

**FASCISM**

**Fascism**



# FASCISM

**Hoffman** and **Graham** note that the word “fascist” is often used as a term of abuse.



# FASCISM

*Fascism* is a movement that seeks to establish a dictatorship of the right (an ultra-conservative position that rejects liberalism and anything associated with the left).



# FASCISM

***A Definition of Fascism:*** A country's leaders can do whatever they want, and no one can do anything about it.



***Are We There Yet?***

Warrantless surveillance	Voter suppression	Signing statements
Secret torture memos	Unfettered war powers	Rubber stamp legislature
Ignored subpoenas	Subservient media	Indefinite imprisonment

[pabloONpolitics.com](http://pabloONpolitics.com)

**Fascism as a movement extols action and practice over ideas and theory.**

# FASCISM



# FASCISM

## *Fascism and Communism*

1. Fascism  
appeals to  
those who have  
some property,  
but not very  
much.

## Fascism

A system of government characterized by rigid one-party dictatorship, forcible suppression of the opposition, private economic enterprise under centralized governmental control, belligerent nationalism, racism, and militarism, etc.

# FASCISM

**2. Fascism is particularly hostile to communism, since it is opposed to the cosmopolitan (classless / stateless) contentions of Marxism.**



Fascism is capitalism in decay.

(Vladimir Lenin)

# FASCISM



FASCISM

You really think it'll be this obvious?

3. Fascism is intensely nationalistic; people must be saved from enemies whose way of life is alien and threatening.

# FASCISM

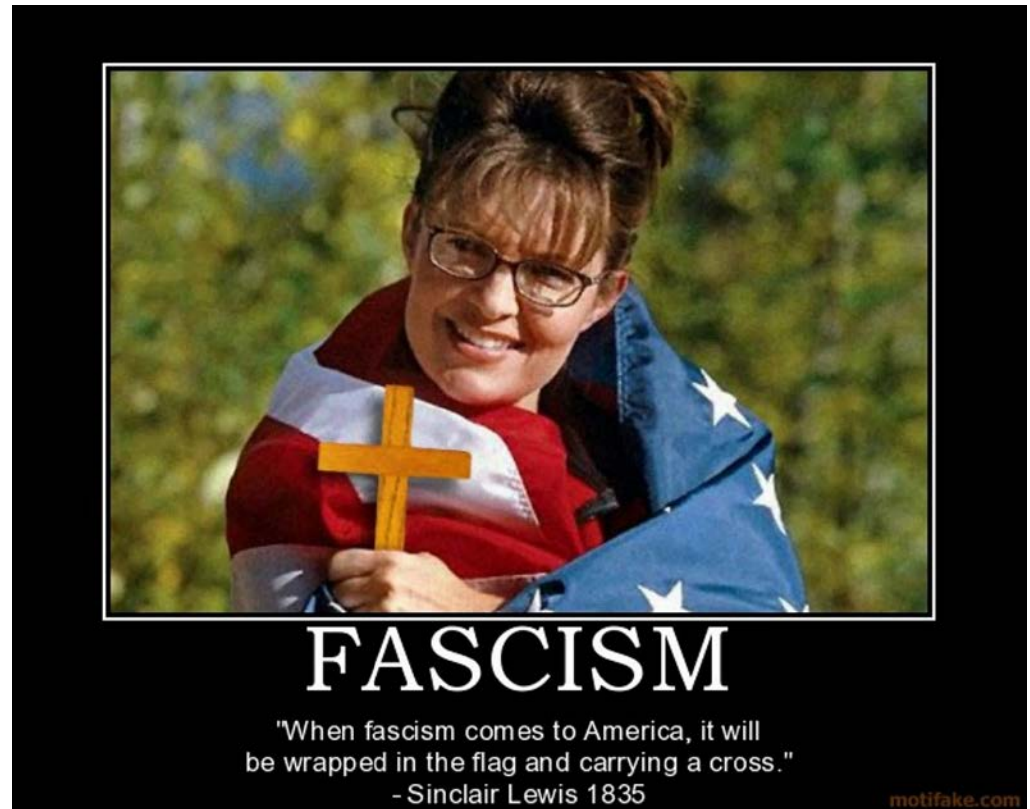
4. Industry should be organized in a way that expresses the common interest between business and labor.



