

historical fascism

historical fascism refers to the political ideology and movement that emerged in the early 20th century, characterized by authoritarian nationalism, dictatorial power, and the suppression of opposition. This ideology gained prominence primarily in Europe between World War I and World War II, most notably in Italy under Benito Mussolini and Germany under Adolf Hitler. Historical fascism is marked by its opposition to liberal democracy, communism, and socialism, promoting instead a centralized autocratic government, aggressive nationalism, and often militarism. The study of historical fascism provides insight into the social, economic, and political conditions that allowed such movements to rise and ultimately lead to widespread conflict and devastation. This article explores the origins, core characteristics, major fascist regimes, and the lasting impact of historical fascism on global history. The following sections will provide a comprehensive overview of this complex and significant ideology.

- Origins and Ideological Foundations of Historical Fascism
- Core Characteristics and Principles
- Major Fascist Regimes and Their Impact
- Historical Fascism's Legacy and Influence

Origins and Ideological Foundations of Historical Fascism

The roots of historical fascism can be traced back to the turbulent conditions in Europe following World War I. The devastation caused by the war, combined with economic instability, social unrest, and fear of communist revolutions, created fertile ground for radical political ideologies. Fascism emerged as a reaction against perceived threats to national unity and traditional social orders.

The Political and Social Climate Post-World War I

In the aftermath of World War I, many European countries faced severe economic hardships, including inflation, unemployment, and social dislocation. The Treaty of Versailles imposed harsh penalties on Germany, sowing resentment and instability. Meanwhile, the Russian Revolution of 1917 and the spread of communist ideas alarmed many conservative and middle-class groups, who feared a similar upheaval in their own countries. These factors contributed to the appeal of fascist movements that promised national revival

and order.

Philosophical Influences on Fascism

Historical fascism drew on a variety of philosophical and political ideas, including nationalism, authoritarianism, and anti-Marxism. Influences ranged from Nietzsche's critique of liberalism and democracy to the syndicalist emphasis on direct action and the rejection of parliamentary politics. Fascist leaders synthesized these ideas into an ideology that emphasized the primacy of the state and the leader over individual rights and democratic institutions.

Core Characteristics and Principles

Historical fascism is identifiable by a set of defining features that distinguish it from other political ideologies. These characteristics reflect its authoritarian nature and its emphasis on unity, strength, and national destiny.

Authoritarian Nationalism

Central to historical fascism is the belief in a strong, centralized state governed by a dictatorial leader. This leadership is portrayed as embodying the will of the nation, transcending individual interests for the collective good. Nationalism under fascism often takes an aggressive and expansionist form, glorifying the nation's past and promoting unity through exclusion or suppression of perceived enemies.

Rejection of Liberal Democracy and Communism

Fascism explicitly opposes liberal democratic principles such as pluralism, electoral competition, and individual freedoms. It also rejects communist ideology and class struggle, instead promoting social harmony through hierarchical organization and corporatism. Fascist regimes suppress political dissent and control the media to maintain their grip on power.

Militarism and Violence

Violence and militarism are integral to historical fascism, both as means of consolidating power and as expressions of national strength. Fascist movements frequently use paramilitary organizations to intimidate opponents and enforce party discipline. The glorification of war and sacrifice is a common theme in fascist propaganda.

Economic Corporatism

Unlike both capitalism and socialism, fascist economic policy often centers on corporatism, which seeks to organize the economy into collective groups representing employers, workers, and the state. This system aims to reduce class conflict by integrating various social interests under state supervision, promoting production for national benefit rather than individual profit.

- Centralized authoritarian leadership
- Intense nationalist ideology
- Suppression of opposition and dissent
- Militaristic and violent tactics
- Corporatist economic organization

Major Fascist Regimes and Their Impact

The most prominent examples of historical fascism are found in the regimes of Italy and Germany, which left profound impacts on the course of 20th-century history. Other countries experienced fascist or fascist-inspired movements, but these two stand as the primary case studies.

