



Fighting Social Inequality
CalsMUN 2023

Research Report

Forum: Historical Security Council

Issue: Establishing New Treaties and Rules Regarding
the Rise of Fascism During the Start of the Second World
War

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Aftermath of WW1

WW2 is generally viewed as the result of the first world war ending with the defeat of the Central powers and being imposed severe treaties. Also, Italy, thinking it wasn't powerful enough to assert its dominance on the world and also thinking that it wasn't compensated enough with land gain at the end of WW1 debuted a word with the mouth of Benito Mussolini named "fascism" which in the future WW2 would shape on. With the idea of this word another fascist country would be formed. It was Nazi Germany; which was also hugely discontent with the aftermath of WW1 because of the contents and regulations that the treaty of Versailles fecundated. Also, Spain would crumble into a civil war with a long battle between the communists and fascists (1936-1939) which would end up with the victory of the fascism supporters. After the Second Spanish Republic was toppled with the leadership of the dictator Francisco Franco a new fascist state arose but it would not enter the WW2 as a huge amount of its manpower and economy was destroyed because of the said civil war. There was also the Empire of Japan in the East and it also had plans to grow and assert its dominance on the world like Italy. Japan wanted to control China (which was divided and feeble after its own civil war) and Southeast Asia. With fascism rising in many countries, there were also other powers who didn't like this or were neutral at the start in general. They were France and the UK which would create the faction "allies"; Soviet Union (which would mostly break down the power of the German Reich in the future) and USA.

Fascism:

I) Rise of Fascism and Its Effects Pre-War

- Following World War I, when many people wished for strong national unity with strong figures to lead people, fascism emerged in Europe. Benito Mussolini created a strong fascist regime in Italy by using his charisma to support his ideology. The word "fascist" was first used to describe Benito Mussolini's political movement in 1919. He chose the fasces of ancient Rome as his emblem. This was a collection of rods bound around an ax that stood for the might of Rome.

The first fascist government was founded by Mussolini but there were others too, notably Nazi Germany, quickly followed. But fascism varied a little from country to country. As a result, academics frequently differ on the exact meaning of fascist. However, they frequently concur on its traits, such as:

- **Absolute State Power:** Fascist governments are highly centralized and have a powerful national government. The fascist regime wants complete dominance over all significant layers of society. To serve the demands of the entire society, as embodied by the state, individuals must renounce their private desires and rights.
- **A Single Dictator:** A sole person controls the fascist state and is accountable for all major decisions. The charismatic personality of this leader is frequently used to win over the populace.



- **Corporatism:** Fascists think that managing the workforce and manufacturing owners will tame capitalism. Strikes, unionization, and other labor actions are prohibited. The state still maintains private property, but it also manages the economy. In other words, the state is the absolute ruler in economy and it enslaves economic ideologies for its own good.
- **Extreme nationalism:** The fascist regime creates a new society based on the "common will" of the people by exploiting national pride and a fear of external threats. Fascists reject science and reason as "barren intellectualism," preferring instead to take action and draw inspiration from national mythologies. Some say it is a degenerated sense of Roman populace and citizenship.
- **Superiority of the Nation's People:** Fascists extol the virtues of their country's citizens. They often suppress dissent and persecute minority groups while strengthening and uniting the dominant group in a country.
- **Imperialism and militarism:** Fascists contend that superior nations demonstrate their superiority by enslaving and governing inferior nations. According to fascists, the state can only endure if it effectively demonstrates its armed dominance in conflict.