# FASCISM

## *Fascism and Religion*

1. Fascists vary in their attitude toward the church, but they regard religion in a loose sense as being a useful way of instilling order and loyalty.



**FASCISM**

"When fascism comes to America, it will be wrapped in the flag and carrying a cross."

- Sinclair Lewis 1935

[motifake.com](http://motifake.com)

# FASCISM

2. Fascists will use a religious style of language in invoking the need for sacrifice, redemption, and spiritual virtue, and in attacking materialism, consumerism, and hedonism as decadent and unworthy.

Mark my word, if and when these preachers get control of the [Republican] party, and they're sure trying to do so, it's going to be a terrible damn problem. Frankly, these people frighten me. Politics and governing demand compromise. But these Christians believe they are acting in the name of God, so they can't and won't compromise. I know, I've tried to deal with them.

~ Republican Barry Goldwater



# FASCISM



3. Fascism is a supremely patriarchal creed (women should service men, have children, be good mothers and wives, and keep out of politics).

Notice the communist view of a woman's place is entirely different!

# FASCISM

## Communism and Fascism

### Fascism

- Class Society
- Each group has its place and function
- Nationalists
- Fascists believed in extreme loyalty to the nation and its leader.

### Both

- Single party dictatorship rule
- Denial of individual rights
- State/nation was supreme
- Non-democratic principles

