

Fascism White Supremacy and Democratic Risk in the United States

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Introduction

The United States of America is 'controlled' by a 'democratic' federal government, which provides equal opportunity to every citizen to be involved in the selection of the right candidate to serve them in public office. Yet, six in ten American citizens believe that racism is a serious problem and that white supremacy has been taking over since the Presidency of Donald Trump, while 88 percent of the black population think that their race still requires equal rights in all fields and professions (CNN, n.d.).

Fascism has been around for the American public for a long time but exists in the shadows of super-patriotism and extremist Americans who show love for their country in the most immoral and unethical ways. Even though for the United States, fascism is a foreign ideology that they can criticize and restore their faith in the basic fundamentals of democracy existing in the United States, fascism has been there since the very beginning of the exploration of American soil.

During the 2016 presidential election campaign, a lot of new terms were introduced, and old concepts were ignited, such as the hate against the black community, calling Mexican Americans "rapists" and members of drug cartels, and considering every woman in a scarf and every man practicing his faith a Muslim terrorist. The American public has always been familiar with this kind of racism and superiority of the white Americans, but the situation has never been worse, and fascism might make a turn into the democratic government or exist prominently, yet ignored by the majority of the people.

While the United States is far more developed and educated, with a diverse population that welcomes people from around the globe, the new wave of racism, hate against minority groups, and the significance of National Security and the military is a threat to the government.

Body

What is Fascism?

Fascism can be defined in several terms, one of them being political actions and a type of political philosophy that requires nationalism at all costs and giving power to one group that dominates the rest of the population and is treated unequally. It destroys democracy and the basic equal rights of every citizen. The power can be given to any entity, such as the military or businessmen, the rich class or a dictator. Fascism is a mass movement that involves an ideology of extreme patriotism,

racism, and hate against other minority groups and a superiority complex.

The term fascism has always been associated with Nazi Germany, Adolf Hitler and the people who came into power after World War I. The ideology requires allegiances to a leader or a master group or race and the nation as a whole. The main purpose of fascism lies in the success and development of a nation with complete dedication and patriotism. Such as the theory of “making America great again,” which requires sticking to traditional ways and taking the country back to the time of racism and inequality with white Americans being the master race.

History of Fascism

Fascism can be dated back to the late 19th century when the theme of ‘fin de siècle’ was on the rise. It was a revolt against materialism, rationalism and democracy. Fascism has always been rejecting a liberal society that allowed democratic government and the imperfections that could destroy it.

The theory of fascism came in the shape of “organizing the minority” in the work of Gaetano Mosca in 1896. The idea proposed one minority has the governor while the other disorganized minority is directed and guided under the leadership of the organized minority. On the other hand, Mikhail Bakunin introduced the propaganda of deed, which emphasized direct action as the key to politics, including violence. The idea was soon adopted by many fascists who believed in the concept. Similarly, French nationalists rejected the idea of democracy, which they believed disturbed the process of national development.

However, Fascism reached its peak during and after World War I. The Italians split into two parties regarding the stance of the war against Germany and Austria-Hungry, while the Fasci of Revolutionary Action was developed. This led to the introduction of the term “fascism,” which was viewed as an effective ideology to fix a nation and guide it toward success and perfection (Payne, S. G. 1996).

The practice of fascism was adopted by the Germans as well, and soon, there was a rise of “National Socialism,” which lay in the core German values of discipline, duty, law, and order. The theme of National Socialism, introduced by Johann Plenge, rejected the ideas of 1789, which included democracy, equal rights for men and liberalism.

Fascists considered the War as an attempt to bring revolutionary changes to the nations for improved society, way of living and advanced technology. They believed in giving importance to the military as they were fighting on the front lines while other citizens managed the economic conditions.

After the Great Depression and the journey toward World War II, Germany was under the fascist leadership of Adolf Hitler, who formed Nazi Germany and believed in the perfection and success of the German nation through the supremacy of the master group. The new German policies rejected people with disabilities, minority groups and persecuted Jews that interfered in the process of development and success of the nation. Liberalism was completely demolished during the 1930s.

Common Concepts Of Fascism

Militaristic Societies

The aftermath of World War I included the militarization of several countries due to their harsh and unpredictable nature and the importance of defense against hostile nations. Countries like Germany and Italy sensed major threats from other nations which required them to shift their entire focus on the military. The military is disciplined and follows perfection, which is the core purpose of fascism.

The United States of America has been involved in several wars for decades, such as the war against terrorism in Syria and Iraq, while the continuous cold war with Russia and the unstable situation with North Korea has been on the rise. The country is facing threats from every part of the world, which requires them to strengthen their military and spend billions of dollars on defense and national security.

Rejecting Liberalism

The ideology of fascism disapproves of liberalism and democracy. It encourages a type of government where a power group, which is either a master race or entity, controls and represents the whole nation. In this type of social structure, the citizens are not treated equally or provided complete freedom but are protected by the law.

The new policies of the United States of America pose a similar trait considering the Muslim ban, rejection of the free press and media, attacking the jurisdiction and disapproval of the State Department. These are the signs of transformation into a fascist government that is taking charge of the people and their freedom and snatching equal rights.

Dictatorship

One leader who leads the whole nation to development, perfection, and growth is an idea strongly supported by fascism. This idea is inspired by an organized society with unparalleled national unity. In this type of social structure, the nation is able to respond easily to economic measures and political instability, such as a war or attack from rival countries. However, dictatorship vanishes democracy, the freedom of the press and possibly equal rights for people. The choices of the dictator might not always be the best and these aren't in control of the citizens of that nation.

