

Paper : POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES

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Fascism

-Benito Mussolini founded a totalitarian party, movement and ideology in the inter-war period and ruled Italy for more than two decades.

-Fascism in Italian language has its origin in the word *Fasci* meaning the bundle of rods bound with a red cord round an axe helve.

-The bundle of rods signifies unity and strength and Benito Mussolini chose the nomenclature to arouse the emotions of the cadre.

-Fascism preached and practiced aggressive nationalism. Fascism proclaimed that Italy is the greatest nation in the world and created hatred against other nations and people. Fascism pursued imperialism both in theory and practice. Its expansionist drive re-ignited colonial rivalries in Africa precipitating the Second World War. A Fascist writer Giovanni Gentile wrote the book 'Doctrine of Fascism'. He said the Fascist State is a will to power and empire. The Roman tradition is here a powerful force.

-According to the doctrine of Fascism, empire is not only territorial or military or mercantile concept, but a spiritual and moral one. One can think of an empire, that is, a nation, which directly or indirectly guides other nations, without the need to conquer a single square kilometer of territory. Mussolini believed that the Fascist State is the 'Third Rome', a worthy successor to the First Ancient

Roman Empire and second the Renaissance Rome that disseminated the seeds of renaissance throughout Europe.

-Fascism extolled the virtues of war. Mussolini infamously stated 'war is to man what maternity is to woman'. It deprecated peace as a slogan of the weak and cowardly. Fascism sought to honour women as 'reproducers of the nation'.

-Fascism rejected the idea of a limited State. It enthusiastically followed the concept of totalitarianism. Mussolini exclaimed, 'Everything within the State, nothing outside the State, nothing against the State'. The State was empowered to create a radically new society. It exercised a complete control over the minds and actions of its citizens.

-Fascists provided a positive outlook to the concept of totalitarian State contending that the powerful authoritarian State is vital for the metamorphosis of Italy into a mighty nation and moulding of its citizens into politically-active brave people.

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=Notable fact of the Fascist State is its nature as a Corporate State. Every profession, trade or occupation possessed its own corporate organisation. The national objectives of the State were given primacy over everything. The corporate State was promoted to remove any conflict between employers and employees. Mussolini firmly believed that the disputes between the business classes and labour should and could be removed through the system of corporate bodies.

Criticism

-Fascism was the most powerful totalitarian State that mankind had the misfortune of being ruled. It was undemocratic. Fascism was attacked as an opportunistic, intellectually dishonest ideology as it changed frequently its core ideological principles and postures.

-Though Fascism and Nazism had been cruel collaborators in inflicting massive death and destruction on humankind in the Second World War, Fascism as an ideology was more coherent and therefore continues to be used as a term even in the 21st century to assail dictators and totalitarian States.

Nazism

-Adolf Hitler was the architect of the totalitarian ideology of Nazism that ruled Germany in the inter-war period. Hitler formed the Nazi Party (officially National Socialist German Workers' Party) on the basis of a radical 25-point programme in 1920

-Nazism believed in totalitarianism. It adhered to the historical slogan of the German philosopher Friedrich Hegel that 'the State is the march of God on earth'. Complete obedience was demanded from the citizens.

-Nazism resorted to systematic glorification of war. Hitler said, 'War is eternal, war is universal. War is life. War is the origin of all things'. This war-mongering precipitated the Second World War and inflicted misery on mankind.

-Perhaps the one of the most controversial principles of Nazism is its racial superiority and purity myth. Hitler considered the Aryan race as the most intelligent and superlative one calling it the master race of mankind. He detested other races living among or in the vicinity of German nation especially Jews and Slav races

-Nazism implemented a brutal campaign of persecution against the Jews that resulted in the killing of millions of people which is now observed as the Holocaust. -

-Nazism was expansionist. Germany wanted to capture colonies so that the surplus population can be exported and it could overtake England as the colonial giant of the world.

-Nazism rejected the prevailing political ideologies and systems like communism of Soviet Union, liberal democracy of the United States of America and internationalism of League of Nations.

-Nazism believed in hero worship. The idea that 'Germany is Hitler and Hitler is Germany' was instilled in the minds of the people. The concept of equality of human beings was rejected and Adolf Hitler was addressed as the

Fuehrer (leader). In fact, Germany itself was called as Fuehrer-State meaning the 'Leader-State'.

-Nazism followed irrationalism and was vehemently against reason. Adhering to the philosophy of irrationalism it appealed to the emotions, sentiments and passions of the German people.

-Nazism recognized only single party rule. All other political parties were banned and suppressed. The party resorted to mobilization of the people. Organizationally, it was based on strict hierarchy principles with Hitler concentrating all power at the top.

Gandhism

- Mahatma Gandhi propounded many ideas that are collectively known as Gandhism
- He believed in Ahimsa or Non Violence
- He advocated Satyagraha or Truth based Struggle
- He believed in spiritualization of politics and not in politicization of religion
- For him means are as important as ends. Both ends and means must be moral and noble
- Means justify ends is the core of his ideology
- He believed in Ramarajya. It means Gramma Rajya. In his ideal rule there will be power decentralization and distribution. He cherished the Panchayat Raj System of traditional India

- Economically Gandhiji advocated Cottage Industries
- Small, Medium and Tiny Industries must be in the forefront of development
- Spinning and Weaving are his symbols
- For him every village in India is a Self Sufficient Republic

- Sustainable Development was advocated by Gandhiji

- There should be Naturalization of Human Beings and Humanization of Nature

- Nature has capacity to satisfy all the needs of all human beings in the world. But it cannot satisfy the greed of even a single individual

- Gandhiji believed in the concept of Trust Ownership of Property. The owners own property as a trust for the welfare of the people

- Gandhiji believed in international peace. He was against war as a strategy and instrument to settle problems

- Gandhian Values and ideas on society, economy, morals, environment, politics and international peace are relevant in twenty First century also