### Communism

- Classless society
- Internationalists
- unification of all workers

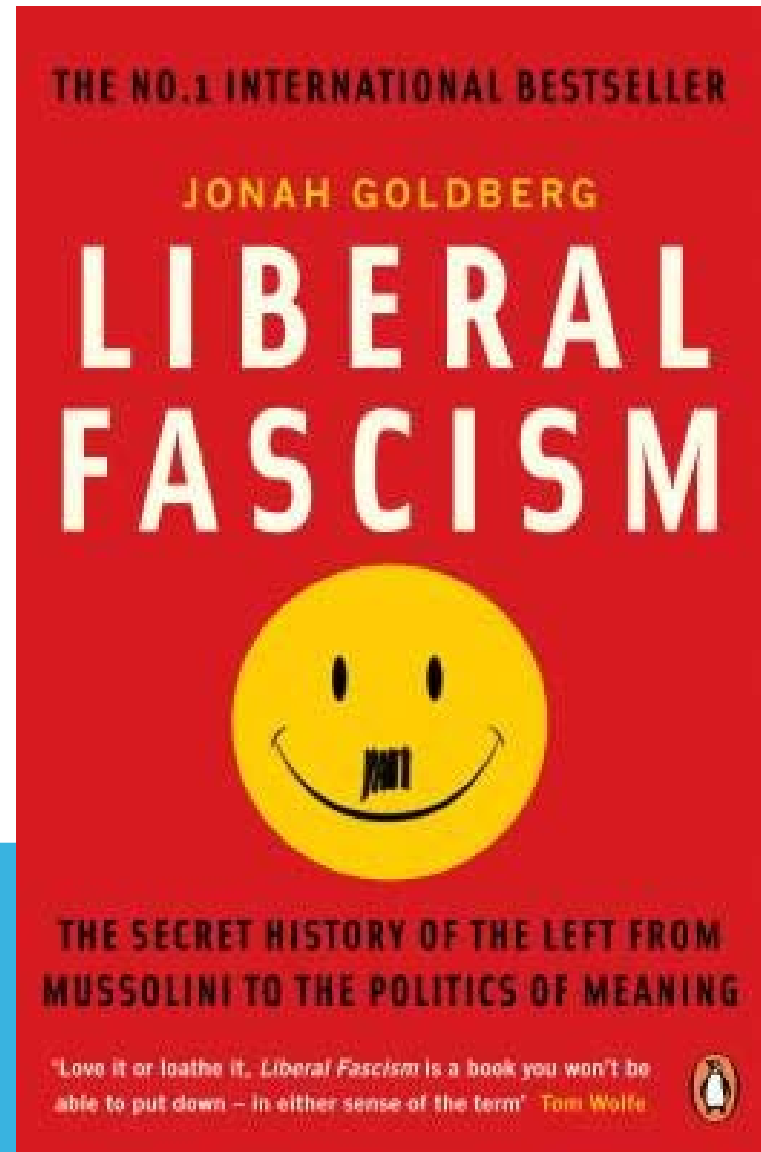


# FASCISM

## *Fascism and Liberalism*

1. Fascism is hostile to the liberal tradition. The individual is subordinate to the collectivity in general, and the state in particular.

Confused? Me too.



# FASCISM

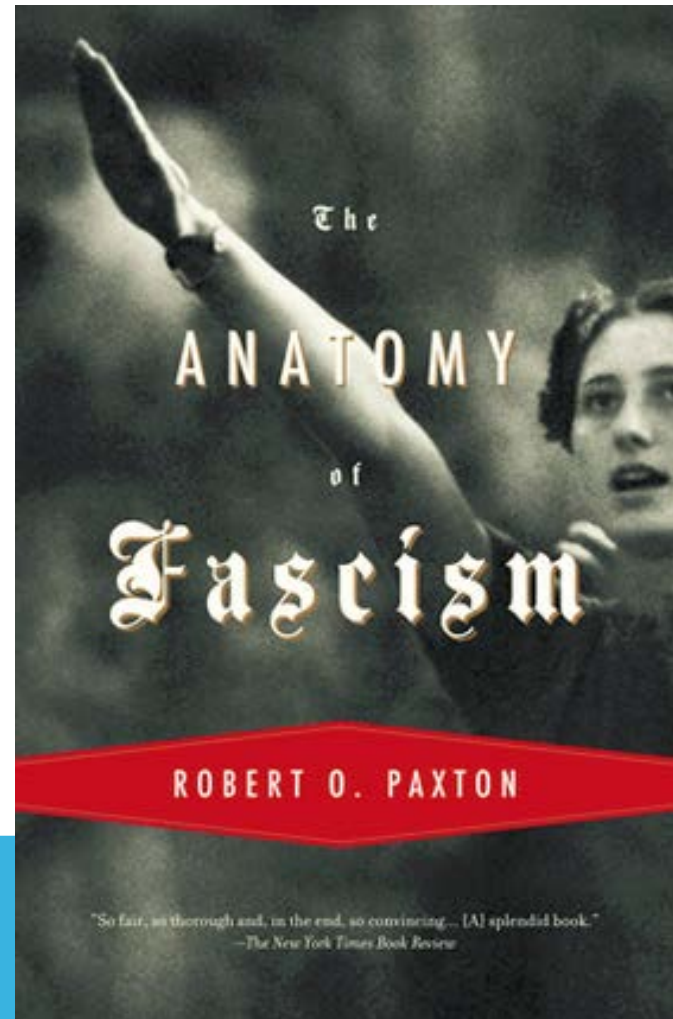


2. Fascists are opposed to the idea of democracy and regard the notion of self-government as a dangerous myth.

# FASCISM

3. Fascists believe that all institutions should be controlled by “reliable” leaders, or a “supreme” leader, who is seen as the embodiment of the nation and the people.

For my money, this is the best contemporary book on fascism.



# FASCISM



4. Fascist leaders may be civilians, but they are closely identified with the army and police, since these institutions are crucial to rooting out opponents.

