

The 20th Century: The Rise of Fascism

"The world of the twentieth century sharply differs from that of the nineteenth. The twentieth century is the age of the masses. Those who govern have the opportunity for the first time to communicate directly with those they govern. The mass-circulation newspapers, the radio, the cinema and, after the Second World War, the television, created entirely new conditions for government."

- J.A.S. Grenville, A World History of the 20th Century (vol 1- Western Dominance 1900-1945)

- the mass media was the tool that helped bring masses together to hear propaganda generated by politicians and their political parties

Creation of Fascism

Definition:

Fascism is an authoritarian political movement that developed in Italy and other European countries (Germany, Spain) after 1919 as a reaction against the political and social changes brought about by World War I and the spread of socialism and communism

Philosophy of Fascism

- emphasized the subordination of the individual to a "totalitarian" state that was to control all aspects of national life
- violence as a creative force was an important aspect of the philosophy
- attempted to eliminate the class struggle from history through nationalism and the corporate state
- though fascism as an ideology is hard to pinpoint exactly (many mutations of the original concept) certain elements have been agreed upon: