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0521477115 - Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany: Comparisons and Contrasts

Edited by Richard Bessel

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Can Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany be compared? Not long ago, the answer seemed obvious: they could be and they were. Nationalist rhetoric, hostility to the Left and to parliamentary government, and the glorification of violence seemed to invite comparison. More recently, doubts have arisen. As Marxist-inspired class paradigms lose their attraction and greater attention is paid to the terrible consequences of Nazi racism, it has been questioned whether Nazi Germany can be compared with anything.

This collaborative volume meets the challenge of comparing the two movements. It contains ten essays, two each on five central themes: the rise of the Fascist and Nazi movements; the relation of the regimes to workers, women, and war; and how the regimes may be viewed in a long-term perspective. The essays take stock of recent research, advance fresh theories about the histories of Nazism and Fascism, and provide a basis for informed comparison of two regimes central to twentieth-century history.

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Comparisons and contrasts



EDITED BY
RICHARD BESSEL

The Open University



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TOBIAS ABSE is Lecturer in Modern European History at Goldsmiths' College, University of London. He is the author of *Sovversivi e fascisti a Livorno: Lotta politica e sociale (1918–1922)* (Milan, 1991), and numerous articles on various aspects of twentieth-century Italian history, especially Fascism and the labour movement. His most recent publication is 'Italy: A New Agenda', in Perry Anderson and Patrick Camiller (eds.), *Mapping Europe's Left* (London, 1994).

RICHARD BESSEL is Senior Lecturer in History at the Open University and co-editor of the journal *German History*. His publications include *Political Violence and the Rise of Nazism: The Storm Troopers in Eastern Germany, 1925–1934* (New Haven and London, 1984); (ed.) *Life in the Third Reich* (Oxford, 1987); and *Germany after the First World War* (Oxford, 1993).

GABRIELE CZARNOWSKI is completing her *Habilitation* in Berlin on the theme of 'Abortion in National Socialism'. Her publications include *Das kontrollierte Paar. Ehe- und Sexualpolitik im Nationalsozialismus* (Weinheim, 1991); 'Frauen als Mutter der "Rasse". Abtreibungsverfolgung und Zwangseingriff im Nationalsozialismus', in Gisela Staupe and Lisa Vieth (eds.), *Unter anderen Umständen. Zur Geschichte der Abtreibung* (Dresden and Berlin, 1993), pp. 58–72; and 'Abortion as Political Conflict in the United Germany', *Parliamentary Affairs. A Journal of Comparative Politics*, vol. 47 (1994), pp. 252–67.

MICHAEL GEYER is Professor of History at the University of Chicago. His publications include *Aufrüstung oder Sicherheit. Die Reichswehr in der Krise der Machtpolitik 1924–1936* (Wiesbaden, 1980); *Deutsche Rüstungspolitik 1860–1980* (Frankfurt/Main, 1984); and (ed., with John W.

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Boyer), *Resistance against the Third Reich, 1933–1990* (Chicago and London, 1994).

MACGREGOR KNOX is Stevenson Professor of International History at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He is author of *Mussolini Unleashed, 1939–1941. Politics and Strategy in Fascist Italy's Last War* (Cambridge, 1982) and a variety of articles on aspects of Fascist and Nazi foreign and military policies, and is co-editor of *The Making of Strategy: Rulers, States, and War* (Cambridge, 1994).

CARL LEVY is Lecturer in European Politics in the Department of Social Policy and Politics, Goldsmiths' College, University of London. His publications include (ed.) *Socialism and the Intelligentsia, 1880–1914* (London, 1987); (ed.) *Italian Regionalism* (Oxford, 1996); and many articles on comparative European social and intellectual history.

ADRIAN LYTTTELTON is Professor of Contemporary European History at the University of Pisa. His publications include *The Seizure of Power: Fascism in Italy 1919–1929* (2nd edn., London and Princeton, 1988); (ed.) *Italian Fascisms* (London, 1973); 'The Middle Classes in Liberal Italy', in John Davis and Paul Ginsborg (eds.), *Society and Politics in the Age of the Risorgimento* (Cambridge, 1991); and 'The National Question in Italy', in Mikuláš Teich and Roy Porter (eds.), *The National Question in Europe in Historical Context* (Cambridge, 1993).