# FASCISM



1930's

1. Burn Reichstag building
2. Scapegoat: the 'Communist'
3. Claim it as Terrorism
4. Enact The Enabling Act
5. Scare the public
6. Require dictatorship powers
7. Instantly 'suspend' rights
8. Have OSS spy on citizens
9. Arrest dissident citizens
10. Force citizens to fulfill agenda

"We fight because we were forced to fight. We are fighting for our most valuable possession: Freedom."

- Adolf Hitler 1939

whatreallyisthematrix.com



"Those who do not know history



are doomed to repeat it."



2000's

1. Attack World Trade Center
2. Scapegoat: the 'Terrorists'
3. Claim it was Terrorism
4. Enact 'The Patriot' Act
5. Start media-driven fear campaign
6. Require executive powers
7. Gradually ammend the Consitution
8. Have CIA & FBI spy on citizens
9. 'Red-flag' dissident citizens
10. Trick citizens into fulfilling agenda


"Because we fight for one thing, and that is the freedom of our people, and the freedom of people everywhere."

- George W. Bush 2001

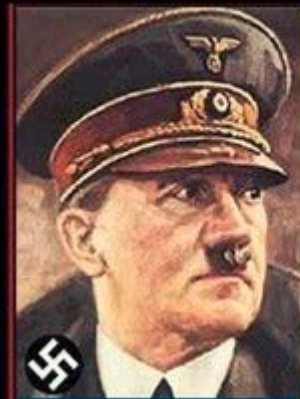
whatreallyisthematrix.com

# FASCISM

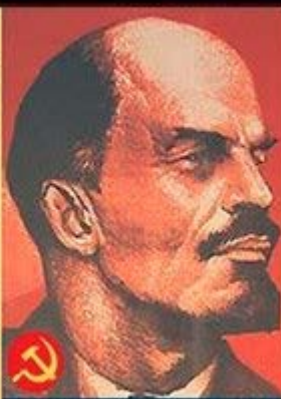
## *Fascism and Conservatism*

- 1. Fascists see themselves as revolutionary in that they are concerned to rejuvenate a tired and decadent society.**
  - 2. They are, therefore, anti-conservative as well as anti-liberal, although they may form tactical alliances with other sections of the right where they can establish momentary common ground.**
- 

# FASCISM



HOPE



CHANGE



OBEY



ONE HELL OF A LEADER

## FUTURITY

Fascism means:

An extreme ideology that combines elements of both the left-wing and right-wing. It comprises of radical and authoritarian nationalist political ideologies and a corporatist economic ideology. Fascists advocate the creation of a single-party state. Fascist governments forbid and suppress openness and opposition to the government and the fascist movement.

In the economic sphere, many fascist leaders have claimed to support a "Third Way" in economic policy, which they believed superior to both the rampant individualism of unrestrained capitalism and the severe control of state communism. This was to be achieved by establishing significant government control over business and labor. This is what the United States of America has become.....

# FASCISM

## *Fascism in Italy*

- 1. Most scholars agree that there was no fascism before the First World War and that it began in 1922-23 with the emergence of the Italian fascist party, led by Benito Mussolini.**
- 2. Mussolini argued strongly for intervention in the First World War and was seen by fascists as a force for rejuvenation and life.**
- 3. There was a strong economic imperative for fascism. Mussolini organized the whole country into 22 corporations.**
- 4. The state had the pivotal role, a spiritual and moral entity – the conscience of the nation.**
- 5. The state organized the nation and was concerned with the growth of empire.**