A world in chaos:

II) Mussolini's Rise to Power (commence of fascist movements)

The rise of a Dictatorship:

- Mussolini went home after serving in the Italian army during World War I in search of a means of bringing the Italian people together to form a powerful Italian nation to bring back the glory of Rome to Italia. He started giving stirring speeches in 1918, pleading for a dictator to rule the nation. He thought unity could be formed with one mind and inhumane disciplines. He maintained that Italy's post-war widespread unemployment, tumultuous political party rivalries, and socialist and communist strikes could only be solved by a strong leader who could unite the populace. Milan, a city in northern Italy, was where Mussolini organized his fascist movement in 1919. He organized groups of black-shirted street combatants. His "Blackshirts" attacked socialists and communists, removing them from local governments, and then beat them up.
- Only two years prior, Russia underwent a communist revolution. Anti-communist businessmen, property owners, and middle-class professionals like teachers and doctors swiftly joined Mussolini's fascist organization. Mussolini founded the National Fascist Party in 1921. He still lacked a definite fascist platform, though. He was certain of one thing only: he desired to dominate Italy. "Either the government will be granted to us, or we will seize it by marching on Rome," Mussolini said in a speech



delivered in front of tens of thousands of his followers in October 1922. A few days later, he led his supporters in a sizable march into the Italian capital. Government officials were so alarmed as tens of thousands poured into Rome that they resigned.



Fascist Parade in Rome, 1940

- Mussolini appointed renowned philosopher Giovanni Gentile as his minister of education. Gentile overhauled the educational system in Italy. He clarified the fundamental principles of fascism in a number of books and articles as well. Gentile maintained that the "common will" of the people comes before the personal preferences and interests of the individual. He claimed that the fascist government carried out the people's wishes. Gentile said that in order to reach union with the "common will," a person must sacrifice themselves and obey the law. Rights, according to Gentile, belong to the people as a whole rather than to an individual. Gentile said that the "common will" of the populace served as the state's legal code. Therefore, in order to be truly free, people must surrender to the fascist state. Mussolini later stated: "The fascist state increases the individual's energies, just as a soldier is... doubled by the number of his fellow troops in a regiment,". Gentile asserted that the world's inhabitants are participating in a survival of the fittest, building on the theories of earlier European philosophers such as Friedrich Nietzsche. He declared that the stronger had an inherent right to subjugate and govern the weaker. According to Gentile, war also serves a purpose under a fascist regime by uniting the populace and demonstrating their dominance as a nation. Gentile, who was

known as the "philosopher of Italian fascism," thought he could unite philosophy with brute force. Mussolini was reportedly commended by this man for his commitment to Italy's "honor, glory, stability, and prosperity, and, consequently, in its might and its significance in the history of the world."



II Duce and the State of Fascism;

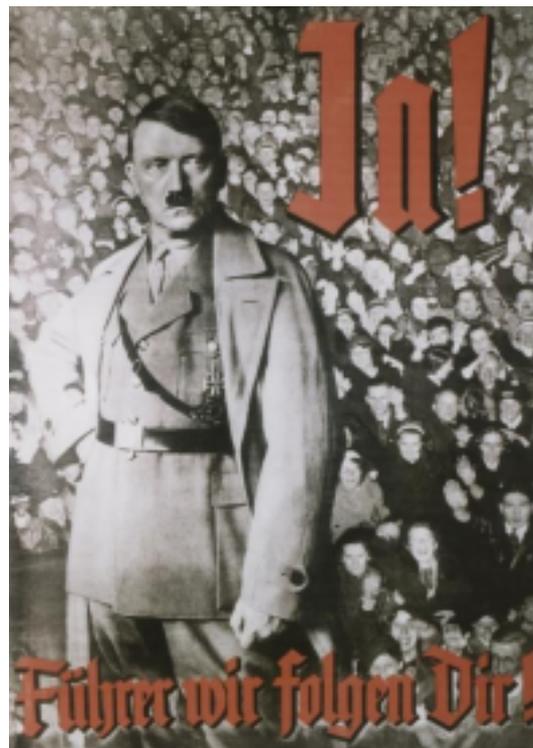
- In 1924, Mussolini requested fresh elections for the Italian legislative body. The election was tainted by fraud and intimidation. The Fascist Party of Mussolini and a lesser ally received 66 percent of the vote. Mussolini shut down opposition publications and outlawed public protest gatherings after the election. All political parties—aside from his own Fascist Party—were deemed illegal by him. He made strikes and labor unions illegal. He also founded the Organization for Vigilance and Repression of Antifascism, a political police squad. Mussolini's regulations were approved by a fascist Grand Council, which rendered the parliament useless. Mussolini obtained the moniker "Il Duce" in 1925. (the Leader). He gave moving remarks in front of crowds while swaying back and forth, puffing out his chest, and placing his hands on his hips. Fascist catchphrases like "Il Duce is always right!" and "Believe, obey, fight!" were chanted back by the throng. To describe Mussolini's attempt to dominate not only the political system but also the economy, schools, police, courts, military, and more, his detractors invented the word "totalitarianism." Ironically, Mussolini liked the phrase and started employing it himself to convince Italians to band together under his direction for a social rebirth.