MARK ROSEMAN is Senior Lecturer in Modern History at Keele University. His publications include *Recasting the Ruhr 1945–1948. Manpower, Economic Recovery and Labour Relations* (Oxford, 1992); *Neither Punitive nor Powerless. Western Europe and the Division of Germany 1945–1948. A Reappraisal* (Birmingham, 1993); and (ed.) *Generations in Conflict. Youth Revolt and Generation Formation in Germany 1770–1968* (Cambridge, 1995).

TILLA SIEGEL is Professor for the Sociology of Industrialised Countries at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität in Frankfurt/Main. Her publications include *Leistung und Lohn in der nationalsozialistischen 'Ordnung der Arbeit'* (Opladen, 1989); (together with Thomas von Freyberg), *Industrielle Rationalisierung unter dem Nationalsozialismus* (Frankfurt/Main and New York, 1991); 'Welfare Capitalism – Nazi Style', in *International Journal of Political Economy*, vol. 18, no. 1 (1988); 'It is only Rational – an Essay on the Logics of Social Rationalization', in *International Journal of Political Economy*, vol. 25 (1995).

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BERND WEISBROD is Professor of Modern European History at the University of Göttingen. His main subjects are the social history of Victorian Britain (pauper and delinquent children, social reform and social policy) and twentieth-century German history (industrial relations, political culture, postwar history). He has recently published two collections of essays on the regional culture of postwar Lower Saxony: *Grenzland. Beiträge zur Geschichte der deutsch-deutschen Grenze* (Hanover, 1992); and *Rechtsradikalismus. Politische Kultur und politischer Regionalismus in der Nachkriegszeit* (Hanover, 1995).

PERRY WILLSON is Lecturer in Italian History and Language at the University of Edinburgh. A member of the Editorial Collective of *Gender and History* and of the Editorial Board of *Modern Italy*, her recent publications include *The Clockwork Factory: Women and Work in Fascist Italy* (Oxford, 1993). In 1992–3 she held a Jean Monnet Fellowship at the European University Institute in Florence.

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PREFACE

This volume has its origins in a conference on ‘Fascism in Comparative Perspective’, organised in memory of Tim Mason in March 1993. The conference was held at St Peter’s College, Oxford, where Tim Mason taught between 1971 and 1984. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the German History Society, the Association for the Study of Modern Italy, History Workshop, the Royal Historical Society, the British Academy, and the German Academic Exchange Service for their generous support, without which the conference could not have been held. I would also like to thank St Peter’s College, Oxford, for providing so congenial a conference venue, and all the participants who helped make it a success. I hope that this volume is a fitting tribute to a fine historian and friend to whom a great many people owe a great deal.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AWI	Arbeitswissenschaftliches Institut der Deutschen Arbeitsfront
BGB	Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch
CDU	Christlich-Demokratische Union
CSU	Christlich-Soziale Union
DAF	Deutsche Arbeitsfront
DC	Democrazia Cristiana
DFW	Deutsches Frauenwerk
DVU	Deutsche Volks-Union
ENI	Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi
ETZ	Ehetauglichkeitszeugnis
GIL	Gioventù Italiana del Littorio
IMI	Istituto Mobiliare Italiano
IRI	Istituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale
MSI	Movimento Sociale Italiano
NEP	New Economic Policy
NSDAP	Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei
NSF	Nationalsozialistische Frauenschaft
NSV	Nationalsozialistische Volkswohlfahrt
ONB	Opera Nazionale Balilla
OND	Opera Nazionale Dopolavoro
ONMI	Opera Nazionale per la Maternità ed Infanzia
OVRA	Opera Volontaria per la Repressione Antifascista
PCI	Partito Comunista Italiano
PDS	Partei des Demokratischen Sozialismus
PDS	Partito Democratico della Sinistra
PNF	Partito Nazionale Fascista
PSI	Partito Socialista Italiano
RMD	Reichsmutterdienst
RMDI	Reichsministerium des Innern

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

RMJ	Reichsministerium der Justiz
SA	Sturmabteilungen
SD	Sicherheitsdienst
SiPo	Sicherheitspolizei
SOLD	Sezione Operaie e Lavoranti a Domicilio
SPD	Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands
SS	Schutzstaffel