Fascism, sitting on the right, could also have sat on the mountain of the center ... These words in any case do not have a fixed and unchanged meaning: they do have a variable subject to location, time and spirit. We don't give a damn about these empty terminologies and we despise those who are terrorized by these words."[[51]](#cite_note-51) The accommodation of the political right into the Italian Fascist movement in the early 1920s created internal factions within the movement. The "Fascist left" included [Michele Bianchi](/wiki/Michele_Bianchi), [Giuseppe Bottai](/wiki/Giuseppe_Bottai), [Angelo Oliviero Olivetti](/wiki/Angelo_Oliviero_Olivetti), [Sergio Panunzio](/wiki/Sergio_Panunzio), and [Edmondo Rossoni](/wiki/Edmondo_Rossoni), who were committed to advancing [national syndicalism](/wiki/National_syndicalism) as a replacement for parliamentary liberalism in order to modernize the economy and advance the interests of workers and common people.[[52]](#cite_note-52) The "Fascist right" included members of the paramilitary *Squadristi* and former members of the [Italian Nationalist Association](/wiki/Italian_Nationalist_Association) (ANI).<ref name=sgp112/> The *Squadristi* wanted to establish Fascism as a complete dictatorship, while the former ANI members, including [Alfredo Rocco](/wiki/Alfredo_Rocco), sought to institute an authoritarian corporatist state to replace the liberal state in Italy, while retaining the existing elites.<ref name=sgp112/> Upon accommodating the political right, there arose a group of monarchist fascists who sought to use fascism to create an [absolute monarchy](/wiki/Absolute_monarchy) under King [Victor Emmanuel III of Italy](/wiki/Victor_Emmanuel_III_of_Italy).<ref name=sgp112/>

After King Victor Emmanuel III [forced Mussolini to resign](/wiki/25_Luglio) as head of government and placed him under arrest in 1943, Mussolini was rescued by German forces. While continuing to rely on Germany for support, Mussolini and the remaining loyal Fascists founded the [Italian Social Republic](/wiki/Italian_Social_Republic) with Mussolini as head of state. Mussolini sought to re-radicalize Italian Fascism, declaring that the Fascist state had been overthrown because Italian Fascism had been subverted by Italian conservatives and the bourgeoisie.[[53]](#cite_note-53) Then the new Fascist government proposed the creation of workers' councils and profit-sharing in industry, although the German authorities, who effectively controlled northern Italy at this point, ignored these measures and did not seek to enforce them.[[53]](#cite_note-53) A number of post-World War II fascist movements described themselves as a "[third position](/wiki/Third_Position)" outside the traditional political spectrum.[[54]](#cite_note-54) Spanish [Falangist](/wiki/Falange_Española_de_las_JONS) leader José Antonio Primo de Rivera said: "basically the Right stands for the maintenance of an economic structure, albeit an unjust one, while the Left stands for the attempt to subvert that economic structure, even though the subversion thereof would entail the destruction of much that was worthwhile".[[55]](#cite_note-55)

### ''Fascist'' as a pejorative[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Following the defeat of the [Axis Powers](/wiki/Axis_Powers) in [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II), the term *fascist* has been used as a [pejorative](/wiki/Pejorative),[[56]](#cite_note-56) often referring to widely varying movements across the political spectrum.[[57]](#cite_note-57) [George Orwell](/wiki/George_Orwell) wrote in 1944 that "the word 'Fascism' is almost entirely meaningless ... almost any English person would accept 'bully' as a synonym for 'Fascist'".[[57]](#cite_note-57) Richard Griffiths said in 2005 that "fascism" is the "most misused, and over-used word, of our times".[[24]](#cite_note-24) "Fascist" is sometimes applied to post-war organizations and ways of thinking that academics more commonly term "[neo-fascist](/wiki/Neo-fascism)".[[58]](#cite_note-58) Contrary to the popular use of the term, Communist states have sometimes been referred to as "fascist", typically as an insult. Marxist interpretations of the term have, for example, been applied in relation to [Cuba](/wiki/Cuba) under [Fidel Castro](/wiki/Fidel_Castro) and [Vietnam](/wiki/Vietnam) under [Ho Chi Minh](/wiki/Ho_Chi_Minh).[[59]](#cite_note-59) Herbert Matthews, of the [*New York Times*](/wiki/New_York_Times) asked "Should we now place Stalinist Russia in the same category as Hitlerite Germany? Should we say that she is Fascist?"[[60]](#cite_note-60) [J. Edgar Hoover](/wiki/J._Edgar_Hoover) wrote extensively of "Red Fascism".[[61]](#cite_note-61) Chinese Marxists used the term to denounce the Soviet Union during the [Sino-Soviet Split](/wiki/Sino-Soviet_Split), and likewise, the Soviets used the term to identify Chinese Marxists[[62]](#cite_note-62) and [social democracy](/wiki/Social_democracy) (coining a new term of [social fascism](/wiki/Social_fascism)).

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

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### ''Fin de siècle'' era and the fusion of Maurrasism with Sorelianism (1880–1914)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

The ideological roots of fascism have been traced back to the 1880s, and in particular to the [*fin de siècle*](/wiki/Fin_de_siècle) theme of that time.[[63]](#cite_note-63)[[64]](#cite_note-64) The theme was based on a revolt against [materialism](/wiki/Materialism), [rationalism](/wiki/Rationalism), [positivism](/wiki/Positivism), bourgeois society and [democracy](/wiki/Democracy).[[65]](#cite_note-65) The *fin-de-siècle* generation supported [emotionalism](/wiki/Emotionalism), [irrationalism](/wiki/Irrationalism), [subjectivism](/wiki/Subjectivism) and [vitalism](/wiki/Vitalism).[[66]](#cite_note-66) The *fin-de-siècle* mindset saw civilization as being in a crisis that required a massive and total solution.[[65]](#cite_note-65) The *fin-de-siècle* intellectual school considered the individual only one part of the larger collectivity, which should not be viewed as an atomized numerical sum of individuals.[[65]](#cite_note-65) They condemned the rationalistic individualism of liberal society and the dissolution of social links in bourgeois society.[[65]](#cite_note-65) The *fin-de-siècle* outlook was influenced by various intellectual developments, including [Darwinian](/wiki/Darwinism) [biology](/wiki/Biology); [Wagnerian aesthetics](/wiki/Gesamtkunstwerk); [Arthur de Gobineau's](/wiki/Arthur_de_Gobineau) [racialism](/wiki/Racism); [Gustave Le Bon's](/wiki/Gustave_Le_Bon) [psychology](/wiki/Psychology); and the philosophies of [Friedrich Nietzsche](/wiki/Friedrich_Nietzsche), [Fyodor Dostoyevsky](/wiki/Fyodor_Dostoyevsky) and [Henri Bergson](/wiki/Henri_Bergson).[[67]](#cite_note-67) [Social Darwinism](/wiki/Social_Darwinism), which gained widespread acceptance, made no distinction between physical and social life, and viewed the human condition as being an unceasing struggle to achieve the [survival of the fittest](/wiki/Survival_of_the_fittest).[[67]](#cite_note-67) Social Darwinism challenged positivism's claim of deliberate and rational choice as the determining behaviour of humans, with social Darwinism focusing on heredity, race, and environment.[[67]](#cite_note-67) Social Darwinism's emphasis on biogroup identity and the role of organic relations within societies fostered legitimacy and appeal for nationalism.[[68]](#cite_note-68) New theories of social and political psychology also rejected the notion of human behaviour being governed by rational choice, and instead claimed that emotion was more influential in political issues than reason.[[67]](#cite_note-67) Nietzsche's argument that "God is dead" coincided with his attack on the "herd mentality" of [Christianity](/wiki/Christianity), democracy and modern collectivism; his concept of the [*übermensch*](/wiki/Übermensch); and his advocacy of the [will to power](/wiki/Will_to_power) as a primordial instinct, were major influences upon many of the *fin-de-siècle* generation.[[69]](#cite_note-69) Bergson's claim of the existence of an "*élan vital*" or vital instinct centred upon free choice and rejected the processes of materialism and determinism; this challenged Marxism.[[70]](#cite_note-70) [Gaetano Mosca](/wiki/Gaetano_Mosca) in his work *The Ruling Class* (1896) developed the theory that claims that in all societies an "organized minority" will dominate and rule over the "disorganized majority".[[71]](#cite_note-71)[[72]](#cite_note-72) Mosca claims that there are only two classes in society, "the governing" (the organized minority) and "the governed" (the disorganized majority).[[73]](#cite_note-73) He claims that the organized nature of the organized minority makes it irresistible to any individual of the disorganized majority.[[73]](#cite_note-73) The anarchist [Mikhail Bakunin's](/wiki/Mikhail_Bakunin) concept of [propaganda of the deed](/wiki/Propaganda_of_the_deed), which stressed the importance of [direct action](/wiki/Direct_action) as the primary means of politics, including revolutionary violence, became popular amongst fascists who admired the concept and adopted it as a part of fascism.[[74]](#cite_note-74) [Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image)