# FASCISM

## *Intellectual Roots*

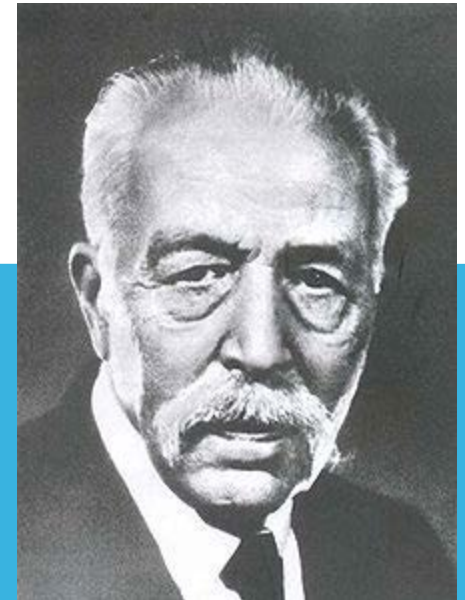
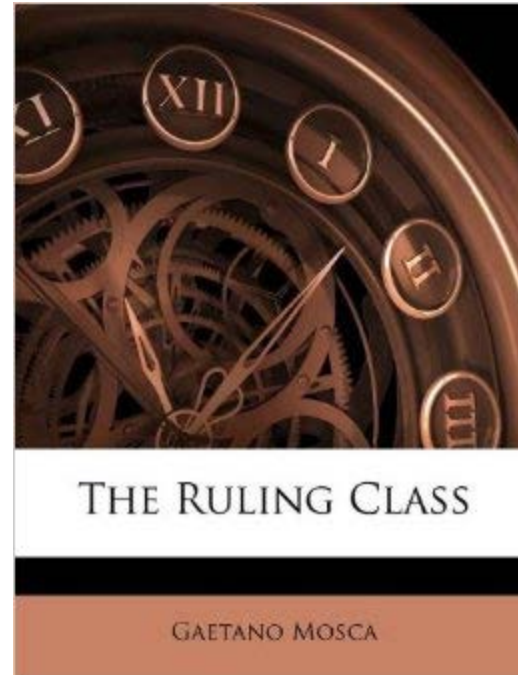
Although fascist intellectuals drew upon Machiavelli, Nietzsche, and Hegel, the more important tradition of elitism in Italian political thought was recent and more influential.



# FASCISM

**Mosca (1858-1941)**

Author of *The Ruling Class*, argued that all societies are governed by minorities, whether military, hereditary, priestly, or based on merit or wealth.



# FASCISM

## The Rise and fall of Elites

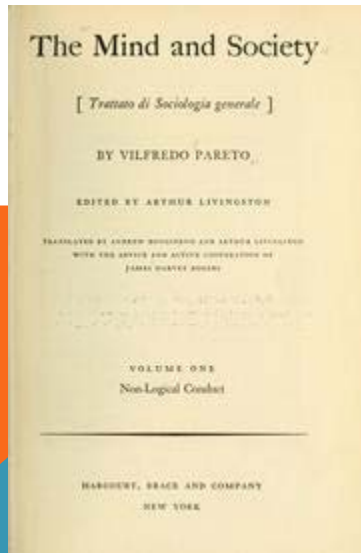
An Application  
of Theoretical  
Sociology

**Vilfredo Pareto**

With an introduction  
by Hans L. Zetterberg

**Pareto (1848-1923)**

Author of *Mind  
and Society*,  
argued that  
human action is  
mostly non-  
logical and  
stems from non-  
rational  
sentiments and  
impulses



# FASCISM

**Michels (1876-1936)**

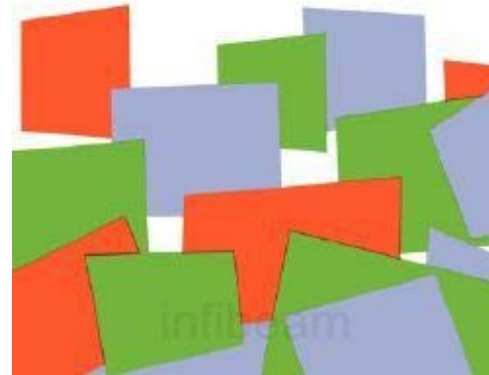
Author of *Political Parties*, argued that all societies and all organizations are subject to “an iron law of oligarchy” (i.e. a small group controlling the masses)