Italy under Benito Mussolini

Benito Mussolini founded the first fascist state in Italy in 1922, establishing a regime based on authoritarian control, nationalist rhetoric, and the suppression of political opposition. Mussolini's government intervened extensively in the economy, promoted aggressive foreign policies, and sought to create a totalitarian state. Italian fascism emphasized the revival of Roman imperial grandeur and aimed to reshape Italian society through propaganda and mass mobilization.

Nazi Germany under Adolf Hitler

Adolf Hitler's National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nazi Party) took power in 1933, transforming Germany into a totalitarian fascist state. Nazi ideology combined fascist principles with racist and anti-Semitic doctrines, leading to the persecution of minorities and the implementation of genocidal policies during the Holocaust. The regime's militaristic ambitions triggered World War II, causing unprecedented global destruction.

Other Fascist and Authoritarian Movements

While Italy and Germany were the most notable fascist states, similar movements arose in Spain under Francisco Franco, Portugal under António de Oliveira Salazar, and other countries. These regimes shared many fascist characteristics, including authoritarianism, nationalism, and suppression of dissent, though each had unique national contexts and variations.

Historical Fascism's Legacy and Influence

The legacy of historical fascism continues to influence political discourse, scholarship, and public memory. The devastating consequences of fascist regimes in the mid-20th century have made fascism a byword for totalitarian repression and extreme nationalism.

Post-World War II Reactions and Denazification

Following the defeat of fascist powers in World War II, the Allied powers undertook efforts to dismantle fascist institutions and prosecute war crimes. This process included the Nuremberg Trials and widespread denazification campaigns intended to eradicate fascist influence from German society and politics.

Contemporary Relevance and Misuse of the Term

Today, the term "fascism" is often used broadly and sometimes inaccurately to describe authoritarian tendencies or extremist groups. Scholars emphasize the importance of understanding historical fascism's specific ideological and structural features to distinguish it from other forms of authoritarianism or right-wing populism.

Lessons for Democracy and Human Rights

The study of historical fascism highlights the vulnerabilities of democratic systems in times of crisis and the dangers posed by unchecked nationalism and authoritarianism. It underscores the need for vigilance in protecting democratic institutions, promoting human rights, and combating hate-based ideologies.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is historical fascism?

Historical fascism refers to the political ideology and movement that emerged in the early 20th century, characterized by authoritarian nationalism, dictatorial power, suppression of opposition, and strong regimentation of society and the economy.

Which countries were most associated with historical fascism?

Historical fascism was most prominently associated with Italy under Benito Mussolini and Germany under Adolf Hitler, but it also appeared in other countries such as Spain under Francisco Franco and Japan during the 1930s and 1940s.

What are the key characteristics of historical fascism?

Key characteristics include extreme nationalism, authoritarian leadership, suppression of political dissent, militarism, propaganda, anti-communism, and the promotion of a unified national identity often based on ethnicity or race.

How did historical fascism rise to power in the early 20th century?

Historical fascism rose to power due to social and economic instability after World War I, fear of communism, nationalist resentment, and charismatic leaders who promised to restore national pride and order through strong centralized control.

What role did propaganda play in historical fascist regimes?

Propaganda was crucial in historical fascist regimes to control public opinion, promote the regime's ideology, demonize enemies, and create a cult of personality around the leader, thereby maintaining power and suppressing opposition.

How did historical fascism impact World War II?

Historical fascism was a driving force behind World War II, with fascist regimes in Germany, Italy, and Japan pursuing aggressive expansionist policies that led to the outbreak of the war and widespread devastation.

What led to the decline of historical fascism after World War II?

The defeat of Axis powers in World War II, Allied occupation, war crimes trials, and the discrediting of fascist ideology led to the decline of historical fascism as a political movement and the establishment of democratic governments in many affected countries.

Additional Resources

1. *The Anatomy of Fascism* by Robert O. Paxton

This book provides a comprehensive analysis of fascism as a political movement and ideology. Paxton explores the social and economic conditions that led to the rise of fascist regimes in Europe, focusing on Italy and Germany. He also examines how fascism functions in practice, from its appeal to mass audiences to its methods of control and violence.