[French nationalist](/wiki/French_nationalism) and reactionary monarchist [Charles Maurras](/wiki/Charles_Maurras) influenced fascism.[[75]](#cite_note-75) Maurras promoted what he called [integral nationalism](/wiki/Integral_nationalism), which called for the organic unity of a nation, Maurras insisted that a powerful monarch was an ideal leader of a nation. Maurras distrusted what he considered the democratic mystification of the popular will that created an impersonal collective subject.[[75]](#cite_note-75) He claimed that a powerful monarch was a personified sovereign who could exercise authority to unite a nation's people.[[75]](#cite_note-75) Maurras' integral nationalism was idealized by fascists, but modified into a modernized revolutionary form that was devoid of Maurras' monarchism.[[75]](#cite_note-75) French revolutionary syndicalist [Georges Sorel](/wiki/Georges_Sorel) promoted the legitimacy of [political violence](/wiki/Political_violence) in his work [*Reflections on Violence*](/wiki/Reflections_on_Violence) (1908) and other works in which he advocated radical syndicalist action to achieve a revolution to overthrow capitalism and the bourgeoisie through a [general strike](/wiki/General_strike).[[76]](#cite_note-76) In *Reflections on Violence*, Sorel emphasized need for a revolutionary [political religion](/wiki/Political_religion).[[77]](#cite_note-77) Also, in his work The Illusions of Progress, Sorel denounced democracy as reactionary, saying "nothing is more aristocratic than democracy".[[78]](#cite_note-78) By 1909 after the failure of a syndicalist general strike in France, Sorel and his supporters left the radical left and went to the radical right, where they sought to merge militant Catholicism and French patriotism with their views – advocating anti-republican Christian French patriots as ideal revolutionaries.[[79]](#cite_note-79) Initially Sorel had officially been a [revisionist](/wiki/Revisionism_(Marxism)) of Marxism, but by 1910 announced his abandonment of socialist literature and claimed in 1914, using an aphorism of [Benedetto Croce](/wiki/Benedetto_Croce) that "socialism is dead" because of the "decomposition of Marxism".[[80]](#cite_note-80) Sorel became a supporter of reactionary Maurrassian nationalism beginning in 1909 that influenced his works.[[80]](#cite_note-80) Maurras held interest in merging his nationalist ideals with [Sorelian](/wiki/Sorelianism) [syndicalism](/wiki/Syndicalism) as a means to confront [democracy](/wiki/Democracy).[[81]](#cite_note-81) Maurras stated "a socialism liberated from the democratic and cosmopolitan element fits nationalism well as a well made glove fits a beautiful hand".[[82]](#cite_note-82) [thumb|200px|right|](/wiki/File:EnricoCorradini.jpg)[Enrico Corradini](/wiki/Enrico_Corradini) The fusion of Maurrassian nationalism and Sorelian syndicalism influenced radical Italian nationalist [Enrico Corradini](/wiki/Enrico_Corradini).[[83]](#cite_note-83) Corradini spoke of the need for a [nationalist-syndicalist](/wiki/National_syndicalism) movement, led by elitist aristocrats and anti-democrats who shared a revolutionary syndicalist commitment to direct action and a willingness to fight.<ref name=zs163/> Corradini spoke of Italy as being a "proletarian nation" that needed to pursue [imperialism](/wiki/Imperialism) in order to challenge the "[plutocratic](/wiki/Plutocracy)" French and British.[[84]](#cite_note-84) Corradini's views were part of a wider set of perceptions within the right-wing [Italian Nationalist Association](/wiki/Italian_Nationalist_Association) (ANI), which claimed that Italy's economic backwardness was caused by corruption in its political class, [liberalism](/wiki/Liberalism), and division caused by "ignoble socialism".<ref name=mb9/> The ANI held ties and influence among [conservatives](/wiki/Conservatism), Catholics, and the business community.<ref name=mb9/> Italian national syndicalists held a common set of principles: the rejection of [bourgeois](/wiki/Bourgeois) values, [democracy](/wiki/Democracy), liberalism, [Marxism](/wiki/Marxism), [internationalism](/wiki/Internationalism_(politics)), and [pacifism](/wiki/Pacifism); and the promotion of [heroism](/wiki/Heroism), [vitalism](/wiki/Vitalism), and violence.[[85]](#cite_note-85) The ANI claimed that liberal democracy was no longer compatible with the modern world, and advocated a strong state and imperialism, claiming that humans are naturally predatory and that nations were in a constant struggle, in which only the strongest could survive.[[86]](#cite_note-86) [thumb|left|300px|](/wiki/File:Manifesto_of_Futurism.jpg)[Filippo Tommaso Marinetti](/wiki/Filippo_Tommaso_Marinetti), Italian modernist author of the [*Futurist Manifesto*](/wiki/Futurist_Manifesto) (1909) and later the co-author of the [*Fascist Manifesto*](/wiki/Fascist_Manifesto) (1919) Futurism was both an artistic-cultural movement and initially a political movement in Italy led by [Filippo Tommaso Marinetti](/wiki/Filippo_Tommaso_Marinetti) who founded the [*Futurist Manifesto*](/wiki/Futurist_Manifesto) (1908), that championed the causes of modernism, action, and political violence as necessary elements of politics while denouncing liberalism and parliamentary politics. Marinetti rejected conventional democracy based on majority rule and egalitarianism, for a new form of democracy, promoting what he described in his work "The Futurist Conception of Democracy" as the following: "We are therefore able to give the directions to create and to dismantle to *numbers*, *to quantity*, *to the mass*, for with us *number*, *quantity and mass* will never be—as they are in Germany and Russia—the number, quantity and mass of mediocre men, incapable and indecisive".[[87]](#cite_note-87) Futurism influenced fascism in its emphasis on recognizing the virile nature of violent action and war as being necessities of modern civilization.[[88]](#cite_note-88) Marinetti promoted the need of physical training of young men, saying that in male education, gymnastics should take precedence over books, and he advocated segregation of the genders on this matter, in that womanly sensibility must not enter men's education whom Marinetti claimed must be "lively, bellicose, muscular and violently dynamic".[[89]](#cite_note-89)