## Political Parties

A Sociological Study of the  
Oligarchical Tendencies  
of Modern Democracy

**Robert Michels**

Introduction by Seymour Martin Lipset



ROBERT MICHELS

# FASCISM

## *Fascism in Germany*

1. Hoffman and Graham believe that Hitler's movement was more extreme than Mussolini's. Its racism was more aggressive, its hatred of democracy more intensive, and its expansionism more obvious.
2. Although virulently anti-Marxist, the Nazi movement was in the 1920s strongly anti-capitalist as well.
3. The Nazis economic program was presented as a form of "soldierly socialism," but the real target was Marxism and democracy.
4. The German economy remained capitalistic, although with extensive state control.
5. The Nazis promoted a principle of "oneness." The party was Germany, with a single will, faith, flag, and leader.
6. The Nazis espoused an explicit and militant patriarchy.

# FASCISM

## *Fascism and Capitalism*

**Certainly lots of  
anti-capitalism  
in their  
rhetoric, but...**



**FASCISM**

Now two-ply thick for extra softness.

# FASCISM

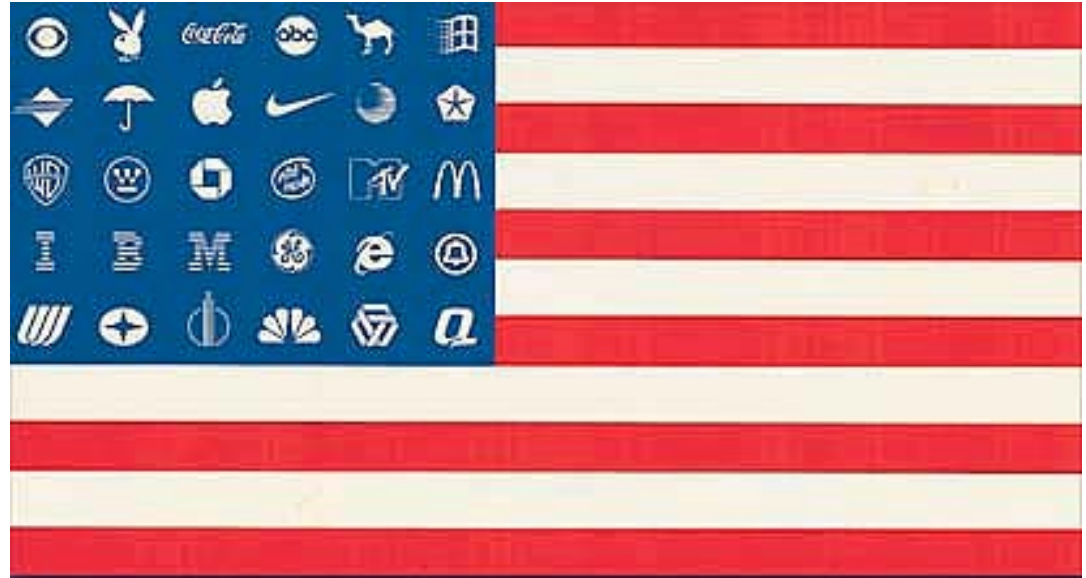
...**Miliband** cites Mussolini in 1934 defending private property, and notes that big business under Hitler was given a key role in managing the economy.



# CORPORATISM

# FASCISM

**Miliband** argues further that business under fascism had to submit to a greater degree of intervention and control than they would have liked, and in some cases were forced to put up with policies that they found disagreeable.