2. *Fascism: A Warning* by Madeleine Albright

Written by the former U.S. Secretary of State, this book draws lessons from the history of fascism to warn about its resurgence in contemporary politics. Albright discusses the characteristics of fascist leaders and movements, emphasizing the importance of vigilance in preserving democracy. The book combines historical examples with modern-day analysis.

3. *Fascism: What It Is and How to Fight It* by Leon Trotsky

A sharp critique of fascism written in the early 1930s by the revolutionary thinker Leon Trotsky. The book explains fascism's origins as a response to capitalist crises and its role as a tool of reactionary forces. Trotsky also outlines strategies for resistance and the defense of democratic and socialist principles.

4. *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland* by Christopher R. Browning

This book investigates how average German men became perpetrators of Nazi atrocities during the Holocaust. Browning challenges the notion that only fanatics or ideologues committed these crimes, providing insight into the social dynamics under fascist regimes. It is a powerful study of complicity and moral choice in a totalitarian context.

5. *Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust* by Daniel Jonah Goldhagen

Goldhagen argues that widespread anti-Semitism among ordinary Germans was a key factor in the Holocaust. The book explores the cultural and historical conditions that made fascist ideology resonate with the public. It sparked significant debate about collective responsibility under fascist rule.

6. *The Origins of Totalitarianism* by Hannah Arendt

A seminal work that traces the development of totalitarian movements, including fascism and Stalinism. Arendt analyzes the political and social

conditions that enabled totalitarian regimes to emerge in the 20th century. Her insights on ideology, propaganda, and terror remain highly influential in studies of fascism.

7. *Mussolini and Fascism: The View from America* by John Patrick Diggins

This book explores how Benito Mussolini and his brand of fascism were perceived and influenced by American intellectuals and politicians during the early 20th century. Diggins examines the complex relationship between fascist Italy and the United States, shedding light on transatlantic political currents. It also discusses fascism's appeal beyond Europe.

8. *Blackshirts and Reds: Rational Fascism and the Overthrow of Communism* by Michael Parenti

Parenti offers a critical perspective on fascism's role in suppressing leftist movements, particularly communism. The book delves into the ideological and practical methods fascists used to dismantle opposition and consolidate power. It frames fascism within a broader struggle between reactionary and progressive forces.

9. *Fascism and Big Business* by Daniel Guérin

This historical study examines the relationship between fascist movements and capitalist interests. Guérin argues that big business often supported or tolerated fascist regimes as a means to protect their economic status against socialist and communist threats. The book provides an important economic dimension to understanding fascism's rise.

Historical Fascism

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historical fascism: *A History of Fascism, 1914-1945* Stanley G. Payne, 1996-01-01 "A History of Fascism is an invaluable sourcebook, offering a rare combination of detailed information and thoughtful analysis. It is a masterpiece of comparative history, for the comparisons enhance our understanding of each part of the whole. The term 'fascist,' used so freely these days as a pejorative epithet that has nearly lost its meaning, is precisely defined, carefully applied and skillfully explained. The analysis effectively restores the dimension of evil."—Susan Zuccotti, *The Nation* "A magisterial, wholly accessible, engaging study. . . . Payne defines fascism as a form of ultranationalism espousing a myth of national rebirth and marked by extreme elitism, mobilization of the masses, exaltation of hierarchy and subordination, oppression of women and an embrace of violence and war as virtues."—Publishers Weekly

historical fascism: *Fascism Past and Present, West and East* Roger Griffin, Werner Loh, Andreas Umland, 2006-04-27 In the opinion of some historians the era of fascism ended with the deaths of Mussolini and Hitler. Yet the debate about its nature as a historical phenomenon and its value as a term of historical analysis continues to rage with ever greater intensity, each major

