



Characteristics of Fascism

1. Powerful, often exclusionary, populist nationalism centered on cult of a redemptive, “infallible” leader who never admits mistakes.
2. Political power derived from questioning reality, endorsing myth and rage, and promoting lies.
3. Fixation with perceived national decline, humiliation, or victimhood.
4. White Replacement “Theory” used to show that democratic ideals of freedom and equality are a threat. Oppose any initiatives or institutions that are racially, ethnically, or religiously harmonious.
5. Disdain for human rights while seeking purity and cleansing for those they define as part of the nation.
6. Identification of “enemies”/scapegoats as a unifying cause. Imprison and/or murder opposition and minority group leaders.
7. Supremacy of the military and embrace of paramilitarism in an uneasy, but effective collaboration with traditional elites. Fascists arm people and justify and glorify violence as “redemptive”.
8. Rampant sexism.
9. Control of mass media and undermining “truth”.
10. Obsession with national security, crime and punishment, and fostering a sense of the nation under attack.
11. Religion and government are intertwined.
12. Corporate power is protected and labor power is suppressed.
13. Disdain for intellectuals and the arts not aligned with the fascist narrative.
14. Rampant cronyism and corruption. Loyalty to the leader is paramount and often more important than competence.
15. Fraudulent elections and creation of a one-party state.
16. Often seeking to expand territory through armed conflict.



Appeal? Why does this become permissible?

Trauma allows for the embrace of the irrational. Escapism fosters a minimum of self-respect and the ability to vent judgement against a world in which people cannot exist with dignity. Traditional lifestyles are uprooted or threatened by technological changes, wealth inequity, and unequal access to goods and services. Contempt for truth and reason reflects the despair of the follower who is socially and spiritually adrift and cynical. Providing a coherent explanatory narrative and political rallies reinforces a sense of belonging and is fueled by confirmation bias. That things “just happen” is unacceptable to the follower who, in turn, must believe the infallibility of the leader to reclaim their own pride and sense of worth.