### World War I and aftermath (1914–1929)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Benito_Mussolini_1917.jpg)[Benito Mussolini](/wiki/Benito_Mussolini) in 1917, as a soldier in [World War I](/wiki/World_War_I). In 1914, Mussolini founded the [*Fasci d'Azione Rivoluzionaria*](/wiki/Fasci_d'Azione_Rivoluzionaria) that he led. Mussolini promoted the Italian intervention in the war as a revolutionary nationalist action to liberate Italian-claimed lands from Austria-Hungary. At the outbreak of World War I in August 1914, the Italian political left became severely split over its position on the war. The [Italian Socialist Party](/wiki/Italian_Socialist_Party) (PSI) opposed the war but a number of Italian revolutionary syndicalists supported war against Germany and Austria-Hungary on the grounds that their reactionary regimes had to be defeated to ensure the success of socialism.[[90]](#cite_note-90) [Angelo Oliviero Olivetti](/wiki/Angelo_Oliviero_Olivetti) formed a pro-interventionist [fascio](/wiki/Fascio) called the [Fasci of International Action](/wiki/Fasci_d'Azione_Internazionalista) in October 1914.<ref name=zs175/> Benito Mussolini upon being expelled from his position as chief editor of the PSI's newspaper [Avanti!](/wiki/Avanti!_(Italian_newspaper)) for his anti-German stance, joined the interventionist cause in a separate fascio.[[91]](#cite_note-91) The term "Fascism" was first used in 1915 by members of Mussolini's movement, the [Fasci of Revolutionary Action](/wiki/Fasci_d'Azione_Rivoluzionaria).[[92]](#cite_note-92) The first meeting of the Fasci of Revolutionary Action was held on 24 January 1915[[93]](#cite_note-93) when Mussolini declared that it was necessary for Europe to resolve its national problems – including national borders – of Italy and elsewhere "for the ideals of justice and liberty for which oppressed peoples must acquire the right to belong to those national communities from which they descended".[[93]](#cite_note-93) Attempts to hold mass meetings were ineffective, and the organization was regularly harassed by government authorities and socialists.[[94]](#cite_note-94) [thumb|300px|left|German soldiers being cheered in Lubeck during their advance to the front lines in 1914 during World War I. The concept of the "](/wiki/File:IR_Lübeck_033_-_EB.jpg)[Spirit of 1914](/wiki/Spirit_of_1914)" by Johann Plenge identified the outbreak of war as forging national solidarity of Germans. Similar political ideas arose in Germany after the outbreak of the war. German sociologist [Johann Plenge](/wiki/Johann_Plenge) spoke of the rise of a "National Socialism" in Germany within what he termed the "ideas of 1914" that were a declaration of war against the "ideas of 1789" (the [French Revolution](/wiki/French_Revolution)).[[95]](#cite_note-95) According to Plenge, the "ideas of 1789" that included rights of man, democracy, individualism and liberalism were being rejected in favor of "the ideas of 1914" that included "German values" of duty, discipline, law, and order.[[95]](#cite_note-95) Plenge believed that racial solidarity ([*volksgemeinschaft*](/wiki/Volksgemeinschaft)) would replace class division and that "racial comrades" would unite to create a socialist society in the struggle of "proletarian" Germany against "capitalist" Britain.[[95]](#cite_note-95) He believed that the "[Spirit of 1914](/wiki/Spirit_of_1914)" manifested itself in the concept of the "People's League of National Socialism".[[96]](#cite_note-96) This National Socialism was a form of state socialism that rejected the "idea of boundless freedom" and promoted an economy that would serve the whole of Germany under the leadership of the state.[[96]](#cite_note-96) This National Socialism was opposed to capitalism because of the components that were against "the national interest" of Germany, but insisted that National Socialism would strive for greater efficiency in the economy.[[96]](#cite_note-96) Plenge advocated an authoritarian rational ruling elite to develop National Socialism through a hierarchical [technocratic](/wiki/Technocracy) state.[[97]](#cite_note-97) Fascists viewed World War I as bringing revolutionary changes in the nature of war, society, the state, and technology, as the advent of [total war](/wiki/Total_war) and mass mobilization had broken down the distinction between civilian and combatant, as civilians had become a critical part in economic production for the war effort, and thus arose a "military citizenship" in which all citizens were involved to the military in some manner during the war.[[5]](#cite_note-5)[[6]](#cite_note-6) World War I had resulted in the rise of a powerful state capable of mobilizing millions of people to serve on the front lines or provide economic production and logistics to support those on the front lines, as well as having unprecedented authority to intervene in the lives of citizens.[[5]](#cite_note-5)[[6]](#cite_note-6) Fascists viewed technological developments of weaponry and the state's total mobilization of its population in the war as symbolizing the beginning of a new era fusing state power with [mass politics](/wiki/Mass_politics), technology, and particularly the mobilizing myth that they contended had triumphed over the myth of progress and the era of liberalism.[[5]](#cite_note-5) [thumb|300px|Members of Italy's](/wiki/File:Italian_Arditi.jpg) [*Arditi*](/wiki/Arditi) corps in 1918 holding daggers, a symbol of their group. The *Arditi* formed in 1917, as groups of soldiers trained for dangerous missions, refusal to surrender, and willingness to fight to the death. The Italian Fascist movement adopted the *Arditi'*s black uniform and fez in homage to the *Arditi*. The [October Revolution](/wiki/October_Revolution) of 1917—in which [Bolshevik](/wiki/Bolshevik) communists led by [Vladimir Lenin](/wiki/Vladimir_Lenin) seized power in Russia—greatly influenced the development of fascism.[[98]](#cite_note-98) In 1917, Mussolini, as leader of the [Fasci of Revolutionary Action](/wiki/Fasci_d'Azione_Rivoluzionaria), praised the October Revolution, but later he became unimpressed with Lenin, regarding him as merely a new version of Tsar Nicholas.[[99]](#cite_note-99) After World War I fascists have commonly campaigned on anti-Marxist agendas.[[98]](#cite_note-98) Bolshevism and fascism both advocated a revolutionary ideology, believed in the necessity of a vanguard elite, had disdain for bourgeois values, and had totalitarian ambitions.[[98]](#cite_note-98) In practice, fascism and Bolshevism have commonly emphasized revolutionary action, proletarian nation theories, one-party states, and party-armies.[[98]](#cite_note-98) With the antagonism between anti-interventionist Marxists and pro-interventionist Fascists complete by the end of the war, the two sides became irreconcilable. The Fascists presented themselves as [anti-Marxists](/wiki/Anti-communism) and as opposed to the Marxists.[[100]](#cite_note-100) Benito Mussolini consolidated control over the Fascist movement in 1919 with the founding of the [*Fasci italiani di combattimento*](/wiki/Fasci_italiani_di_combattimento), whose opposition to socialism he declared:

