

When is it Fascism?

The discussion of how exactly to define fascism has been going on since Mussolini turned his right-wing syndicalist (ie, Sorel)-style internationalist socialism into the black-shirt neo-nationalist March on Rome of 1922 and a personality-cult government that prided itself on having no clear definition because it was based not on theory but on "ideas in action," action largely based on his whims.

The task of definition was not made easier by the rise of later similarly-styled states, most notably Nazi (ie, "National Socialist") Germany and Franco Spain, followed by a raft of strongman regimes in Latin America, Africa, Southeast Asia, etc. (and by movements in the US in the post-Mussolini era that never quite achieved regime status: Father Coughlin, Huey Long, Joseph McCarthy, etc.).

While precise definition is unlikely, and in the long run probably not important, familiarity with and comparison of the characteristics of these similar movements and regimes can, I think, be useful as a means of focusing attention on and sharpening analysis of the similarly amorphous work-in-progress of the current regime in Washington and its actions (which while apparently haphazard and ill-thought out, in fact conform in varying degrees to a well-oiled, decades-long deep-pocket reactionary plutocratic agenda). At the very least, they provide a checklist of terms and benchmark concepts that can help in our ongoing conversation.

With that in mind, I send along these two links that were sent to me in response to the Robin Corey and Barry Carr exchange that I posted yesterday.

<http://www.rense.com/general37/char.htm>

<http://washingtonmonthly.com/2017/01/31/the-12-early-warning-signs-of-fascism/>