

# Fascism & Nazism

Glorification of Power



# Fascism

- ▶ An ideology opposed to liberalism, socialism, conservatism, and communism, because they brought economic depression, political betrayal, national weakness, and moral decline.
- ▶ Aggressively nationalistic ideology.

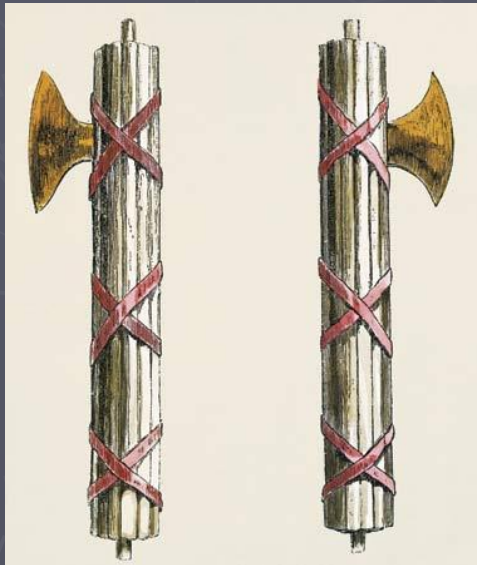
# Roots of fascist thinking

- ▶ The work of Friedrich Nietzsche influenced fascists, particularly the view expressed here:

*Man does not search for happiness.  
Only the English liberal does that.*

# Fascist ideology & Mussolini

- ▶ Italian dictator Benito Mussolini coined the term in 1919, referring to the Roman symbol for “power through unity” – a bundle of reeds called “fasces,” individually weak but collectively strong.



# Fascism & totalitarianism

Fascist ideology is totalitarian, which means a political system that controls every aspect of life, so that there is no private sphere or independent organizations.

Fascism extols aggressive nationalism and dominion of the totalistic state over the individual.

# Ideas of Mussolini

Mussolini argued that citizens were *empowered* when they were subordinated to the state. By blindly obeying the state, they helped the state thrive, which benefited them.

To Mussolini, this distinguished the fascist state from repressive authoritarian governments, which sought to crush people, & not empower them.

# Other Fascist Regimes

- ▶ Spain under Franco
- ▶ Portugal under Salazar
- ▶ Germany under Hitler – the most extreme





# Regimes with fascist elements

- ▶ Argentina under Juan Peron (1946-55)
- ▶ Chile under Pinochet (1973-1990)
- ▶ Iraq under Saddam Hussein (1970s – 2003)
- ▶ South Africa apartheid regime for Blacks (1945-1990)



# Fascist Principles

- ▶ Anti-individualistic
- ▶ Anti-democratic
- ▶ Anti-egalitarian
- ▶ Anti-capitalist
- ▶ Anti-pacifist
- ▶ Anti-internationalist
- ▶ Anti-conservative
- ▶ Anti-intellectual

# Nazism

Fascism taken to its extreme form. Racist and anti-Semitic elements that did not appear in Italian fascism.



# Adolph Hitler

- ▶ Hitler considered himself superior, even though he was a drifter & failed artist during his youth.
- ▶ A corporal during WWI, he was devastated by Germany's loss & blamed it on the Jews.
- ▶ He started his political career at age 30, joining the German Workers Party. He had exceptional speaking skills & came to be revered by others in the party. He was chosen its leader in 1921, and renamed it the National Socialist German Workers Party.

# Adolph Hitler

- ▶ He mounted a coup attempt against the Weimar Republic in 1923; it failed. He broke from the right wing establishment when they didn't back him.
- ▶ It was at this point that he became convinced that he should become dictator of Germany, even though he lacked education and social status.
- ▶ By 1933, Hitler's party was the largest in the country and he was Reich Chancellor.

# *Mein Kampf* (1924)

Hitler's manifesto explaining his vision for Germany's future. He wrote it while serving a 9-month prison sentence after the unsuccessful coup attempt. He had been sentenced to 5 years but authorities sympathized with his extreme ethnic nationalism.

# *Mein Kampf* (1924)



The title means *My Struggle*, and it expounds on Hitler's anti-Semitism, worship of power, scorn for morality, and plan for world domination.