# FASCISM

Does the U.S. Political Economy Exhibit the Qualities of -

## Fascism

- Militaristic Nationalism
- Contempt for
  - Civil Liberties (esp. Patriot Act)
  - Electoral Democracy
  - Political & Cultural Liberalism
- Belief in Hierarchy & Rule by Elite Oligarchy
- Subordination of Individual & Corporation to the State

## Corporatism

- Tri-Partite Negotiation by Gov't, Industry, & Labor to Maximize Profits in "National Interest"
- Sub-Goal:** That interest includes **Preventing Worker Unrest** (Subordination of Worker to Corporation as well as the State)

## Reagan-Thatcher Laissez Faire

- Extreme Individualism & Morality of Social Darwinism
- Government is the Problem
  - e.g., Privatization
  - e.g., Deregulation
- Union Busting
- Globalization (incl. Freedom to Deindustrialize the U.S.)
- Goal:** Subordination of State to Laissez Faire Economics

**Now Add the Citizens United Decision:**

Corporations = Individuals  
Money = Free Speech

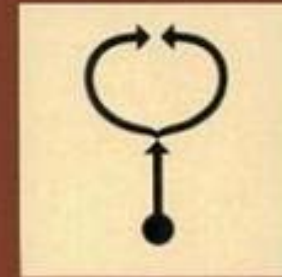
... And We Can Get a Sense of the ...  
***Winner-Take-All*** Character of the Emerging Neo-Fascist Corporatist State

# FASCISM

Hoffman and Graham point out that:

“Psychoanalysts argued that fascism is rooted in the human character – it is a form of personality structure, an authoritarian character, but this does not mean...that such a structure can only be modified by psychological means....We still need to refer to *capitalism* and crisis to understand why fascism arises in certain societies and at certain historical periods, and not at others.”

## Wilhelm Reich



THE MASS PSYCHOLOGY  
OF FASCISM

# FASCISM



# FASCISM

## *Fascism Today*

Some scholars believe that fascism as an ideology belongs only to the past. This is a very complacent view of fascism!

Greece

skimminglight.net

## Fascism in Greece



and the antifascist fight

Sept. 2013

1/92

**Hoffman** and **Graham** cite 5 contemporary examples to show that it is not

# FASCISM

## 1. *The Unrepentant Apologists*

**Hitler and Mussolini were correct in their policies, but they were defeated by the Allied Forces.**



# FASCISM

## 2. *The Holocaust Deniers*

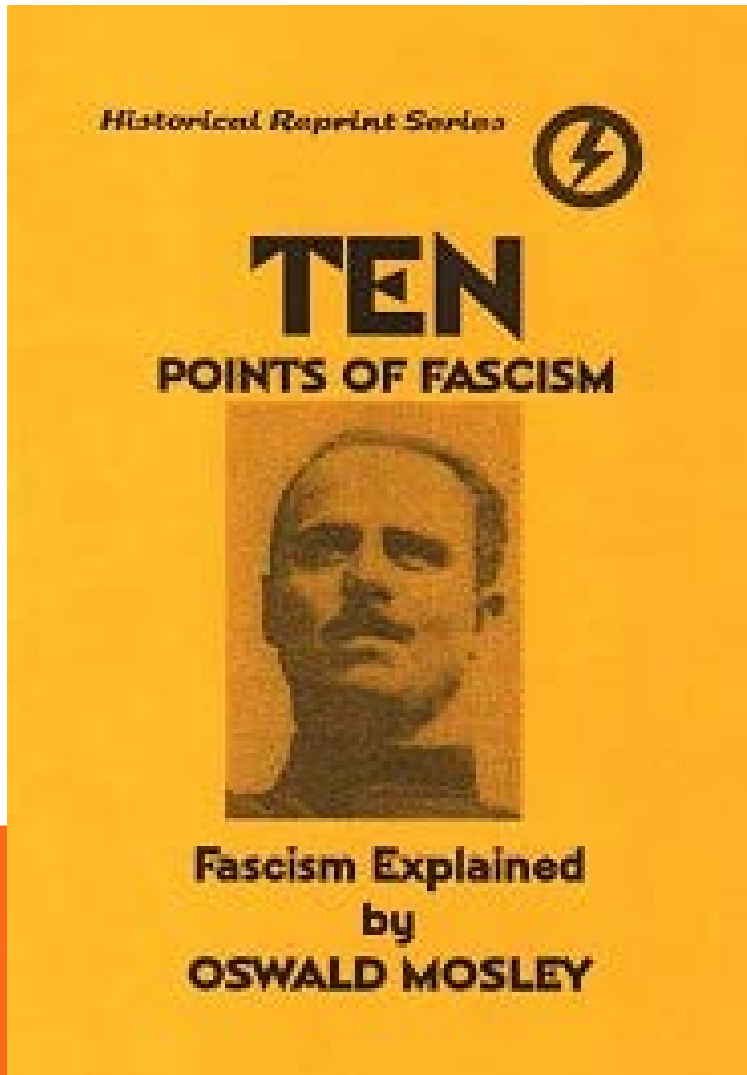
**Attempt to undercut their critics by denying that the Nazis brought about the Holocaust.**