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In 1919, [Alceste De Ambris](/wiki/Alceste_De_Ambris) and [Futurist](/wiki/Futurism) movement leader [Filippo Tommaso Marinetti](/wiki/Filippo_Tommaso_Marinetti) created [*The Manifesto of the Italian Fasci of Combat*](/wiki/Fascist_Manifesto) (a.k.a. the *Fascist Manifesto*).[[101]](#cite_note-101) The Manifesto was presented on 6 June 1919 in the Fascist newspaper *Il Popolo d'Italia*. The Manifesto supported the creation of [universal suffrage](/wiki/Universal_suffrage) for both men [and women](/wiki/Women's_suffrage) (the latter being realized only partly in late 1925, with all opposition parties banned or disbanded[[102]](#cite_note-102)); [proportional representation](/wiki/Proportional_representation) on a regional basis; government representation through a [corporatist](/wiki/Corporatism) system of "National Councils" of experts, selected from professionals and tradespeople, elected to represent and hold legislative power over their respective areas, including labour, industry, transportation, public health, communications, etc.; and the abolition of the [Italian Senate](/wiki/Italian_Senate).[[103]](#cite_note-103) The Manifesto supported the creation of an [eight-hour work day](/wiki/Eight-hour_day) for all workers, a [minimum wage](/wiki/Minimum_wage), worker representation in industrial management, equal confidence in labour unions as in industrial executives and public servants, reorganization of the transportation sector, revision of the draft law on invalidity insurance, reduction of the retirement age from 65 to 55, a strong [progressive tax](/wiki/Progressive_tax) on capital, confiscation of the property of religious institutions and abolishment of bishoprics, and revision of military contracts to allow the government to seize 85% of their[Template:Who](/wiki/Template:Who) profits.[[104]](#cite_note-104) It also called for the creation of a short-service national militia to serve defensive duties, [nationalization](/wiki/Nationalization) of the armaments industry, and a foreign policy designed to be peaceful but also competitive.[[105]](#cite_note-105) [thumb||300px|left|Residents of](/wiki/File:Fiume_cheering_D'Annunzio.jpg) [Fiume](/wiki/Rijeka) cheer the arrival of [Gabriele d'Annunzio](/wiki/Gabriele_d'Annunzio) and his blackshirt-wearing nationalist raiders. D'Annunzio and Fascist [Alceste De Ambris](/wiki/Alceste_De_Ambris) developed the quasi-fascist [Italian Regency of Carnaro](/wiki/Italian_Regency_of_Carnaro), a city-state in Fiume, from 1919 to 1920. D'Annunzio's actions in Fiume inspired the Italian Fascist movement. The next events that influenced the Fascists in Italy was the raid of [Fiume](/wiki/Fiume_(city)) by Italian nationalist [Gabriele d'Annunzio](/wiki/Gabriele_d'Annunzio) and the founding of the [Charter of Carnaro](/wiki/Charter_of_Carnaro) in 1920.[[106]](#cite_note-106) D'Annunzio and De Ambris designed the Charter, which advocated national-syndicalist [corporatist](/wiki/Corporatism) productionism alongside D'Annunzio's political views.[[107]](#cite_note-107) Many Fascists saw the Charter of Carnaro as an ideal constitution for a Fascist Italy.[[108]](#cite_note-108) This behaviour of aggression towards Yugoslavia and [South Slavs](/wiki/South_Slavs) was pursued by Italian Fascists with their persecution of South Slavs – especially Slovenes and Croats.

In 1920, militant strike activity by industrial workers reached its peak in Italy; 1919 and 1920 were known as the ["Red Years"](/wiki/Biennio_Rosso).[[109]](#cite_note-109) Mussolini and the Fascists took advantage of the situation by allying with industrial businesses and attacking workers and peasants in the name of preserving order and internal peace in Italy.[[110]](#cite_note-110) Fascists identified their primary opponents as the majority of socialists on the left who had opposed intervention in World War I.<ref name=zs189/> The Fascists and the Italian political right held common ground: both held Marxism in contempt, discounted class consciousness and believed in the rule of elites.[[111]](#cite_note-111) The Fascists assisted the anti-socialist campaign by allying with the other parties and the conservative right in a mutual effort to destroy the Italian Socialist Party and labour organizations committed to class identity above national identity.<ref name=zs193/>

Fascism sought to accommodate Italian conservatives by making major alterations to its political agenda;– abandoning its previous [populism](/wiki/Populism), [republicanism](/wiki/Republicanism), and [anticlericalism](/wiki/Anticlericalism), adopting policies in support of [free enterprise](/wiki/Free_enterprise), and accepting the [Roman Catholic Church](/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Church) and the monarchy as institutions in Italy.[[112]](#cite_note-112) To appeal to Italian conservatives, Fascism adopted policies such as promoting family values, including promotion policies designed to reduce the number of women in the workforce limiting the woman's role to that of a mother. The fascists banned literature on birth control and increased penalties for abortion in 1926, declaring both crimes against the state.[[113]](#cite_note-113) Though Fascism adopted a number of positions designed to appeal to [reactionaries](/wiki/Reactionary), the Fascists sought to maintain Fascism's revolutionary character, with Angelo Oliviero Olivetti saying "Fascism would like to be conservative, but it will [be] by being revolutionary."[[114]](#cite_note-114) The Fascists supported revolutionary action and committed to secure law and order to appeal to both conservatives and syndicalists.[[115]](#cite_note-115) Prior to Fascism's accommodation of the political right, Fascism was a small, urban, northern Italian movement that had about a thousand members.[[116]](#cite_note-116) After Fascism's accommodation of the political right, the Fascist movement's membership soared to approximately 250,000 by 1921.[[117]](#cite_note-117) Beginning in 1922, Fascist paramilitaries escalated their strategy from one of attacking socialist offices and homes of socialist leadership figures to one of violent occupation of cities. The Fascists met little serious resistance from authorities and proceeded to take over several northern Italian cities.[[118]](#cite_note-118) The Fascists attacked the headquarters of socialist and [Catholic](/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Church) labour unions in Cremona and imposed forced Italianization upon the German-speaking population of Trent and Bolzano.<ref name=rop87/> After seizing these cities, the Fascists made plans to take [Rome](/wiki/Rome).<ref name=rop87/>

