

HISTORY 464

Stunning Study Guide #2

Awe-Inspiring Triad™

Mass politics World War I Fascism

Earth-Shattering Questions

1. What were the major ideas from before the Great War that served as important influences on fascism after the war? According to Paxton, what role did these ideas play in the appearance of fascism in comparison to other factors? Where did the intellectual precursors to fascism appear most well developed before the Great War?
2. What role does Paxton ascribe to the Left and especially the Bolshevik revolution in explaining the appearance of fascism?
3. To which particular groups did fascists seek to appeal and with which groups were they most successful? How did the constituency of fascists differ from that of Marxist socialists?
4. What kinds of compromises or adaptations did successful fascists have to make in order for their movements to take root? What specific events in the case of Italy and Germany served to transform the fascist movements there, and in what ways were analogous conditions absent in France?
5. How was the condition of the liberal order in a given country significant for the success of fascist movements? Why does Paxton contend that a faltering liberal order – as important as that is for explaining fascism – still does not imply the inevitability of fascism?
6. To what extent and in what ways do you see Paxton's propositions reflected in the text by Benito Mussolini? What significance should we attach to the fact that this text was written in 1932, long after Mussolini had actually come to power?

Terms, Concepts & People

NSDAP	Friedrich Nietzsche	Georges Sorel
Gustave Le Bon	Action Française	<i>squadristo</i>
Gabriele D'Annunzio	Fiume	Blackshirts (<i>squadristi</i>)
British Union of Fascists		