attempt to resolve it producing different patterns of support, dissent, and even hostility, from academic colleagues. Nevertheless, a number of developments since 1945 not only complicate the methodological and definitional issues even further, but make it ever more desirable that politicians, journalists, lawyers, and the general public can turn to experts for a heuristically useful and broadly consensual definition of the term. These developments include: the emergence of a highly prolific European New Right, the rise of radical right populist parties, the flourishing of ultra-nationalist movements in the former Soviet empire, the radicalization of some currents of Islam and Hinduism into potent political forces, and the upsurge of religious terrorism. Most monographs and articles attempting to establish what is meant by fascism are written from a unilateral authoritative perspective, and the intense academic controversy the term provokes has to be gleaned from reviews and conference discussions. The uniqueness of this book is that it provides exceptional insights into the cut-and-thrust of the controversy as it unfolds on numerous fronts simultaneously, clarifying salient points of difference and moving towards some degree of consensus. Twenty-nine established academics were invited to engage with an article by Roger Griffin, one of the most influential theorists in the study of generic fascism in the Anglophone world. The resulting debate progressed through two 'rounds' of critique and reply, forming a fascinating patchwork of consensus and sometimes heated disagreement. In a spin-off from the original discussion of Griffin's concept of fascism, a second exchange documented here focuses on the issue of fascist ideology in contemporary Russia. This collection is essential reading for all those who realize the need to provide the term 'fascism' with theoretical rigor, analytical precision, and empirical content despite the complex issues it raises, and for any specialist who wants to participate in fascist studies within an international forum of expertise. The book will change the way in which historians and political scientists think about fascism, and make the debate about the threat it poses to infant democracies like Russia more incisive not just for academics, but for politicians, journalists, and the wider public.

historical fascism: *Fascism's Return* Richard Joseph Golsan, 1998-01-01 In *Fascism's Return*, eleven leading American and European scholars examine the resurgence of fascism from many angles, providing an essential and timely view of this troubling moment in European political, cultural, and intellectual history. Intellectual and public scandals surrounding the fascist past - including the highly publicized Barbie and Touvier trials in France - are addressed. Other writers focus on controversial efforts to revise the historical representation of fascism in Germany and France. The reemergence of the new fascist movements and ideologies in various European nations is also examined. A final essay considers the controversial U.S. support during the 1980s of Central American dictatorships.

historical fascism: *Fascism through History* Patrick G. Zander, 2020-10-19 While fascism perhaps reached its peak in the regimes of Hitler and Mussolini, it continues to permeate governments today. This reference work explores the history of fascism and how it has shaped daily life up to the present day. Perhaps the most notable example of Fascism was Hitler's Nazi Germany. Fascists aimed to control the media and other social institutions, and Fascist views and agendas informed a wide range of daily life and popular culture. But while Fascism flourished around the world in the decades before and after World War II, it continues to shape politics and government today. This reference explores the history of Fascism around the world and across time, with special attention to how Fascism has been more than a political philosophy but has instead played a significant role in the lives of everyday people. Volume one begins with a introduction that surveys the history of Fascism around the world and follows with a timeline citing key events related to Fascism. Roughly 180 alphabetically arranged reference entries follow. These entries discuss such topics as conditions for working people, conditions for women, Fascist institutions that regulated daily life, attitudes toward race, physical culture, the arts, and more. Primary source documents give readers first-hand accounts of Fascist thought and practice. A selected bibliography directs users to additional resources.

historical fascism: *Neofascism in Europe (1945-1989)* Matteo Albanese, 2022-09-30 The text represents a long journey in the debate that characterized the multifaceted political

phenomenon of neofascism. From the end of the Second World War until the fall of the communist regimes, groups, parties and individuals have given life to a network of action and thought that has developed, above all, around three major themes that have characterized the thought of historical fascism and that we can find at different latitudes during the course of the long period of time under consideration. Racism, contempt for equality and democracy and an issue linked to the state as an element of modernity, these are the three levels of analysis around which the neofascist movement regroups, debates and acts. The meticulous reconstruction of that debate at a transnational level is the result of a long archival work with unpublished and illuminating papers on the issue of continuity between political cultures. The text can be easily read by students of Humanities and Social Sciences courses but it is also pleasant for fans of the subject.