[thumb|right|300px|](/wiki/File:March_on_Rome.jpg)[Benito Mussolini](/wiki/Benito_Mussolini) with three of the four [quadrumvirs](/wiki/Quadrumvirs) during the [March on Rome](/wiki/March_on_Rome): from left to right: unknown, [de Bono](/wiki/Emilio_de_Bono), Mussolini, [Balbo](/wiki/Italo_Balbo) and [de Vecchi](/wiki/Cesare_Maria_de_Vecchi) On 24 October 1922, the Fascist party held its annual congress in [Naples](/wiki/Naples), where Mussolini ordered Blackshirts to take control of public buildings and trains and to converge on three points around Rome.<ref name=rop87/> The Fascists managed to seize control of several post offices and trains in northern Italy while the Italian government, led by a left-wing coalition, was internally divided and unable to respond to the Fascist advances.[[119]](#cite_note-119) King [Victor Emmanuel III of Italy](/wiki/Victor_Emmanuel_III_of_Italy) perceived the risk of bloodshed in Rome in response to attempting to disperse the Fascists to be too high.[[120]](#cite_note-120) Victor Emmanuel III decided to appoint Mussolini as [Prime Minister of Italy](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Italy), and Mussolini arrived in Rome on 30 October to accept the appointment.<ref name=rop90/> Fascist propaganda aggrandized this event, known as "[March on Rome](/wiki/March_on_Rome)", as a "seizure" of power because of Fascists' heroic exploits.<ref name=rop87/>

Upon being appointed Prime Minister of Italy, Mussolini had to form a coalition government, because the Fascists did not have control over the Italian parliament.[[121]](#cite_note-121) Mussolini's coalition government initially pursued [economically liberal](/wiki/Economic_liberalism) policies under the direction of liberal finance minister [Alberto De Stefani](/wiki/Alberto_De_Stefani), including balancing the budget through deep cuts to the civil service.<ref name=sgp110/> Initially, little drastic change in government policy had occurred and repressive police actions were limited.<ref name=sgp110/>

The Fascists began their attempt to entrench Fascism in Italy with the [Acerbo Law](/wiki/Acerbo_Law), which guaranteed a plurality of the seats in parliament to any party or coalition list in an election that received 25% or more of the vote.[[122]](#cite_note-122) Through considerable Fascist violence and intimidation, the list won a majority of the vote, allowing many seats to go to the Fascists.<ref name=sgp113/> In the aftermath of the election, a crisis and political scandal erupted after Socialist Party deputy [Giacomo Matteoti](/wiki/Giacomo_Matteoti) was kidnapped and murdered by a Fascist.<ref name=sgp113/> The liberals and the leftist minority in parliament walked out in protest in what became known as the [Aventine Secession](/wiki/Aventine_Secession_(20th_century)).[[123]](#cite_note-123) On 3 January 1925, Mussolini addressed the Fascist-dominated Italian parliament and declared that he was personally responsible for what happened, but he insisted that he had done nothing wrong. He proclaimed himself dictator of Italy, assuming full responsibility over the government and announcing the dismissal of parliament.<ref name=sgp114/> From 1925 to 1929, Fascism steadily became entrenched in power: opposition deputies were denied access to parliament, censorship was introduced, and a December 1925 decree made Mussolini solely responsible to the King.[[124]](#cite_note-124) In 1929, the Fascist regime gained the political support and blessing of the Roman Catholic Church after the regime signed a concordat with the Church, known as the [Lateran Treaty](/wiki/Lateran_Treaty), which gave the papacy state sovereignty and financial compensation for the seizure of Church lands by the liberal state in the nineteenth century.[[125]](#cite_note-125) The Fascist regime created a [corporatist](/wiki/Corporatism) economic system in 1925 with creation of the Palazzo Vidioni Pact, in which the Italian employers' association [Confindustria](/wiki/Confindustria) and Fascist trade unions agreed to recognize each other as the sole representatives of Italy's employers and employees, excluding non-Fascist trade unions.[[126]](#cite_note-126) The Fascist regime first created a Ministry of Corporations that organized the Italian economy into 22 sectoral corporations, banned workers' strikes and lock-outs, and in 1927 created the [Charter of Labour](/wiki/Labour_Charter_of_1927), which established workers' rights and duties and created labour tribunals to arbitrate employer-employee disputes.<ref name=cb150/> In practice, the sectoral corporations exercised little independence and were largely controlled by the regime, and employee organizations were rarely led by employees themselves but instead by appointed Fascist party members.<ref name=cb150/>

In the 1920s, Fascist Italy pursued an aggressive foreign policy that included an attack on the Greek island of [Corfu](/wiki/Corfu), aims to expand Italian territory in the [Balkans](/wiki/Balkans), plans to wage war against [Turkey](/wiki/Turkey) and [Yugoslavia](/wiki/Yugoslavia), attempts to bring Yugoslavia into civil war by supporting Croat and Macedonian separatists to legitimize Italian intervention, and making [Albania](/wiki/Albania) a [*de facto*](/wiki/De_facto) [protectorate](/wiki/Protectorate) of Italy, which was achieved through diplomatic means by 1927.[[127]](#cite_note-127) In response to revolt in the Italian colony of [Libya](/wiki/Libya), Fascist Italy abandoned previous liberal-era colonial policy of cooperation with local leaders. Instead, claiming that Italians were a superior race to African races and thereby had the right to colonize the "inferior" Africans, it sought to settle 10 to 15 million Italians in Libya.[[128]](#cite_note-128) This resulted in an aggressive military campaign known as the [Pacification of Libya](/wiki/Pacification_of_Libya) against natives in Libya, including mass killings, the use of [concentration camps](/wiki/Concentration_camp), and the forced starvation of thousands of people.<ref name=aaa134/> Italian authorities committed [ethnic cleansing](/wiki/Ethnic_cleansing) by forcibly expelling 100,000 [Bedouin](/wiki/Bedouins) Cyrenaicans, half the population of Cyrenaica in Libya, from their settlements that was slated to be given to Italian settlers.[[129]](#cite_note-129)[[130]](#cite_note-130) [thumb|left|300px|Nazis in](/wiki/File:Bundesarchiv_Bild_119-1486,_Hitler-Putsch,_München,_Marienplatz.jpg) [Munich](/wiki/Munich) during the Beer Hall Putsch. The March on Rome brought Fascism international attention. One early admirer of the Italian Fascists was [Adolf Hitler](/wiki/Adolf_Hitler), who, less than a month after the March, had begun to model himself and the [Nazi Party](/wiki/Nazi_Party) upon Mussolini and the Fascists.[[131]](#cite_note-131) The Nazis, led by Hitler and the German war hero [Erich Ludendorff](/wiki/Erich_Ludendorff), attempted a "March on Berlin" modeled upon the March on Rome, which resulted in the failed [Beer Hall Putsch](/wiki/Beer_Hall_Putsch) in [Munich](/wiki/Munich) in November 1923.[[132]](#cite_note-132)

### International impact of the Great Depression and the buildup to World War II[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Hitlermusso2_edit.jpg)[Benito Mussolini](/wiki/Benito_Mussolini) (left) and [Adolf Hitler](/wiki/Adolf_Hitler) (right).

