Understanding fascism: A basic overview
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Fascism combines anti-communism, anti-democracy, authoritarianism, ethnocentrism, militarism, nationalism, racism, and sexism into one socio-political philosophy.

Anti-Communism
An opposition to any social/political system wherein [1] the people appropriate the “surplus value” of their labor (opposed to the bourgeoisie), [2] the direction and function of the economy (the cycle of production/exchange/consumption) is controlled by the people, and/or [3] the high bourgeoisie are forced to give up their property.

Anti-Democracy
The belief that the idea of “One man, one vote” leads to mob rule, socialism, communism, and the destruction of ‘civil society.’ In the mind of an individual who, overtly or covertly, supports an anti-Democratic position is the belief that there must be leaders and followers.

Authoritarianism
Favoring absolute obedience to authority while, at the same time, loathing anyone who undermines and/or belittles the same authority (e.g., Romans 13:1-2).

Ethnocentrism
The belief that one’s own ethnic group is superior to all the others.

Militarism
The glorification of the professional military class (especially the ‘war hero’), a belief that the armed forces should be an intricate part of the administration of the nation, the belief that military preparedness is the primary goal of the nation, and/or a willingness to use military force to solve international disagreements.

Nationalism
Is not only the belief that one’s nation is superior to all the others but also the desire to force all other nations to become like one’s parent nation or subservient to it. Nationalists maintain that the interests or goals of his/her nation supersedes that of any other nation.

Racism
The belief that race accounts for differences in human ability, that one’s race is superior to all the others, and that one’s race should dominate and/or exterminate all the other races.

Sexism
The belief that sex accounts for differences in human ability and that males are superior to females and, therefore, women are to be subservient to men (e.g., Ephesians 5:22-24).

For a more in-depth discussion of each of the major components of fascism, please read Mark Neocleous’ book, Fascism. Stuart Hood and Litza Jansz, in Introducing Fascism, list 14 elements, on page 88-89, that all fascist regimes have in common. Below is a brief summary of their list.

1. A conservative political philosophy which was a mixture of radical ideas, mysticism, left-wing-sounding slogans, & conservative policies
2. A strong state with a powerful dictator who hates democratic ideals
3. A fear and loathing of communism and socialism
4. Using the discontented and disenfranchised working class as political ‘grunts’
5. Admiration of power which is expressed through violence and sadistic behavior
6. An emphasizes on conformity, discipline, and submission
7. A cultivation of irrationality
8. Nostalgia for the legendary past
9. Aversion to intellectuals
10. Honoring the dignity of peasantry and life in the country or on the farm
11. Exaggerated masculinity
12. Financially subsidized by the high bourgeoisie
13. Electoral support from low middle-class
14. A need for a scapegoat and/or an enemy

As to fascism’s symbiotic relationship with capitalism, Erich Fromm explains, “It is interesting to observe that in connection with this crude Darwinism [i.e., nature personified as “the cruel Queen of all wisdom” (Hitler 1939:135; Lore edition)][,] the "socialist" Hitler champions the liberal principles of unrestricted competition. In a polemic [i.e., aggressive attack on and/or refutation of the principles of x, y, or x] against cooperation between different nationalistic groups he [i.e., Hitler] says: "By such a combination[,] the free play of energies is tied up, the struggle for choosing the best is stopped, and [+] accordingly[,] the necessary and final victory of the healthier and stronger man is prevented forever”” (1994:226; italics and brackets add). In short, cooperation is against nature and, therefore, against “the will of the Almighty Creator” (Hitler 1999:65; Manheim edition).