historical fascism: Why Fascism Is on the Rise in France Ugo Palheta, 2025-08-26 LE PEN AND THE FAR RIGHT ARE CONQUERING FRANCE, AND MACRON IS PAVING THE WAY Recent polls have indicated for the first time that a far-right candidate could win the French presidential election in 2027. Reactionary and racist ideologues increasingly sully the French media. Assaults by fascist groups are on the rise as they grow in size and confidence. How did this happen in a country once so proud of its revolutionary past? Writer and academic Ugo Palheta shows that the fascist threat is rooted in the triple radicalization – neoliberal, authoritarian and racist – of the French ruling class. Unable to win majority support for the self-interested policies represented by Emmanuel Macron, this class has sought support by adopting more radical right-wing positions. Palheta argues for a renaissance of anti-fascism to inspire resistance to the far right and the triple threat encouraging its rise. Why Fascism Is on the Rise in France has repositioned the question of fascism to place it at the centre of intellectual debate in France.

historical fascism: Rethinking Fascism Di Michele Andrea, Filippo Focardi, 2022-01-19 This book takes up the stimuli of new international historiography, albeit focusing mainly on the two regimes that undoubtedly provided the model for Fascist movements in Europe, namely the Italian and the German. Starting with a historiographical assessment of the international situation, vis-à-vis studies on Fascism and National Socialism, and then concentrate on certain aspects that are essential to any study of the two dictatorships, namely the complex relationships with their respective societies, the figures of the two dictators and the role of violence. This volume reaches beyond the time-frame encompassing Fascism and National Socialism experiences, directing the attention also toward the period subsequent to their demise. This is done in two ways. On the one hand, examining the uncomfortable architectural legacy left by dictatorships to the democratic societies that came after the war. On the other hand, the book addresses an issue that is very much alive both in the strictly historiographical and political science debate, that is to say, to what extent can the label of Fascism be used to identify political phenomena of these current times, such as movements and parties of the so-called populist and souverainist right.

historical fascism: The Fascism of Ambiguity Marcia Cavalcante Schuback, 2022-08-25 This book contributes to the work of elucidating the new forms of fascism and authoritarianism that arise today in intimate relation with new mediatic and information technologies. It presents elements of the connection between capitalism and fascism and makes clear how fascism today uses the ambiguity of senses and meanings as its most efficient way of infiltrating our reality and thereby becoming unequivocal. The fascism of ambiguity is a fascism that grows the more the ambiguities and paradoxical dimensions of the contemporary situation become explicit. It departs from some lessons of history regarding both historical fascism and some of the main critical lines and thoughts produced in the beginning of the 20th Century. It shows what is new in today's form of fascism, discussing its connection to techno-mediatic capitalism, to the dynamics of emptying meanings and senses through a technique of rendering them ambiguous and exacerbated. It outlines some guiding thoughts regarding the question of ambiguity and metapolitics today and concludes by proposing two exercises of precision, through the lenses of poetry and music, as a way to resist and counter-act the fascist metapolitics of the ambiguity of meanings and senses.

historical fascism: The Search for Neofascism A. James Gregor, 2006-03-27 Publisher

description

historical fascism: *The Holocaust and Historical Methodology* Dan Stone, 2012 This book is timely and necessary and often extremely challenging. It brings together an impressive cast of scholars, spanning several academic generations. Anyone interested in writing about the Holocaust should read this book and consider the implications of what is written here for their own work. There seems to me little doubt that Holocaust history writing stands at something of a cross roads, and the ways forward that this volume points to are extremely thought provoking. -- Tom Lawson, University of Winchester.