The conditions of economic hardship caused by the [Great Depression](/wiki/Great_Depression) brought about an international surge of social unrest. According to historian Philip Morgan, "*the onset of the Great Depression...was the greatest stimulus yet to the diffusion and expansion of fascism outside Italy".*[[133]](#cite_note-133) Fascist propaganda blamed the problems of the long depression of the 1930s on minorities and [scapegoats](/wiki/Scapegoat): “[Judeo](/wiki/Anti-semitism)-[Masonic](/wiki/Freemasonry)-[bolshevik](/wiki/Bolshevism)” conspiracies, [left-wing internationalism](/wiki/Left-wing_politics#Nationalism_and_anti-nationalism), and the presence of [immigrants](/wiki/Immigrant).

In Germany, it contributed to the rise of the [National Socialist German Workers' Party](/wiki/National_Socialist_German_Workers'_Party), which resulted in the demise of the [Weimar Republic](/wiki/Weimar_Republic), and the establishment of the fascist regime, [Nazi Germany](/wiki/Nazi_Germany), under the leadership of [Adolf Hitler](/wiki/Adolf_Hitler). With the rise of Hitler and the Nazis to power in 1933, [liberal democracy](/wiki/Liberal_democracy) was dissolved in Germany, and the Nazis mobilized the country for war, with expansionist territorial aims against several countries. In the 1930s the Nazis implemented racial laws that deliberately discriminated against, [disenfranchised](/wiki/Disfranchisement), and persecuted Jews and other racial and minority groups.

Fascist movements grew in strength elsewhere in Europe. Hungarian fascist [Gyula Gömbös](/wiki/Gyula_Gömbös) rose to power as Prime Minister of [Hungary](/wiki/Hungary) in 1932 and attempted to entrench his [Party of National Unity](/wiki/Party_of_Hungarian_Life) throughout the country; created an eight-hour work day, a forty-eight-hour work week in industry, and sought to entrench a corporatist economy; and pursued irredentist claims on Hungary's neighbors.[[134]](#cite_note-134) The fascist [Iron Guard](/wiki/Iron_Guard) movement in [Romania](/wiki/Romania) soared in political support after 1933, gaining representation in the Romanian government, and an Iron Guard member assassinated Romanian prime minister [Ion Duca](/wiki/Ion_Duca).[[135]](#cite_note-135) During the [6 February 1934 crisis](/wiki/6_February_1934_crisis), [France](/wiki/France) faced the greatest domestic political turmoil since the [Dreyfus Affair](/wiki/Dreyfus_Affair) when the fascist [Francist Movement](/wiki/Mouvement_Franciste) and multiple far right movements rioted [*en masse*](/wiki/En_masse) in Paris against the French government resulting in major political violence.[[136]](#cite_note-136) A variety of para-fascist governments that borrowed elements from fascism were formed during the Great Depression, including those of [Greece](/wiki/Greece), [Lithuania](/wiki/Lithuania), [Poland](/wiki/Poland), and [Yugoslavia](/wiki/Yugoslavia).[[137]](#cite_note-137) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:SaudacaoIntegralista1935.jpg)[Integralists](/wiki/Brazilian_Integralism) marching in Brazil. In the Americas, the [Brazilian Integralists](/wiki/Brazilian_Integralism) led by [Plínio Salgado](/wiki/Plínio_Salgado), claimed as many as 200,000 members although following coup attempts it faced a crackdown from the [Estado Novo](/wiki/Estado_Novo_(Brazil)) of [Getúlio Vargas](/wiki/Getúlio_Vargas) in 1937.[[138]](#cite_note-138) In the 1930s, the [National Socialist Movement of Chile](/wiki/National_Socialist_Movement_of_Chile) gained seats in [Chile's](/wiki/Chile) parliament and attempted a coup d'état that resulted in the [Seguro Obrero massacre](/wiki/Seguro_Obrero_massacre) of 1938.[[139]](#cite_note-139) During the [Great Depression](/wiki/Great_Depression), Mussolini promoted active state intervention in the economy. He denounced the contemporary "[supercapitalism](/wiki/Supercapitalism_(concept_in_Italian_Fascism))" that he claimed began in 1914 as a failure because of its alleged [decadence](/wiki/Decadence), its support for unlimited [consumerism](/wiki/Consumerism) and its intention to create the "standardization of humankind".[[140]](#cite_note-140) Fascist Italy created the [Institute for Industrial Reconstruction](/wiki/Istituto_per_la_Ricostruzione_Industriale) (IRI), a giant state-owned firm and holding company that provided state funding to failing private enterprises.[[141]](#cite_note-141) The IRI was made a permanent institution in Fascist Italy in 1937, pursued Fascist policies to create national [autarky](/wiki/Autarky), and had the power to take over private firms to maximize war production.<ref name=cb189/> In the late 1930s, Italy enacted manufacturing cartels, tariff barriers, currency restrictions, and massive regulation of the economy to attempt to balance payments.[[142]](#cite_note-142) Italy's policy of autarky failed to achieve effective economic autonomy.[[142]](#cite_note-142) Nazi Germany similarly pursued an economic agenda with the aims of autarky and rearmament and imposed [protectionist](/wiki/Protectionism) policies, including forcing the German steel industry to use lower-quality German iron ore rather than superior-quality imported iron.[[143]](#cite_note-143)

### World War II (1939–1945)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

In Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany, both Mussolini and Hitler pursued territorial expansionist and interventionist foreign policy agendas from the 1930s through the 1940s culminating in World War II. Mussolini called for [irredentist](/wiki/Irredentism) Italian claims to be reclaimed, establishing Italian domination of the [Mediterranean Sea](/wiki/Mediterranean_Sea) and securing Italian access to the [Atlantic Ocean](/wiki/Atlantic_Ocean), and the creation of Italian [*spazio vitale*](/wiki/Spazio_vitale) ("vital space") in the [Mediterranean](/wiki/Mediterranean_Sea) and [Red Sea](/wiki/Red_Sea) regions.[[144]](#cite_note-144) Hitler called for [irredentist](/wiki/Irredentism) German claims to be reclaimed along with the creation of German [*lebensraum*](/wiki/Lebensraum) ("living space") in Eastern Europe, including territories held by the [Soviet Union](/wiki/Soviet_Union), that would be colonized by Germans.[[145]](#cite_note-145) [thumb|left|](/wiki/Image:Inmate_at_the_Rab_concentration_camp.jpg)[Emaciated](/wiki/Emaciation) male inmate at the Italian [Rab concentration camp](/wiki/Rab_concentration_camp). From 1935 to 1939 Germany and Italy escalated their demands for territorial claims and greater influence in world affairs. Italy invaded [Ethiopia](/wiki/Ethiopia) in 1935 resulting in condemnation by the [League of Nations](/wiki/League_of_Nations) and widespread diplomatic isolation. In 1936 Germany [remilitarized the industrial Rhineland](/wiki/Remilitarization_of_the_Rhineland); the region had been ordered demilitarized by the [Treaty of Versailles](/wiki/Treaty_of_Versailles). In 1938 Germany annexed [Austria](/wiki/Austria) and Italy assisted Germany in resolving the diplomatic crisis between Germany versus Britain and France over claims on [Czechoslovakia](/wiki/Czechoslovakia) by arranging the [Munich Agreement](/wiki/Munich_Agreement) that gave Germany the [Sudetenland](/wiki/Sudetenland) and was perceived at the time to have averted a European war. These hopes faded when Hitler violated the Munich Agreement by ordering the invasion and partition of Czechoslovakia between Germany and a client state of [Slovakia](/wiki/Slovakia) in 1939. At the same time from 1938 to 1939, Italy was demanding territorial and colonial concessions from France and Britain.[[146]](#cite_note-146) In 1939, Germany prepared for war with Poland, but attempted to gain territorial concessions from Poland through diplomatic means.[[147]](#cite_note-147) The Polish government did not trust Hitler's promises and refused to accept Germany's demands.[[147]](#cite_note-147) The invasion of Poland by Germany was deemed unacceptable by Britain, France and their allies, resulting in their mutual declaration of war against Germany that was deemed the aggressor in the war in Poland, resulting in the outbreak of World War II. In 1940, Mussolini led Italy into World War II on the side of the Axis. Mussolini was aware that Italy did not have the military capacity to carry out a long war with France or the United Kingdom and waited until France was on the verge of imminent collapse and surrender from the German invasion before declaring war on France and the United Kingdom on 10 June 1940, on the assumption that the war would be short-lived following France's collapse.[[148]](#cite_note-148) Mussolini believed that following a brief entry of Italy into war with France, followed by the imminent French surrender, Italy could gain some territorial concessions from France and then concentrate its forces on a major offensive in [Egypt](/wiki/Egypt) where British and Commonwealth forces were outnumbered by Italian forces.[[149]](#cite_note-149) Plans by Germany to invade the UK in 1940 failed after Germany lost the aerial warfare campaign in the [Battle of Britain](/wiki/Battle_of_Britain). In 1941 the Axis campaign spread to the Soviet Union after Hitler launched [Operation Barbarossa](/wiki/Operation_Barbarossa). Axis forces at the height of their power controlled almost all of continental Europe. The war became prolonged—contrary to Mussolini's plans—resulting in Italy losing battles on multiple fronts and requiring German assistance.

