

# Fascism

## Defining Fascism

- **Michael Mann's Definition:** "The pursuit of a transcendent and cleansing nation-statism through paramilitarism."
- **Core Elements:**
- **Nationalism:** Fascism cannot exist without it.
- **Centralized State Power:** Society as an organic whole.
- **Charismatic Leadership:** Undemocratic, illiberal, and hierarchical.

## Political Characteristics

- **Totalitarianism:** Control over all aspects of life.
- **Economic Corporatism:** Collaboration between unions and businesses.
- **Cultural Uniformity:** Opposed to pluralism and individuality.

## Intellectual Origins

- **German Romanticism:** Hegel's organic state and national spirit.
- **Nietzschean Influence:** Will to power, critique of Christianity and egalitarianism.
- **Rousseau's General Will:** Collectivism over individualism.

## Fascism's Variants

### Italian Fascism

- **Mussolini's Template:** Nationalism, militarism, and Roman legacy.
- **Giovanni Gentile:** "Everything for the state, nothing against the state."
- **Futurism:** Breaking with tradition and embracing modernity.

### **German Nazism**

- **Hitler's Racial State:** Peasant simplicity and racial purity.
- **Lebensraum Doctrine:** Expansion for living space.
- **Anti-Semitism:** From historical prejudice to systematic genocide.

### **Post-War Neo-Fascism**

- **Revival in Western Democracies:** British Union of Fascists, National Front in France.
- **Populist Right Today:**
  - Shares themes of nationalism and social cohesion.
  - Key differences: acceptance of democracy, lack of expansionist aims.

### **Concluding Thoughts**

Fascism remains a specific, extreme form of nationalism with a legacy rooted in militarism, charismatic authority, and suppression of pluralism. While echoes exist in modern populist right movements, fundamental differences separate contemporary parties from interwar fascism.