

THE EXTENSION OF FASCISM

domineering power. At the time, few saw the connection to evil. In Italy, Benito Mussolini took over in nineteen twenty-two and became the new Prime Minister; within three years he was able to control the political body. He called himself **IL DUCE**, (Doo-chay), meaning the leader.

Ex-newspaper editor and the son of a blacksmith, Mussolini established fascism, abolished the Italian parliamentary system and created a one-party political system. Leading so-called Fascists doctrines were:

1. **Totalitarianism.** The state incorporates every interest and every loyalty of its people. There must be "nothing above the state, nothing outside it, nothing against it."

2. **Nationalism.** The nation is the highest form of society ever evolved by the human race while internationalism is a gross perversion of human progress. The "National idea" is identical with social progress.

3. **Romanticism.** Reasoning can never be an adequate instrument for the solution of great national problems. Intellect needs to be supplemented by mystic faith, and worship of heroism and strength. The spirit is will, not intellect.

4. **Authoritarianism.** The citizen has no rights but simple duties. What nations need are not liberty, but work, order, suppression of freedom, and prosperity. The state should be governed by an elite, which has demonstrated its right to rule by its strength and its superior understanding of the national ideals. The sovereignty of the state is one of absoluteness.

5. **MILITARISM.** STRIFE IS THE ORIGIN OF ALL THINGS.

When nations do not expand they wither and expire. War, claimed fascism, professed life to the idea of Imperialism. Mussolini believed war would exalt and ennoble man, and would regenerate sluggish and decadent peoples.

Economically, with the magnified rights of the state, along with economic assistance from industry which still remained under private ownership, condonation on improving conditions for labor, social security, and wages to the people of the fascist state were thus promised and attained. The story of a relationship between Fascism and Communism, one of a notable similarity, should be pointed out, because the governmental powers of both were given absolutely to the state. (And that once given, change in governmental policies were undeniably vested in the few: policies on economics; policies on the military; policies on law and jailing—policies on everything.)

Economically, property and the means of production and distribution were in the classless society of Communism, community controlled by the State.

In Fascism (and Nazism) however, valuable control remained in private hands. This is the marked difference between what may be called a Communist society and a Fascist society. The community-controlled classless society vs... the privately controlled one which permits a class different society. (Communism as that practiced by communists until the historic Soviet reforms ratified in 1990-91 for example, versus Fascism). This is very important.

Another pertinent difference is the old class struggle. Both believed in the idea of a class struggle, but while one worked its way in it, the other wanted to rid it

With Hitler directing foreign policy (he really directed, unlike today where there are various key leaders with different duties in practically all countries), it started with the occupation and fortification of the German Rhineland in 1936—land of some 9,400 square miles.

Then came Austria when a so-called plebiscite ratified the union of Austria and Germany as one with **Der Fuehrer** as the head of states. German-speaking Austria became the first European country to be walked-over by Hitler's Reich—although politically it was like a legal act.

In a publicized letter the Minister of the Interior had requested for German troops for help (March 11, 1938) to "prevent bloodshed," and Hitler "complied". The Austrian who had requested Nazi assistance was Seyss-Inquart, a Nazi. Four weeks later, after a barrage of Nazi propaganda, the Austrian people voted approval of Hitler's march. Austria was integrated into Germany.

Before continuing with Germany, other world events should be highlighted. Italy had just finished running amuck in Ethiopia; the non-fascist might of Japan was carving China's coastline; Stalin was crazily liquidating
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Italy was the first Fascist country to invade anybody. Yet, it is unbelievable that this was not always so. It seemed that in 1934, Mussolini was called by the League of Nations as "Il Duce ... keeper of peace during his actual intervention against of all people, Adolf Hitler, who mobilized 4 divisions. The crisis began when Austrian Nazis murdered the Austrian Chancellor in an unsuccessful attempt to overthrow the government. This small interna-

INVASION OF ETHIOPIA

tional chaos in Austria (July 25, 1934) was resolved, and Mussolini achieved his crown as peace keeper, which was all too soon to fade fast. Sticking to its self-proclaimed grandiose expansionist plan, Italy's army invaded Ethiopia—which had no machine guns, no jeeps, no tanks, and no paved streets. It did have an air force: one airplane. It did have one American to help: Col. Julian Black. Ethiopia's troops, people with spears, shields and a few rifles, faced the invaders with desperation and gallantry. The following is a speech given by Mussolini. His enumeration of Imperialism is typical of his rebuke and stance: his commitment to defy world peace and international law associated with it.

"A solemn hour is about to strike in the history of our country.

"Forty million people, with one heart, one will, one decision alone...perfect, absolute, unalterable....Only crass idiot's ignorant of Italy, blacken our injustice...waited 13 years to increase our vitality. I refuse to believe that France or Great Britain with whom we have never quarreled would risk throwing Europe into catastrophe to defend a country in Africa...never has the Italian people shown so well its strength and character. They dare to speak of sanctions? Proletarian, hear me, on your feet!"