[thumb|right|Corpses of victims of the German](/wiki/File:Buchenwald_Corpses_60623.jpg) [Buchenwald concentration camp](/wiki/Buchenwald_concentration_camp). During World War II, the Axis Powers in Europe, led by Nazi Germany, participated in the extermination of millions of Poles, Jews, Gypsies and others in the [genocide](/wiki/Genocide) known as the [Holocaust](/wiki/Holocaust).

After 1942, Axis forces began to falter. By 1943, after Italy faced multiple military failures, the complete reliance and subordination of Italy to Germany, the Allied invasion of Italy, and the corresponding international humiliation, Mussolini [was removed as head of government and arrested](/wiki/25_Luglio) on the order of King Victor Emmanuel III, who proceeded to dismantle the Fascist state and declared Italy's switching of allegiance to the Allied side. Mussolini was rescued from arrest by German forces and led the German client state, the [Italian Social Republic](/wiki/Italian_Social_Republic) from 1943 to 1945. Nazi Germany faced multiple losses and steady Soviet and Western Allied offensives from 1943 to 1945.

On 28 April 1945, Mussolini was captured and executed by Italian communist partisans. On 30 April 1945, Hitler committed suicide. Shortly afterwards, Germany surrendered and the Nazi regime was [systematically dismantled](/wiki/Denazification) by the occupying Allied powers. An International Military Tribunal was subsequently convened in [Nuremberg](/wiki/Nuremberg#Nazi_era). Beginning in November 1945 and lasting through 1949, numerous Nazi political, military and economic leaders were [tried and convicted](/wiki/Nuremberg_trials) of [war crimes](/wiki/War_crime), with many of the worst offenders receiving the [death penalty](/wiki/Capital_punishment).

### Post-World-War II (1945–present)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

[thumb|right|175px|](/wiki/Image:Juan_Peron_con_banda_de_presidente.jpg)[Juan Perón](/wiki/Juan_Perón), [President of Argentina](/wiki/President_of_Argentina) from 1946 to 1955 and 1973 to 1974. Perón admired [Italian Fascism](/wiki/Italian_Fascism) and modelled his economic policies on those pursued by Fascist Italy.

The victory of the Allies over the Axis powers in [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II) led to the collapse of many fascist regimes in Europe. The [Nuremberg Trials](/wiki/Nuremberg_Trials) convicted several Nazi leaders of crimes against humanity involving the Holocaust. There remained, however, several movements and governments that were ideologically related to fascism.

[Francisco Franco's](/wiki/Francisco_Franco) [Falangist](/wiki/Falangism) one-party state in Spain was officially neutral during World War II and survived the collapse of the Axis Powers. Franco's rise to power had been directly assisted by the militaries of Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany during the [Spanish Civil War](/wiki/Spanish_Civil_War), and Franco had sent volunteers to fight on the side of Nazi Germany against the Soviet Union during World War II. After World War II and a period of international isolation, Franco's regime normalized relations with Western powers in the [Cold War](/wiki/Cold_War), until Franco's death in 1975 and the transformation of Spain into a liberal democracy.

Roughly during the same period, neighbouring country [Portugal](/wiki/Portugal) was under control of the [Estado Novo](/wiki/Estado_Novo_(Portugal)), a dictatorship led by [António de Oliveira Salazar](/wiki/António_de_Oliveira_Salazar) that was in many aspects inspired by [Mussolini's](/wiki/Mussolini) fascism. The [Estado Novo](/wiki/Estado_Novo_(Portugal)) also maintained an officially neutral position during [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II) and lasted from 1932 to 1974.

[Peronism](/wiki/Peronism), associated with the regime of [Juan Perón](/wiki/Juan_Perón) in [Argentina](/wiki/Argentina) from 1946 to 1955 and 1973 to 1974, was strongly influenced by fascism.[[150]](#cite_note-150) Between 1939 and 1941, prior to rising to power, Perón had developed a deep admiration of Italian Fascism and modelled his economic policies on Italian Fascist policies.[[150]](#cite_note-150) [thumb|left|175px|](/wiki/File:Giorgio_Almirante.jpg)[Giorgio Almirante](/wiki/Giorgio_Almirante), leader of the [Italian Social Movement](/wiki/Italian_Social_Movement) from 1969–1987. The term [*neo-fascism*](/wiki/Neo-fascism) refers to fascist movements after World War II. In Italy, the [Italian Social Movement](/wiki/Italian_Social_Movement), led by [Giorgio Almirante](/wiki/Giorgio_Almirante), was a major neo-fascist movement that transformed into a self-described "post-fascist" movement called the [National Alliance](/wiki/National_Alliance_(Italy)) (AN), which has been an ally of [Silvio Berlusconi's](/wiki/Silvio_Berlusconi) [Forza Italia](/wiki/Forza_Italia) for a decade. In 2008, AN joined Forza Italia in Berlusconi's new party [The People of Freedom](/wiki/The_People_of_Freedom). In 2012 a group of politicians split from The People of Freedom, refounding the party with the name [Brothers of Italy](/wiki/Brothers_of_Italy). In Germany, various neo-Nazi movements have been formed and banned under Germany's constitutional law that forbids Nazism. The [National Democratic Party of Germany](/wiki/National_Democratic_Party_of_Germany) (NPD) is widely considered a neo-Nazi party, although the party does not publicly self-identify as such.