historical fascism: Researching the Far Right Stephen D. Ashe, Joel Busher, Graham Macklin, Aaron Winter, 2020-11-09 Researching the Far Right brings together researchers from across the humanities and social sciences to provide much needed discussion about the methodological, ethical, political, personal, practical and professional issues and challenges that arise when researching far right parties, their electoral support, and far right protest movements. Drawing on original research focussing mainly on Europe and North America over the last 30 years, this volume explores in detail the opportunities and challenges associated with using ethnographic, interview-based, quantitative and online research methods to study the far right. These reflections are set within a wider discussion of the evolution of far right studies from a variety of disciplinary viewpoints within the humanities or the social sciences, tracing the key developments and debates that shape the field today. This volume will be essential reading for students and scholars with an interest in understanding the many manifestations of the far right and cognate movements today. It also offers insight and reflection that is likely to be valuable for a wider range of students and scholars across the humanities and social sciences who are carrying out work of an ethically, politically, personally, practically and professionally challenging nature.

historical fascism: History in Games Martin Lorber, Felix Zimmermann, 2020-10-06 Where do we end up when we enter the time machine that is the digital game? One axiomatic truth of historical research is that the past is the time-space that eludes human intervention. Every account made of the past is therefore only an approximation. But how is it that strolling through ancient Alexandria can feel so real in the virtual world? Claims of authenticity are prominent in discussions surrounding the digital games of our time. What is historical authenticity and does it even matter? When does authenticity or the lack thereof become political? By answering these questions, the book illuminates the ubiquitous category of authenticity from the perspective of historical game studies.

historical fascism: Visions of Awakening Space and Time : Dogen and the Lotus Sutra Institute of Buddhist Studies Graduate Theological Union Taigen Dan Leighton Adjunct Professor, 2007-05-11 As a religion concerned with universal liberation, Zen grew out of a Buddhist worldview very different from the currently prevalent scientific materialism. Indeed, says Taigen Dan Leighton, Zen cannot be fully understood outside of a worldview that sees reality itself as a vital, dynamic agent of awareness and healing. In this book, Leighton explicates that worldview through the writings of the Zen master Eihei Dogen (1200-1253), considered the founder of the Japanese Soto Zen tradition, which currently enjoys increasing popularity in the West. The Lotus Sutra, arguably the most important Buddhist scripture in East Asia, contains a famous story about bodhisattvas (enlightening beings) who emerge from under the earth to preserve and expound the Lotus teaching in the distant future. The story reveals that the Buddha only appears to pass away, but actually has been practicing, and will continue to do so, over an inconceivably long life span. Leighton traces commentaries on the Lotus Sutra from a range of key East Asian Buddhist thinkers, including Daosheng, Zhiyi, Zhanran, Saigyō, Myōe, Nichiren, Hakuin, and Ryōkan. But his main focus is Eihei Dogen, the 13th century Japanese Soto Zen founder who imported Zen from China, and whose profuse, provocative, and poetic writings are important to the modern expansion of Buddhism to the West. Dogen's use of this sutra expresses the critical role of Mahayana vision and imagination as the context of Zen teaching, and his interpretations of this story furthermore reveal his dynamic worldview of the earth, space, and time themselves as vital agents of spiritual awakening. Leighton argues that Dogen uses the images and metaphors in this story to express his own religious

worldview, in which earth, space, and time are lively agents in the bodhisattva project. Broader awareness of Dogen's worldview and its implications, says Leighton, can illuminate the possibilities for contemporary approaches to primary Mahayana concepts and practices.