# FASCISM

## 3. *The Critical Fascists*

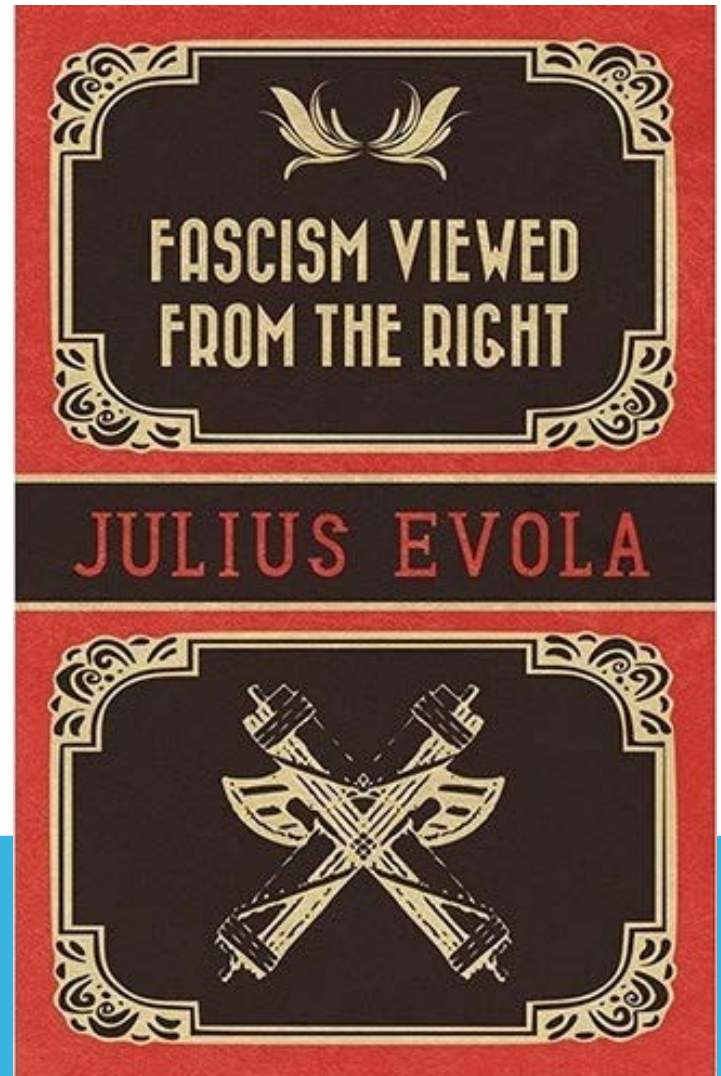
**Oswald Mosley**, leader of the British Union of Fascists, argued Hitler overreached himself – tried to achieve too much – and this was the reason for his downfall.



# FASCISM

## 4. *Eurofascism*

The European Social Movement, founded in 1951, sought to unite Europe against communism, with Evola, an Italian fascist, arguing that such a Europe must be an empire.



# FASCISM

## 5. *Nationalist Salvation*

Some fascists have turned to nationalism, arguing that a national revolution is necessary as a “cleansing fire of purification”

