

Questions for thought and discussion

1. How would members of your group define fascism? Do they see some elements of their definitions as more important than others?
2. Do members think that fascism belongs to the left, right or neither?
3. Why does the author argue that it is impossible to define fascism once and for all? Are his arguments convincing?
4. The author suggests that instead of seeking an abstract definition of fascism, we should ask how people in the past and present have used and understood the term. Do the members of your group agree?
5. Where and when did fascism originate? In which country or countries? How far back in the past should we look? Why is it so difficult to answer this question?
6. Which do you think are more important to the success of fascism? Long or short-term causes?
7. Why did fascism win power in Italy and Germany and not elsewhere?
8. What issues, if any, divided fascists from other fascists?
9. Are Italian fascism and German Nazism ultimately the same thing?
10. Why did groups in so many countries in Europe and beyond designate themselves as fascist? Did they all see fascism in the same way?
11. What obstacles were there to the spread of fascism?
12. Are racism and anti-Semitism essential parts of fascism?
13. How did fascists regard the appropriate roles of men and women in society? Is fascism fundamentally macho and misogynist?
14. Some Marxists saw fascism as a terroristic dictatorship of the most reactionary elements of the bourgeoisie? Do the members of your group agree with this assessment?

15. Did fascism modernise German and/or Italian society?
16. Since the 1990s, Europe has witnessed a resurgence of parties that some observers see as fascist. Why?
17. Do you agree with the view that contemporary movements represent a resurgence of fascism? Is it helpful to ask whether or not these groups are fascist?
18. What antifascist strategies have worked best? Should fascist parties be banned?

Other Books by Kevin Passmore

The Right in France from the Third Republic to Vichy (Oxford University Press, 2013).

(Edited) *Women, Gender and Fascism in Europe, 1919-1945* (Manchester: Manchester University Press and New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, March 2003).

From Liberalism to Fascism: The Right in a French Province, 1928-1939 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997).

Further Reading

Please refer to the further reading recommendations in the back of *Fascism: A Very Short Introduction*