III) The New Powerhouse of Fascism: Nazi's and Germany

- Significant political instability resulted from Germany's defeat in World War I as the newly established Weimar Republic attempted to gain stability. The Weimar Republic was opposed by a number of groups, including numerous fascist ones. Hitler joined the Deutsche Arbeiterpartei (German Workers' Party) as a member of one of the groups in 1919. Hitler assumed leadership of the party in 1920. He changed its name to the Nazi Party, often known as the Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei (NSDAP).
- Hitler advocated National Socialism as the exact opposite of socialism and communism (*look: similarities between fascism and communism*), despite the party's name making reference to socialism and workers. In order to increase the welfare and power of the German folk, he marketed it as an ideology (a national or ethnic group defined by its supposed race). A 25-point program rooted on nationalism, antisemitism, and expansion was prepared by the party. The platform demanded that the Treaty of Versailles be annulled as well. The party established paramilitary groups known as the Sturmabteilungen to further their goals (Stormtroopers, or the SA).
- Early in the 1920s, the NSDAP was a tiny, fringe organization in Germany. The Munich Beer Hall Putsch, a Nazi-organized coup attempt, took place in November 1923. At the Bürgerbräukeller in Munich, the coup got started. In order to topple the Weimar Republic, the Nazis intended to capture control of the Bavarian state government before advancing on Berlin. As envisioned in the 25 Points, they planned to create a new state founded on the union of the German people. Contrary to Mussolini's March on Rome, the Beer Hall Putsch was a failure. Hitler was detained and given a five-year prison term, albeit he only spent eight months of that time.



- Hitler was released from prison in 1924, and the Nazi Party decided to use elections as a means of gaining political power. Hitler was appointed chancellor in January 1933. He took steps to overthrow the Weimar Republic and establish the Third Reich, a fascist one-party state. On March 24, 1933, the Enabling Act was approved by the German Reichstag after a series of legal, political, and propaganda machinations. Hitler's dictatorship was built on the Enabling Act, which also ended Germany's parliamentary democracy. Hitler was able to pass legislation thanks to this without the consent of the legislature or the Reich President von Hindenburg. Apart from the NSDAP, Hitler had outlawed all political parties by July 1933. He started the Gleichshaltung (coordination) power-consolidation process as the Führer or Leader, which strengthened the Nazi Party's dominance over formerly formed state institutions.
- After gaining complete control over Germany, Hitler and the Nazi Party started carrying out additional components of the fascist program. They started by attempting to establish the ideal German national society, known as the Volksgemeinschaft, which was divided along racial lines. There were two steps to this endeavour. It first required combining all German-speaking ethnic groups into one German state. Second, it disregarded any minority groups already present in Germany that weren't part of the national community.



