

## Political Terminology:

### Communism

- An economic ideology that advocates for a classless society in which all property and wealth is publicly owned, instead of individually or privately.
- There is a communal control of the major means of production (mines and factories) and natural resources of a society.
- A violent revolution where the working class rises up against the middle and upper class is an important part of the communist ideology.
- The communist ideology was created by Karl Marx, where the USSR was the world's first communist state.
- Criticism of communism includes political repression, no freedom of choice, and restriction of human rights.

### Fascism

- A form of far-right, authoritarian government characterized by dictatorial power and forcible suppression of opposition.
- Fascism dominated many parts of central, southern, and eastern Europe between 1919 and 1945, starting with Mussolini in Ancient Rome.
- Mussolini believed that violence was beneficial to society and creating national unity.
- Characteristics of a fascist regime include extreme militaristic nationalism, contempt for electoral democracy, and the desire to create a community by subordinating individual interests to the good of the nation.

### Socialism

- While communism and socialism are quite similar, people in socialist states are allowed to have private property and social classes still exist.
- Under socialism, all citizens share equally in economic resources as allocated by a democratically elected government.
- Socialism is a more flexible ideology than communism that seeks change through democratic processes within the existing social and political structure, instead of overthrowing the structures that Communism seeks to achieve.

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