EMPIRE SPEECH, printed by
the **PARTITO NAZIONALE FASCISTS**

Mussolini's troops, war tanks and mustard gas could not be held back. Ethiopia's little emperor, Haile Selasie, pleaded to the League of Nations for help; Ethiopia was a full fledged member. The League just pledged words, doing nothing consequential. Due to the League's noninterfer-

ence they in effect appended compliance with Mussolini and his invasion. Within months after the invasion, an assortment of small countries pulled out of the League: countries such as Holland, Norway, Sweden, Spain, Denmark, and Finland (Germany had already withdrawn but, for a different reason.)

The first country invaded by a fascist country, the first nation to be violated by a fellow member of the League of Nations fell in 1936, and lost 700,000 people; Italy lost 2000.

In a world of determination and help, an auxilio of words means nothing to a work of action, once that action has begun to a point of no-return, and indeed importantly once that action covers an entire country.

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people in his country; the civil war in Spain was raging. The latter proved to be Hitler's testing ground for his military, as Hitler involved Germany's air forces in an imminent role, particularly the latest, his dive-bombers. The airplane was the most important form of war differentiating the first global war and the new-way to war.

After Austria, Hitler's agents worked up strife in Czechoslovakia. Hitler placed the Sudetenland as premium to secure in 1938.

All throughout the summer Hitler intensified his speech attacks. At the annual Nazi rally in Nuremburg, September 12, the Fuehrer squealed with loud insults and threats about the "terrible government which is committing atrocities on the Sudeten-Germans." In the same rally, Hitler denied rumors that Germany wanted to march on all Czechoslovakia. He even compared the rumors with previous claims that had said 20,000 Nazi troops were landed in Morocco. Those claims had been

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Imperial Japanese guests participated in Nuremburg rallies.

phony.

Hitler demanded that the Czechs evacuate the Sudetenland to allow a so-called autonomous National Socialist State to be set up within Czechoslovakia; a fact Hitler had been shouting since 1937.

The German dictator shouted that "self-determination for the Sudetenlanders" was the only course for an alternative. His widely broadcasted speech was so fiery that as if on cue a revolt occurred in the Sudetenland. However, it was crushed by the Czech police. The government of Prague was too strong to be toppled by a mere revolt, so far.

In mid-September, Prime Minister of England Neville Chamberlain met with Adolf Hitler personally to try to resolve the "Sudetenland question." This was the start of a series of Munich Conferences, very famous in 1938-39.

In the conferences, which Chamberlain persuaded Czechoslovakian and French leaders to listen—countries which were tied together by treaty—the Sudetenland the center of conflict was put on the negotiating table. But, during the first negotiations, Hitler elevated his course for an alternative telling the British Prime Minister that autonomy and evacuation of non-German principles were no good. The Sudetenland must be completely incorporated into the German Reich.

On September 21, 1938, the government of Czechoslovakia was diplomatically told to concede to Hitler's demands, namely the giving up of lands with German speaking people.

In the pages of history Czechoslovakia was a model country of Democracy complete with free press and two house procedure and legislation.



Pulitzer Prize cartoon 1938

Vaughn Shoemaker won the Pulitzer for his cartoon **The Road Back**, as humanity seems to be walking back to the days of global war. Elements judged in the Pulitzer designation: dramatic impact, simplicity, thoroughness of design, and a timeliness of the subject. Shoemaker was chief cartoonist for the **Chicago Daily News**. He attended the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts, and was once told by the dean that he would never make it as an artist. But his dream was to be an artist.

BLITZKRIEG

On May 21, the miraculous job to evacuate allied troops at Dunkirk began. The evacuation went on for ten days and nights, utilizing some 1,350 ships of various descriptions and proportions. Dunkirk became a thrilling legend of the world war. It paid off, for 338,226 troops were evacuated to fight another day.

Elsewhere on land the screaming Stukas kept on annihilating the remaining allies. Unprotected, French aircraft factories and airfields were destroyed by June third. On June fourth, Dunkirk! Moreover, up north near Norway's coast just three days after Dunkirk, German battle cruisers sank two British destroyers, plus another British aircraft carrier, the **Glorious**; all three reported heavy losses of some 1,500 men. (Triumphs were not exactly zero, for by mid-June the British Royal Navy had knocked out ten Axis destroyers and two light cruisers, and had sent a pocket battleship into a six months repair.)

A week after the carrier **Glorious** disaster, but closer to France, an oceanliner was bombed by German dive-bombers off Saint Nazaire. The liner **Lancastria** was evacuating over 5,300 allied troops. Because the evacuation was without air protection, the large vessel was sunk, taking some 3,000 down with her.

News such as the **Lancastria** was hush hush. With the exception of Dunkirk most losses inflicted on the ally troops were rarely released in complete form to a world press and news media transfixed on Europe.

Before June, neither Italy or Japan—both aggressive partners of the future Tri-Axis—were at war against any European nation. On June 10th Italy, hoping to get a "piece of the cake," declared war on France. However, it