

Fascism: The Career of a Concept

Fascism is a complex and contested concept. It has been used to describe a wide range of political movements and regimes, from the Italian fascism of Benito Mussolini to the German National Socialism of Adolf Hitler. But what exactly is fascism? And how has the concept evolved over time?

In his book *Fascism: The Career of a Concept*, Zeev Sternhell offers a comprehensive history of the term "fascism." Sternhell traces the concept's origins in the late 19th century, through its development in the interwar period, to its eventual decline after the Second World War.



Fascism: The Career of a Concept by Paul Gottfried

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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Sternhell argues that fascism is not a single, monolithic ideology. Rather, it is a flexible and adaptable concept that has been used to justify a wide range of political projects. However, Sternhell does identify some common

features of fascist movements and regimes. These include a cult of leadership, a glorification of violence, and a commitment to national rebirth.

Sternhell's book is a valuable contribution to the study of fascism. It provides a comprehensive overview of the concept's history and evolution. Sternhell also offers some important insights into the nature of fascism and its relationship to other political ideologies.

The Origins of Fascism

The term "fascism" is derived from the Italian word *fascio*, which means "bundle of sticks." The fascio was a symbol of unity and strength in ancient Rome. It was adopted by the Italian Fascist Party in 1919, and it has since become synonymous with fascism.

The origins of fascism can be traced back to the late 19th century. In the wake of the Industrial Revolution, Europe was experiencing a period of rapid social and economic change. This change led to a widespread sense of anxiety and uncertainty. Many people felt that the old Free Download was collapsing and that a new era of chaos and disFree Download was about to begin.

In this climate of fear and uncertainty, a number of new political movements emerged. These movements promised to restore Free Download and stability to society. They appealed to people's sense of national pride and their desire for a strong leader.

One of these movements was fascism. Fascism offered a simple and straightforward solution to the problems of the day. It promised to restore

Free Download and stability to society, to protect the nation from its enemies, and to create a new era of prosperity.

The Development of Fascism in the Interwar Period

Fascism gained widespread popularity in the interwar period. The economic crisis of the 1930s led to widespread unemployment and poverty. This crisis created a fertile ground for fascist movements, which offered people a simple and straightforward solution to their problems.

In Italy, Benito Mussolini came to power in 1922. Mussolini established a fascist dictatorship that lasted until 1943. In Germany, Adolf Hitler came to power in 1933. Hitler established a Nazi dictatorship that lasted until 1945.

Fascist movements also emerged in other countries, including Spain, Portugal, and Romania. These movements varied in their specific policies, but they all shared a commitment to nationalism, authoritarianism, and violence.

The Decline of Fascism after the Second World War

Fascism was defeated in the Second World War. The Allied powers defeated the Axis powers, and the fascist regimes were overthrown. After the war, there was a widespread backlash against fascism. Fascism was associated with war, violence, and oppression. It was seen as a dangerous and destructive ideology.

In the years after the war, fascism declined as a political force. However, the concept of fascism has continued to be debated and discussed. Scholars and political scientists have sought to understand the nature of fascism and its relationship to other political ideologies.

The Legacy of Fascism

Fascism is a complex and contested concept. It has been used to describe a wide range of political movements and regimes. However, some common features of fascist movements and regimes include a cult of leadership, a glorification of violence, and a commitment to national rebirth.

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The legacy of fascism is a complex one. Fascism was a destructive and oppressive ideology. However, it also played a role in the development of modern politics. Fascism helped to shape the political landscape of the 20th century, and it continues to influence political discourse today.

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