

Liberal Fascism: The Secret History of the American Left
from Mussolini to the Politics of Meaning

By Jonah Goldberg
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The book is definitely a history with great documentation. The quotes which follow are very revealing and enlightening.

(Page 6) The experts and scientists know what to do, we are told; therefore the time for debate is over. This, albeit in a nicer and more benign form, is the logic of fascism----and it was on ample display in the administrations fo Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Roosevelt, and yes, even John F. Kennedy.

Everything for the race, nothing outside the race ? Why is it that when a white man spouts such sentiments it s objectively fascist, but when a person of color says the same thing it s merely an expression of fashionable multiculturalism?

(Page 7) The major flaw in all of this is that fascism, properly understood, is not a phenomenon of the right at all. Instead, it is, and always has been, a phenomenon of the left.

(Page 9) After the war, the American progressives who had praised Mussolini and even looked sympathetically at Hitler in the 1920s and 1930s had to distance themselves from the horrors of Nazism.

..., it is simple a fact that, in the 1920s, fascism and fascistic ideas were very popular on the American left.

(Page 12) Philosophically, organizationally, and politically the progressives were as close to authentic, homegrown fascists as any movement America has ever produced.

(Page 13) But what truly makes the French Revolution the first fascist revolution was its effort to turn politics into a religion.

(Page 14) Mussolini himself coined the term to describe a society where everybody belonged, where everyone was taken care of, where everything was inside the state and nothing was outside: where truly no child was left behind.

.... liberalism today sees no realm of human life that is beyond political significance, from what you eat to what you smoke to what you say.

(Page 19) Or consider the explosion of health and New Age crusades in recent years, from the war on smoking, to the obsession with animal rights, to the sanctification of organic foods.....Heinrich Himmler was a certified animal rights activist and an aggressive promoter of natural healing . Rudolf Hess, Hitler s deputy, championed homeopathy and herbal remedies.

A Hitler Youth manual proclaimed, Nutrition is not a private matter.

What is fascist is the notion that in an organic national community, the individual has no right *not* to be healthy; and the state therefore has the obligation to force us to be healthy for our own good.

Fascism is a religion of the state.

It is totalitarian in that it views everything as political and holds that any action by the state is justified to achieve the common good.

(Page 27) In the Saturday Evening Post, Will Rogers concluded, Dictator form of government is the greatest form of government: that is if you have the right Dictator.

(Page 29) Perhaps no elite institution in America was more accommodating to Fascism than Columbia University.

(Page 37)... Sorel held that Marxist prophecy didn t need to be true. People just needed to *think* it was true.

(Page 38) French Revolution . . . A nationalist-populist uprising, it was led and manipulated by an intellectual vanguard determined to replace Christianity with a political religion that glorified the people , anointed the revolutionary vanguard as their priests, and abridged the rights of individuals.

(Page 43) Crisis is routinely identified as a core mechanism of fascism because it short-circuits debate and democratic deliberation.

(Page 59) Nazism also emphasized many of the themes of later New Lefts in other places and times: the primacy of race, the rejection of rationalism, an emphasis on the organic and holistic---including environmentalism, health food, and exercise----and, most of all, the need to transcend notions of class.

(Page 73) What distinguished Nazism was that it forthrightly included a worldview we now associate almost completely with the political left: identity politics.

(Page 74) Communists champion class, Nazis race, fascists the nation. All such ideologies we can call them totalitarian for now----attract the same *types* of people.

(Page 80) Fascism, at its core, is the view that every nook and cranny of society should work

together in spiritual union toward the same goals overseen by the state. . . . Mussolini coined the word totalitarian to describe not a tyrannical society but a humane one in which everyone is taken care of and contributes equally.

More dissidents were arrested or jailed in a few years under Wilson than under Mussolini during the entire 1920s.

(Page 81) Progressive.....were convinced that the state could, through planning and pressure, create a pure race, a society of new men.

(Page 85) Wilson would later argue when president that he was the right hand of God and that to stand against him was to thwart divine will.

(Page 88) The home could no longer be seen as an island, separate and sovereign from the rest of society. John Dewey helped create kindergartens in America for precisely this purpose to shape the apples before they fell from the tree.....

(Page 96) (Bismarck s) top-down socialism was a Machiavellian masterstroke because it made the middle class dependent upon the state.

(Page 107) We should not forget how the demands of war fed the arguments for socialism. Dewey was giddy that the war might force Americans to give up much of our economic freedom...We shall have to lay by our good-natured individualism and march in step .

(Page 118) Liberals are never responsible for historic misdeeds, because they feel no compulsion to defend the inherent goodness of America.

(Page 123) But many of his (FDR) ideas and policies were indistinguishable from fascism. And today we live with the fruits of fascism, and we call them liberal.

(Page 130) Fascist movements are implicitly utopian because they---like communist and heretical Christian movements---assume that with just the right arrangement of policies, all contradictions can be rectified.

(Page 144) What makes Long(Huey) so recognizable as a fascist was his folksy contempt for the rules of democracy---- the time has come for all good men to rise above principle.

There is no dictatorship in Louisiana. There is a perfect democracy there, and when you have a perfect democracy it is pretty hard to tell it from a dictatorship.

(Page 155) Because one of the central goals of the early New Deal was to create artificial scarcity in order to drive prices up,

(Page 172) We tend to forget that unity is, at best, morally neutral and often a source of irrationality and groupthink.

(Page 235) This is never more transparent than when the mainstream media describe socialistic reforms as a step forward and free-market ones as going backward or turning back the clock.

(Page 241) Today liberalism depends almost entirely on enlightened judges who use Wilson's living Constitution to defy popular will in the name of progress.

(Page 264) What is today called liberalism stands, domestically, on three legs: support for the welfare state, abortion, and identity politics.

(Page 265) The progressive authors of welfare state socialism were interested not in protecting the weak from the ravages of capitalism, as modern liberals would have it, but in weeding out the weak and unfit.

(Page 276) So forget about intent: look at results. Abortion ends more black lives than heart disease, cancer, accidents, AIDS, and violent crime *combined*. African-Americans constitute little more than 12 percent of the population but have more than a third (37%) of abortions.

(Page 325) Clinton's (Hillary) writings leave the unmistakable impression that it is the family that holds children back, the state that sets them free.

(Page 326) Woodrow Wilson candidly observed that the primary mission of the educator was to make children as unlike their parents as possible.

For other progressives, capturing children in schools was part of the larger effort to break the backbone of the nuclear family, the institution most resistant to political indoctrination.

(Page 347) Today black children are less likely to be raised by two parents than they were during the era of slavery.

(Page 360) My point is that the left is dishonest when it pretends that it is not in the business of imposing its values on others.

(Page 388) The Nazis used the slogan, the common good supersedes the private good.