



Authoritarian States

Examples and Terminology

Left versus Right

Origin of terms

- Based on French Revolution and the National Convention
 - Radicals sat on left side of the body
 - Conservatives sat on the right
- Later - Communists described as extreme left (19th Cent)
- Fascist on extreme right (20th Cent)
- Left usually anti-capitalist
 - Political Spectrum graphic pg. 8 Authoritarian & Single Party States (Cambridge, 2011)

Communism

- Rooted in works of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels
- Marxist Stages (graphic pg. 9)
 - Capitalism (ag. & ind.) to Socialism to Communism
 - Classes to rule by working class to classless society based on plenty instead of scarcity
 - Stages could be skipped with assistance by an outside advanced society
 - Socialism required advanced industrial base
 - Several versions of Marxism

Marxist theories

- Leninism - democratic centralism with a leading group of revolutionaries
 - Leon Trotsky feared possible rise of dictator but believed in rapid movement through revolutionary stages
 - No outside econ or tech assistance - no other successful workers revs elsewhere
 - Leads to banning opposition parties and New Economic Policy (NEP)
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Marxist Theories

- Marxism-Leninism
 - Used by Stalin - official system of USSR and communist parties loyal to Stalin and successors
 - Stalin called it “Orthodox Marxism”
 - ‘Socialism in One Country’ and purges result
 - Critics said it distorted Marx and Lenin
 - Fulfills Trotsky’s fear of a dictator
- Stalinism - term used by historians to describe undemocratic and dictatorial communist regimes
 - Rather than Socialist Democracy - govt. of the people

Fascism

- A new ideology following WWI
- Difficult to precisely define
- Between communism & capitalism- a “Third Way”
 - Versions vary - typically extreme nationalism
 - Italian Fascism first ultra-nationalist organization
- Italian Fascism and German Nazism
 - Main difference - anti-Semitism of Nazis



Authoritarian vs. Totalitarian

- Authoritarian = no mass revolutionary movement
 - Existing conservative regime becomes increasingly undemocratic to eliminate opposition and maintain traditional structures and values **OR**
 - Arise from a military coup
- Totalitarian = result of mass movement or revolution
 - Committed to political, economic, and social change
 - Dictator able to impose will on party, state, and society