historical fascism: The Japanese Ideology Tosaka Jun, 2024-09-17 A major Marxist thinker and critic in 1930s Japan, Tosaka Jun was among the world's most incisive—yet underrecognized—theorists of capitalism, fascism, and ideology during the years before World War II. *The Japanese Ideology* is his masterpiece, first published in 1935, as Japan and the world plummeted into an age of reaction. Tosaka offers a ruthless philosophical critique of contemporary ideology that exposes liberalism's deep complicity with fascism. *The Japanese Ideology* provides a materialist analysis of the reactionary ideology then overtaking Japan, with profound significance for anywhere fascism has taken root. Modeled after Marx and Engels's *The German Ideology*, it critiques idealism as the common ground for liberalism and fascism, against which only historical materialism can suffice. Tosaka demonstrates how liberal and fascist ideas at once justified and concealed Japan's colonization of East Asia, and he investigates the many traces of fascism in Japanese thought and society. *The Japanese Ideology* makes an important intervention in Marxist theory by criticizing reliance on the East/West binary and the notion of the "Asiatic mode of production." Robert Stolz's translation introduces Anglophone readers to a classic of twentieth-century Marxist thought by an unsung peer of Gramsci and Benjamin with striking relevance today.

historical fascism: Primitive America Paul Smith, One of the most confounding aspects of American society—the one that perhaps most frequently perplexes observers both domestic and foreign—is the vast contradiction between what anthropologists might term the "hot" and "cold" elements in the culture. The hot encompasses the dynamic and progressive aspects of a society dedicated to growth and productivity, marked by mobility, innovation, and optimism. In contrast, the cold embodies rigid social forms and archaic beliefs, fundamentalisms of all kinds, racism and xenophobia, anti-intellectualism, cultural atavism, and ignorance—in short, the primitive. For cultural critic Paul Smith, the tension between progressive and primitive is a constitutive condition of American history and culture. In *Primitive America*, Smith contemplates this primary contradiction as it has played out in the years since 9/11. Indeed, he writes, much of what has happened since—events that have seemed to many to be novel and egregious—can be explained by this foundational dialectic. More radically still, *Primitive America* attests that this underlying stress is driven by America's unquestioned devotion to the elemental propositions and processes of capitalism. This devotion, Smith argues, has become America's quintessential characteristic, and he begins this book by elaborating on the idea of the primitive in America—its specific history of capital accumulation, commodity fetishism, and cultural narcissism. Smith goes on to track the symptoms of the primitive that have arisen in the aftermath of 9/11 and the commencement of the "Long War" against "violent extremists": the nature of American imperialism, the status of the U.S. Constitution, the militarization of America's economy and culture, and the Bush administration's disregard for human rights. An urgent and important engagement with current American policies and practices, *Primitive America* is, at the same time, an incisive critique of the ideology that fuels the ethos of America's capitalist culture. Paul Smith is professor of cultural studies at George Mason University and the author of numerous books, including *Clint Eastwood: A Cultural Production* (Minnesota, 1993).

historical fascism: Memory and Cultural History of the Spanish Civil War , 2013-10-02 The authors in this anthology explore how we are to rethink political and social narratives of the Spanish Civil War at the turn of the twenty-first century. The questions addressed here are based on a solid intellectual conviction of all the contributors to resist facile arguments both on the Right and the Left, concerning the historical and collective memory of the Spanish Civil War and the dictatorship in the milieu of post-transition to democracy. Central to a true democratic historical narrative is the commitment to listening to the other experiences and the willingness to rethink our present(s) in light of our past(s). The volume is divided in six parts: I. Institutional Realms of Memory; II. Past

Imperfect: Gender Archetypes in Retrospect; III. The Many Languages of Domesticity; IV. Realms of Oblivion: Hunger, Repression, and Violence; V. Strangers to Ourselves: Autobiographical Testimonies; and VI. The Orient Within: Myths of Hispano-Arabic Identity. Contributors are Antonio Cazorla-Sánchez, Álex Bueno, Fernando Martínez López, Miguel Gómez Oliver, Mary Ann Dellinger, Geoffrey Jensen, Paula A. de la Cruz-Fernández, María del Mar Logroño Narbona, M. Cinta Ramblado Minero, Deirdre Finnerty, Victoria L. Enders, Pilar Domínguez Prats, Sofia Rodríguez López, Óscar Rodríguez Barreira, Nerea Aresti, and Miren Llona. Listed by Choice magazine as one of the Outstanding Academic Titles of 2014