[thumb|right|Golden Dawn demonstration in Greece in 2012.](/wiki/File:Golden_Dawn_demonstration_1.jpg) After the onset of the [Great Recession](/wiki/Great_Recession) and economic crisis in Greece, a movement known as the [Golden Dawn](/wiki/Golden_Dawn_(political_party)), widely considered a neo-Nazi party, soared in support out of obscurity and won seats in Greece's parliament, espousing a staunch hostility to minorities, illegal immigrants, and refugees. In 2013, after the murder of an anti-fascist musician by a person with links to Golden Dawn, the Greek government ordered the arrest of the Golden Dawn's leader [Nikolaos Michaloliakos](/wiki/Nikolaos_Michaloliakos) and other Golden Dawn members on charges related to being associated with a criminal organization.

In Israel, the Im Tirtzu movement has been termed a Fascist organization, and a judge ruled that it had "fascist attributes".[[151]](#cite_note-151) Sorel's emphasis on the need for overthrowing decadent [liberal democracy](/wiki/Liberal_democracy) and [capitalism](/wiki/Capitalism) by the use of violence, [direct action](/wiki/Direct_action), [general strikes](/wiki/General_strike) and [neo-Machiavellian](/wiki/Machiavellianism) appeals to emotion impressed Mussolini deeply.[[223]](#cite_note-223) His[Template:Who](/wiki/Template:Who) use of Nietzsche made him a highly unorthodox socialist, due to Nietzsche's promotion of elitism and anti-egalitarian views.[[222]](#cite_note-222) Prior to World War I, Mussolini's writings over time indicated that he had abandoned the Marxism and egalitarianism that he had previously supported, in favour of Nietzsche's *übermensch* concept and anti-egalitarianism.[[222]](#cite_note-222) In 1908, Mussolini wrote a short essay called "Philosophy of Strength" based on his Nietzschean influence, in which Mussolini openly spoke fondly of the ramifications of an impending war in Europe in challenging both religion and [nihilism](/wiki/Nihilism): "a new kind of free spirit will come, strengthened by the war, ... a spirit equipped with a kind of sublime perversity, ... a new free spirit will triumph over God and over Nothing."[[88]](#cite_note-88)

### Ideological dishonesty[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

Fascism has been criticized for being ideologically dishonest.

Major examples of ideological dishonesty have been identified in Italian fascism's changing relationship with German Nazism.[[224]](#cite_note-224)[[225]](#cite_note-225) Fascist Italy's official foreign policy positions were known to commonly utilize rhetorical ideological [hyperbole](/wiki/Hyperbole) to justify its actions, although during Dino Grandi's tenure as Italy's foreign minister, the country engaged in [*realpolitik*](/wiki/Realpolitik) free of such fascist hyperbole.[[226]](#cite_note-226) Italian fascism's stance towards German Nazism fluctuated from support from the late 1920s to 1934, when it celebrated Hitler's rise to power and meeting with Hitler in 1934; to opposition from 1934 to 1936 after the assassination of Italy's allied leader in [Austria](/wiki/Austria), [Engelbert Dollfuss](/wiki/Engelbert_Dollfuss), by Austrian Nazis; and again back to support after 1936, when Germany was the only significant power that did not denounce Italy's invasion and occupation of [Ethiopia](/wiki/Ethiopia).

After antagonism exploded between Nazi Germany and [Fascist Italy](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Italy) over the assassination of Austrian Chancellor Dollfuss in 1934, Mussolini and Italian fascists denounced and ridiculed Nazism's racial theories, particularly by denouncing its [Nordicism](/wiki/Nordic_race), while promoting [Mediterraneanism](/wiki/Mediterranean_race).[[225]](#cite_note-225) Mussolini himself responded to Nordicists' claims of Italy being divided into Nordic and Mediterranean racial areas due to Germanic invasions of Northern Italy, by claiming that while Germanic tribes such as the [Lombards](/wiki/Lombards) took control of Italy after the fall of Ancient Rome, they arrived in small numbers (about 8,000) and quickly assimilated into Roman culture and spoke the [Latin](/wiki/Vulgar_Latin) language within fifty years.[[227]](#cite_note-227) Italian fascism was influenced by the tradition of Italian nationalists scornfully looking down upon Nordicists' claims, and taking pride in comparing the age and sophistication of ancient Roman civilization as well as the classical revival in the [Renaissance](/wiki/Renaissance), to that of Nordic societies that Italian nationalists described as "newcomers" to civilization in comparison.[[224]](#cite_note-224) At the height of antagonism between the Nazis and Italian fascists over race, Mussolini claimed that the Germans themselves were not a pure race and noted with irony that the Nazi theory of German racial superiority was based on the theories of non-German foreigners, such as Frenchman [Arthur de Gobineau](/wiki/Arthur_de_Gobineau).[[228]](#cite_note-228) After the tension in German-Italian relations diminished during the late 1930s, Italian fascism sought to harmonize its ideology with German Nazism and combined Nordicist and Mediterranean racial theories, noting that Italians were members of the Aryan Race, composed of a mixed Nordic-Mediterranean subtype.[[225]](#cite_note-225) Mussolini declared in 1938, upon Italy's adoption of antisemitic laws, that Italian fascism had always been antisemitic,[[225]](#cite_note-225) In fact, Italian fascism did not endorse [antisemitism](/wiki/Antisemitism) until the late 1930s, when Mussolini feared alienating antisemitic Nazi Germany, whose power and influence were growing in Europe. Prior to that period there had been notable Jewish Italians who had been senior Italian fascist officials, including [Margherita Sarfatti](/wiki/Margherita_Sarfatti), who had also been Mussolini's mistress.[[225]](#cite_note-225) Also, contrary to Mussolini's claim in 1938, only a small number of Italian fascists were staunchly antisemitic (such as [Roberto Farinacci](/wiki/Roberto_Farinacci) and Giuseppe Preziosi) while others, such as [Italo Balbo](/wiki/Italo_Balbo), who came from [Ferrara](/wiki/Ferrara), which had one of Italy's largest Jewish communities, were disgusted by the antisemitic laws and opposed them.[[225]](#cite_note-225) Fascism scholar Mark Neocleous notes that while Italian fascism did not have a clear commitment to antisemitism, there were occasional antisemitic statements issued prior to 1938, such as Mussolini in 1919 declaring that the Jewish bankers in London and New York were connected by race to the Russian [Bolsheviks](/wiki/Bolshevik), and that eight percent of the Russian Bolsheviks were Jews.[[229]](#cite_note-229)

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

* [Eugenics](/wiki/Eugenics)
* [Far-right politics](/wiki/Far-right_politics)
* [Military dictatorship](/wiki/Military_dictatorship)
* [National Socialism](/wiki/National_Socialism)
* [Racism](/wiki/Racism)
* [Corporatism](/wiki/Corporatism)
* [Clerical fascism](/wiki/Clerical_fascism)
* [Religious nationalism](/wiki/Religious_nationalism)
* [Christofascism](/wiki/Christofascism)
* [Islamofascism](/wiki/Islamofascism)
* [Alois Hudal](/wiki/Alois_Hudal)

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