

Totalitarianism

Totalitarianism is a [political system](#) where the [state](#) recognizes no limits to its authority and strives to regulate every aspect of public and private life wherever feasible.^[1] Totalitarian [regimes](#) stay in [political power](#) through an all-encompassing [propaganda](#) campaign, which is disseminated through the state-controlled [mass media](#), [a single party](#) that is often marked by [political repression](#), [personality cultism](#), [control over the economy](#), regulation and restriction of [speech](#), [mass surveillance](#), and widespread use of [terror](#). A distinctive feature of totalitarian governments is an "elaborate ideology, a set of ideas that gives meaning and direction to the whole society."^[2]

Totalitarianism, from Wikipedia

Fascism promotes the establishment of a [totalitarian](#) state.^[161] It opposes [liberal democracy](#), rejects multi-party systems, and supports a [one-party state](#). The *Doctrine of Fascism* states, "The Fascist conception of the State is all-embracing; outside of it no human or spiritual values can exist, much less have value. Thus understood, Fascism is totalitarian, and the Fascist State—a synthesis and a unit inclusive of all values—interprets, develops, and potentiates the whole life of a people."^[162] In *The Legal Basis of the Total State*, Nazi political theorist [Carl Schmitt](#) described the Nazi intention to form a "strong state which guarantees a totality of political unity transcending all diversity" in order to avoid a "disastrous pluralism tearing the German people apart".^[163]

Fascist states pursued policies of social [indoctrination](#) through [propaganda](#) in education and the media and regulation of the production of educational and media materials.^{[164][165]} Education was designed to glorify the fascist movement and inform students of its historical and political importance to the nation. It attempted to purge ideas that were not consistent with the beliefs of the fascist movement and to teach students to be obedient to the state.^[166]

Fascism from Wikipedia

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'German Christians' promoted the de-Judaization of Religious life. In opposition 'The Confessing Church' held to 'a doctrinal, transcendent, and thus for Nazis a 'Jewish' Christianity.' Veith sites a speech given to a student rally:

I do not want to blaspheme God, but I ask: Who was greater Christ or Hitler? Christ had at the time of his death twelve apostles who, however did not even remain true to him. Hitler, however, today has a folk of 70 million behind him. We cannot tolerate that another organization is established alongside us that has a different spirit than ours. We must crush it. National socialism in all earnestness says: I am the Lord thy God, thou shalt have no other gods before me...Then ours is the kingdom and the power; for we have a strong Wehrmacht, and the glory—we are again a respected nation.

From *Modern Fascism, Liquidating the Judeo-Christian Worldview* by Gene Edward Veith, Jr., p. 68, 1993

Veith contends that the persecution of Jews and the Holocaust by the German Nazis has a basis in the challenge to fascism's absolute power by the One God that Judaism professes. He quotes fascist poet and propagandist Ezra Pound,

"The greatest tyrannies have arisen from dogma that the *theos* is one, or that there is a unity above various strata of theos which imposes its will upon the substrata, and thence upon human individuals."

Veith says, 'By asserting the existence of only one transcendent God, so the argument goes, the Jews drained the immanent world of its spiritual significance. ...Fascism sought to restore the values of primitive cultures, with their social solidarity, oneness with nature, and psychic integration. ...The fascist sought to remythologize modern life.'

Veith, p44

Age and gender roles

Members of the *Piccole Italiane*, an organization for girls within the National Fascist Party in Italy. Members of the [League of German Girls](#), an organization for girls within the Nazi Party in Germany.

Fascism emphasizes [youth](#) both in a physical sense of age and in a spiritual sense as related to virility and commitment to action.^[189] The Italian Fascists' political anthem was called [Giovinezza](#) ("The Youth").^[189] Fascism identifies the physical age period of youth as a critical time for the moral development of people that will affect society.^[190]

Italian Fascism pursued what it called "moral hygiene" of youth, particularly regarding [sexuality](#).^[191] Fascist Italy promoted what it considered normal sexual behaviour in youth while denouncing what it considered deviant sexual behaviour.^[191] It condemned [pornography](#), most forms of [birth control](#) and contraceptive devices (with the exception of the [condom](#)), [homosexuality](#), and [prostitution](#) as deviant sexual behaviour, although enforcement of laws opposed to such practices was erratic and authorities often turned a blind eye.^[191]