historical fascism: Antifascism and the Avant-Garde Julia Alekseyeva, 2025 Leftist filmmakers of the 1960s revolutionized the art of documentary. Often inspired by the radical art of the Soviet 1920s, filmmakers in countries like France and Japan dared to make film form a powerful weapon in the fight against fascism, weaving fiction into nonfiction and surrealism with neorealism to rupture everyday ways of being, seeing, and thinking. Through careful readings of Matsumoto Toshio, Jean-Luc Godard, Chris Marker, Agnès Varda, Hani Susumu, and others, Julia Alekseyeva shows that avant-garde documentary films of the 1960s did not strive to inoculate the viewer with the ideology of Truth but instead aimed to unveil and estrange, so that viewers might approach capitalist, imperialist, and fascist media with critical awareness. Antifascism and the Avant-Garde thus provides a transnational ecology of antifascist art that resonates profoundly with our current age.

historical fascism: Black Fascisms Mark Christian Thompson, 2007 In this provocative new book, Mark Christian Thompson addresses the startling fact that many African American intellectuals in the 1930s sympathized with fascism, seeing in its ideology a means of envisioning new modes of African American political resistance. Thompson surveys the work and thought of several authors and asserts that their sometimes positive reaction to generic European fascism, and its transformation into black fascism, is crucial to any understanding of Depression-era African American literary culture. The book considers the high regard that Back to Africa advocate Marcus Garvey expressed for fascist dictators and explores the common ground he shared with George Schuyler and Claude McKay, writers with whom Garvey is generally thought to be at odds. Thompson reveals how fascism informed a rejection of Marxism by McKay--as well as by Arna Bontemps, whose *Drums at Dusk* depicts communism as antithetical to any black revolution. A similarly authoritarian stance is examined in the work of Zora Neale Hurston, where the striving for a fascist sovereignty presents itself as highly critical of Nazism while nonetheless sharing many of its tenets. The book concludes with an investigation of Richard Wright's *The Outsider* and its murderous protagonist, Cross Damon, who articulates fascist drives already present, if latent, in *Native Son*'s Bigger Thomas. Unencumbered by the historical or biblical references of the earlier work, Damon personifies the essence of black fascism. Taking on a subject generally ignored or denied in African American cultural and literary studies, *Black Fascisms* seeks not only to question the prominence of the Left in the political thought of a generation of writers but to change how we view African American literature in general. Encompassing political theory, cultural studies, critical theory, and historicism, the book will challenge readers in numerous fields, providing a new model for thinking about the political and transnational in African American culture and shedding new light on our understanding of fascism between the wars.

historical fascism: The Marxist Ontology - Michal Andrej Molnar, 2021-01-04 Is there a God? And if so, what does this mean for Marxism? How will society deal with the challenge of artificial intelligence and how is this linked to Marxist principles? Can Marxism be based on an idealist ontology? Is the materialist ontology obsolete or dangerous in the face of artificial intelligence? Will we meet the challenges of our time and prevent an apocalypse? These questions and some questions which have lingered in Marxist theory for a century, will be answered in this short, but insightful treatise. The chapters in the first part of the book discuss, among other things, the relationship between idealism and materialism, proofs of God and new proofs of God based on the simulation hypothesis and the solipsistic hypothesis, the relationship between God and Marxism, idealism in

Marxism, the axioms of Marxism, Nick Bostrom's theory of artificial intelligence, artificial intelligence and human rights, artificial intelligence and Marxism, automation and global warming. The second part of the book discusses the various theories of the dictatorship of the proletariat, the theory of the smashing of the bourgeois state and its transformation, direct democracy and Marxism, and the role of parliamentary democracy in establishing the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie, the French Revolution and the Gilets Jaunes, the yellow vests, fascism today, the role of the avant-garde, democratic centralism and the division of labor in the emergence of Stalinism, an additional theory to Marx's theory of value is developed, planning and the communist economy in capitalism are discussed, terrorism, civil war in the US, how to expose infiltration, China and whether it is socialist, anti-Semitism, femininity and sexism and Christian Marxism.

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