America might be far from a dictatorship, but the powers of a president are not any less than a dictator, even though the American president goes through the process of an election by the citizens regardless of their race or religion. However, the new presidential policies and disapproval of the democratic rules and regulations are a threat of dictatorship existing in the shadows, which is too

hard to be recognized by the general public.

Characteristics Of Fascism

Powerful and Continuing Nationalism

Nationalism refers to patriotic feeling and considering your nation superior to other countries and nations. It focuses on promoting the interests of the country and working towards the specific goals that ensure success and development. Such patriotism is often portrayed through national slogans and mottos, combined with national patriotic songs and public displays of the national flag on clothing and other equipment.

This kind of nationalism is common in the United States because of the superiority complex existing among white Americans about their ethnicity and the illiteracy of the white rural population who isn't aware of American history and their background. They consider themselves the best nation in the world compared to their rivals such as China, Mexico, Russia and many others. U.S. citizens have always marked their patriotism as the "American Dream" and made decisions according to their love for the country.

On the other hand, Nationalism is leading to violent and racist behavior towards minority groups and immigrants who live in the United States. They are considered to be intruders trying to steal their jobs and corrupt their society. Their conservative behavior towards African Americans, Mexican-Americans, and Muslim Americans is excused for extreme patriotism while it is clearly a fascist attitude. The situation seems to be ignited after the elections of 2016 when the concept of fascism was discussed more than ever, and hatred among fellow Americans was on the rise (Steigmann-Gall, R. 2017).

Supremacy of the Military

The importance of a powerful and effective military is realized by countries when in a state of war and face threats from nearby nations. Fascism strongly supports the idea of a militaristic approach toward the development and success of a country. It requires giving powers to the military and allocating most of its funding to the defense of the country, as there are always threats from rival countries.

The need for a strong military force becomes a necessity for the fascist government due to its overall structure. There is always a threat to the national security of the country, which is why the military becomes superior to other priorities of the country, which can be damaging to the economy and growth of the nation.

America's political situation and instability in foreign relationships with North Korea, the Cold War with Russia and the interference in the Middle East in fighting ISIS are all a threat to the national security of the country. Therefore, America has always prepared for a Nuclear War and is able to recognize the

importance of care to be taken during emergency situations. The United States spends billions of dollars on the military and its weapons and equipment required for militants to survive. Additionally, it is introducing new technology to war-zones if they are ever implemented.

The fascist theory encourages global military supremacy, which the United States is moving towards due to its constant efforts in different war zones and fighting its fight for years now.

Controlled Mass Media

Fascism supports the restrictions on mass media and how people think about the government and the country. Freedom of the media results in a negative image of the government portrayed in the masses and the reality of political readers to be disclosed to the public. There are possible chances that the media is directly and completely controlled by the government, which means that they could restrict all kinds of content through censorship.

However, now the government is more or less involved in controlling what the people think and how they see the government doing their jobs. The restrictions on media content are increased during sensitive times or national emergencies, i.e., during wartime or the threat of natural hazards, to avoid panic.

The government of the United States of America has always been more or less involved in controlling the mass media and restricting the content that you see, hear or read. The new concept of “fake news” has been circulating around more than ever since the 2016 elections. This is because the presidential campaign denies anything disclosed by news agencies. Contrasting such a thought in the minds of the people of America is minimizing their trust in the media; hence, the government is indirectly involved in controlling what you think and believe. Such an attitude towards the media is a sign of fascism and disapproval of democracy, freedom of speech and liberalism.

Fascism As A Left-Wing Or Right-Wing

Republicans Say Fascism is a Left-Wing Problem

The left-wing supports liberalism and democracy. The Democrats believe that the government is a barrier to the prosperity of the nation, which is created by the free market and allowance of public opinion in every political activity. The left wing supports income equality, which means it encourages taxation that is charged based on the income levels of an individual so that higher taxes are charged to large firms and wealthy individuals. It also believes that the government should be able to provide quality healthcare to every citizen, education and equal rights.

The ideology of fascism contradicts the social democracy, communism, and liberalism of left-wing politics. Hence, it is an obstacle in the way of development and equal rights in the country.

Democrats Say Fascism Is a Right-Wing Problem

The political ideology of the right-wing believes in conservatism and the importance of the government. It encourages the thought that every citizen and individual belongs to the state and the federal government. Republicans seek an economic policy of lower taxes and fewer business regulations in order to achieve development and prosperity as it lies in the hands of free individuals.

Additionally, it encourages private firms to compete in services like healthcare, education and financial departments. This theory encourages Capitalism and conservatism in society, which means that the poor become poorer and the rich and powerful groups become ever stronger.

Hence, fascism supports the ideology of the power being with the master group or race. It becomes a problem for the democratic belief in left-wing politics (Wodak, R., & Krzyżanowski, M. 2017).

Conclusion

It is concluded that even though the politics and the ideologies of the United States are far from fascism, the recent activities, political changes and the beliefs of the majority of the public are a threat to a true democracy in the states. The characteristics and concepts of fascism strongly relate to the aftermath of the 2016 presidential election.

A new wave of racism and threats to national security from rival nations is causing the country to adopt strict policies and measures, giving importance to national defense and supremacy of the military. Thus, the United States may not be completely immune to the ideology of fascism, and the roots of the theory are not foreign to the nation.

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