Mussolini perceived women's primary role as primarily child bearers and men, warriors—once saying, "War is to man what maternity is to the woman."^[192] In an effort to increase birthrates, the Italian Fascist government gave financial incentives to women who raised large families, and initiated policies intended to reduce the number of women employed.^[193] Italian Fascism called for women to be honoured as "reproducers of the nation," and the Italian Fascist

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government held ritual ceremonies to honour women's role within the Italian nation.^[194] In 1934, Mussolini declared that employment of women was a "major aspect of the thorny problem of unemployment," and that for women, working was "incompatible with childbearing." Mussolini went on to say that the solution to unemployment for men was the "exodus of women from the work force."^[195]

The German Nazi government strongly encouraged women to stay at home to bear children and keep house.^[196] This policy was reinforced by bestowing the [Cross of Honor of the German Mother](#) on women bearing four or more children. The unemployment rate was cut substantially, mostly through arms production and sending women home so that men could take their jobs. Nazi propaganda sometimes promoted premarital and extramarital sexual relations, unwed motherhood and divorce, but at other times the Nazis opposed such behaviour.^[197]

The Nazis said that homosexuality was degenerate, effeminate, perverted, and undermined masculinity because it did not produce children.^[204] They considered homosexuality curable through therapy, citing modern [scientism](#) and the study of [sexology](#), which said that homosexuality could be felt by "normal" people and not just an abnormal minority.^[205] Open homosexuals were interned in Nazi concentration camps.^[206]

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Schutzstaffel from Wikipedia

From 1929 until the regime's collapse in 1945, the SS was the foremost agency of surveillance and terror within Germany and [German-occupied Europe](#).

The two main constituent groups were the [Allgemeine SS](#) (General SS) and [Waffen-SS](#) (Armed SS). The *Allgemeine SS* was responsible for enforcing the [racial policy of Nazi Germany](#) and general policing, whereas the Waffen-SS consisted of combat units of troops within Nazi Germany's military. A third component of the SS, the [SS-Totenkopfverbände](#) (SS-TV), ran the [concentration camps](#) and [extermination camps](#). Additional subdivisions of the SS included the [Gestapo](#) and the [Sicherheitsdienst](#) (SD) organizations. They were tasked with the detection of actual or potential enemies of the Nazi state, the neutralization of any opposition, policing the German people for their commitment to [Nazi ideology](#), and providing domestic and foreign intelligence.

The SS was the organization most responsible for the genocidal killing of an estimated 5.5 to 6 million Jews in [the Holocaust](#). Members of all of its branches committed [war crimes](#) and [crimes against humanity](#) during World War II (1939–45). The SS was also involved in commercial enterprises and exploited concentration camp inmates as slave labor. After Nazi Germany's defeat, the SS and the NSDAP were judged by the [International Military Tribunal](#) at Nuremberg to be criminal organizations. [Ernst Kaltenbrunner](#), the highest-ranking surviving SS officer, was found guilty of crimes against humanity at the Nuremberg trials and hanged in 1946.

International Holocaust Remembrance Day, is an international memorial day on 27 January commemorating the victims of [the Holocaust](#). It commemorates the [genocide](#) that resulted in the death of an estimated 6 million Jewish people, 2 million Romani people, 250,000 mentally and physically disabled people, and 9,000 homosexual men by the [Nazi](#) regime and its collaborators. It was designated by the [United Nations General Assembly resolution](#) 60/7 on 1 November 2005... On 27 January 1945, [Auschwitz-Birkenau](#), the largest Nazi concentration and death camp, was liberated by [Soviet troops](#).

Wikipedia

A 2015 view from the eminent British historian, Richard Evans of the Third Reich:

Thus although the Nazi 'Final Solution' was one genocide among many, it had features that made it stand out from all the rest as well. Unlike all the others it was bounded neither by space nor by time. It was launched not against a local or regional obstacle, but at a world enemy seen as operating on a global scale. It was bound to an even larger plan of racial reordering and reconstruction involving further genocidal killing on an almost unimaginable scale, aimed, however, at clearing the way in a particular region—Eastern Europe—for a further struggle against the Jews and those the Nazis regarded as their puppets. It was set in motion by ideologues who saw world history in racial terms. It was, in part, carried out by industrial methods. These things all make it unique. But its uniqueness in this sense doesn't mean we can't learn from it. We can look at extreme nationalist and racist ideologies and see from the experience of Nazi extermination when they look like spilling over into genocide and mass murder, and intervene at this point to stop them going any further. ^[429]