Propaganda poster for the Nazi party, 1934



Hitler and Mussolini in Munich, 1940

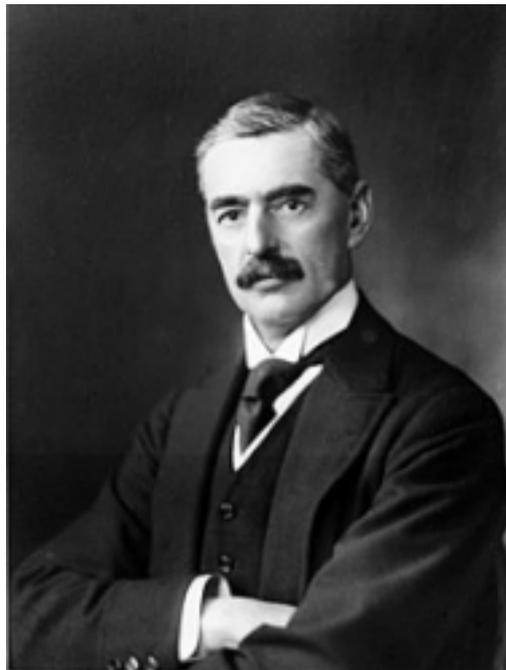
IV) France and the UK

- At the time when fascism was taking over Europe in countries such as Germany, Italy and Spain the two democratic allies were still (especially France because the Great War happened on its borders in the West) rebuilding from the social, economical and physical destruction of WW1. They were trying to maintain peace by the means of diplomatic protests to the violent action of Fascist countries, especially Germany.

After many events, WW2 broke out when the German Reich declared war on Poland (which was accused by Nazi Germany of persecuting ethnic Germans living in its borders) which was guaranteed by France and the UK.



Albert François Lebrun



Neville Chamberlain

V) The USSR

- The Soviet Union was (generally) diplomatically aligned and neutral towards the Axis (1939). It even supported Nazi Germany before Operation Barbarossa; which was the



Nazi Germany and many of its Axis allies' invasion of the Soviet Union, which began on Sunday, June 22, 1941. This short friendship is because it was beneficial for the Soviet Union to sign a non-aggression pact with The Empire of Japan (they had long lasting border conflict in the past) and it was also beneficial for the USSR that the Axis was opposing the great powers of the world of that time (the UK and France). The “Molotov-Ribbentrop” pact (a non-aggression) was signed between the Germans and the Soviets before the invasion of Poland by the Germans. After the invasion Germans gave Eastern Poland to the USSR.



Viacheslav Molotov (left) and Joachim von Ribbentrop (right) after the signing of the Treaty of Friendship between the Soviet Union and Germany (28 September 1939). A month before they signed the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact.

VI) The USA

Great Depression:

- Most nations in the world experienced an economic shock during the Great Depression (1929–1939). It was a time of economic slump that became apparent following a significant decline in American stock prices which would in the coming years stagnate the economic structure. The Wall Street stock market crash happened on October 24. It was essentially caused by the economic contagion, which started around September (Black Thursday). The depression of the 20th century was the longest, deepest, and most pervasive one ever.

Segregation:

- Thousands of white people were working in companies that were getting ready for a



potential American entry into World War II in the spring of 1941. A. Philip Randolph, a prominent black labour leader, threatened a large-scale protest in Washington unless blacks were given equal employment opportunities, saying: "It is time to wake up Washington like it has never been jolted before." President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order outlawing discrimination in the defence sector to stop the march, which many believed would spark racial unrest and cause a public relations disaster. On June 25, 1941, he issued Executive Order 8802 creating the Committee on Fair Employment Practices (FEPC) to receive and look into discrimination complaints and take appropriate action to address legitimate grievances. The conflict between America's principles of democracy and equality and its treatment of racial minorities came to light during the fight against fascism during World War II. The NAACP and other civil rights organizations fought to eliminate prejudice in the military services throughout the conflict. African Americans also became more adamant in their aspirations for equality in everyday life during this time. The earliest sit-ins to protest Jim Crow laws in the South were organized by the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), an interracial group that was created to promote change via peaceful means. (*look danger of fascism in USA*)(*A film about the subject: Amsterdam(2022)*)

<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/american-nazism-and-madison-square-garden>





Fritz Kuhn, Bundesfuher of the German-American Bund. Front center with glasses.

Pearl Harbour:

- The attack on Pearl Harbor was a surprise military strike executed by the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service upon the United States against the naval base at Pearl Harbor in Honolulu on Sunday, December 7, 1941 to prevent the intervention of the US Pacific Fleet on Japanese military actions in Southeast Asia in the future. The USA was formally a neutral country until this point. With being able to disentangle from the great depression and having a grand potential in economy and military, the USA would change the tides of the War.



Uncle Sam (Us Army recruiting propaganda poster)

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