

## **Rise of Fascist Tendencies in the World: Causes and Implications**

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### **Abstract:**

*This Research Paper examines the issue of the rise of Fascist tendencies across the globe, reflected by the emergence of ultra-nationalist, racist leaders like Donald Trump (US) and Nirendra Modi (India). It aims not only at discerning Fascism's economic and psychological causes and socio-economic implications, but also at putting forth concrete suggestions to avoid a future recurrence.*

*This research found out striking similarities between the Fascists of yester years, like Hitler and Mussolini, and today's Trump and Modi. Ultra-nationalism and xenophobia are common to all. And all rose to power when the middle class in their respective countries was feeling the crunch of an economic recession. Global economic recession of 2008 and middle-class anxiety have thus been identified as the causes of rise of present day Fascists, with patriarchy and sexual suppression forming the psychological basis of propensity in the common man towards Fascism.*

*Increased protectionism has been identified as the economic implication of Fascism; war, or at least instability in a multi-polar world, being the political implication; and xenophobia in the days of social media revolution being the social manifestation.*

*Recommendations flow from the causes and implications referred to above. Economically, since unabated capitalism has failed to deliver on its promise, the answer is in Mixed Economy envisaging state monopolization of social welfare subjects like education and health. That needs to be augmented*

*with Social Democracy on the political front. And lastly, sexual freedom, especially for women, is the key to bringing about the collapse of the Fascist ideology.*

**Key Words:** Fascism, Leadership, Democracy, Political, Global

## **INTRODUCTION**

Rise to prominence of ultra-nationalist leaders like Donald Trump and Narendra Modi on the global stage has raised many an eyebrow and initiated a lot of scholarship to look into the causes of their emergence. Comparisons are being drawn between today's global economic circumstances and those which saw Hitler and Mussolini rise as European Fascists. Last time around, the Fascists led us to the devastation of the Second World War, which necessitates an analysis of the reasons which lead to the rise of Fascist leaders. Especially, is there something in the psychological make-up of the modern man or in the basis of modern civilization to make the masses vulnerable to Fascist tendencies? Also, the consequences which might befall the world at the hands of Fascism need to be anticipated and arrested, in order to avert the horrors of another great war.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The emergence of ultra-nationalist, misogynist, xenophobic leaders, like Donald Trump, Narendra Modi and Tayyip Erdogan on the global stage, bears eerie similarities with that of Fascist Mussolini and Hitler from the past century. How deep do these similarities go, and what are the causes and implications of the emergence of this phenomenon? Finally, can anything be recommended to avoid a recurrence?

### **Significance and Scope of Study**

The understanding of the recent wave of Fascism is significant since the future course of International Relations will depend a lot on how this episode plays out on the global scene. The last major Fascist wave took the world into the agony and misery of a global war. It becomes our moral and intellectual

responsibility to apprise the next generation of the horrors of Fascism. However, this research cannot claim to present an exhaustive list of the causes and implications of Fascism, or the entire range of recommendations to avoid its repetition.

### **Review of Literature**

I found Karl Polanyi's magnum opus, 'The Great Transformation', Roger Griffin's 'The Nature of Fascism' and Wilhelm Reich's 'The Mass Psychology of Fascism' to be incredibly interesting and insightful. A number of Articles on the internet helped me identify Trump and Modi as modern day Fascists.

### **Methodology**

The method I adopted to study the development of Hitler and Mussolini was chronological. The rest of the paper adopts the descriptive / analytical approach. The nature of research necessitated the use of qualitative data from secondary sources, such as books, journals, magazines and newspaper articles.

### **Organization of the Paper**

The First Section enlists the features of Fascism. Section – II attempts to identify the Fascist in Trump, Modi and Erdogan by comparing them with Hitler and Mussolini while simultaneously looking at the causes which lead to the rise of Fascism. The Third Section delves into the political, economic and social implications of Fascism for the world. That is followed by my own recommendations and conclusion pertaining to the same three areas.

## **SECTION - I: WHAT IS FASCISM?**

Fascism is radical authoritarianism, imbued with ultra-nationalism and racism, and characterized by suppression of opposition and regimentation of industry and commerce.

According to Wilhelm Reich, “The structure of Fascism is characterized by metaphysical thinking, unorthodox faith, obsession with abstract ethical ideals, and belief in the divine predestination of the Führer<sup>1</sup>.”

### **Features of Fascism<sup>2</sup>**

#### ***Traditionalism***

The Traditionalist culture under a Fascist regime will combine different forms of belief and also tolerate such contradictions. It will borrow from diverse spiritual messages for its advantage. ‘Eternal Truths’ have been spelled out, and all that is needed is interpreting their obscure messages. Consequently, nothing new needs to be learned.

#### ***Rejection of Modernism***

Overtly, the Fascists’ message will be one of rejection of capitalism and the materialistic lifestyle that comes with it. Everything which signifies a modern advancement should be shunned. But under the facade of this rejection of the modern world lies the rejection of revolutionary spirit. The Enlightenment, the Age of Reason, is seen as the beginning of modern depravity. This is where Fascism becomes ‘Irrationalism’.

#### ***Disagreement is Treason***

To distinguish and to criticize is a sign of Modernism.

#### ***Action for Action’s Sake***

Irrationalism also derives its strength from the notion of ‘Action for Action’s Sake’. Action is beautiful. It must be taken without much pre-meditation. In fact, thinking too much is a sign of lack of manliness.

***Fear of Difference***

Fascism exploits the natural *fear of difference*. The Fascist will always be pointing fingers at the 'Others'. That is how Fascism is racist in essence.

***Appeal to a Frustrated Middle Class***

Middle class is the insecure class. Fascist leaders always take fancy to this insecurity. Historically, Fascism has appealed to a frustrated middle class, especially when it is suffering from an economic crisis or feelings of political humiliation.

***Obsession with a Plot***

For those who suffer from an identity crisis, belonging to the same country is the profoundest privilege. This is the origin of nationalism. Besides, the best way to provide an identity to the nation is through its enemies. Thus, at the root of the Fascist psychology there is the *obsession with a plot*, preferably an international one.

***Cult of Heroism***

In every mythology the hero is an exceptional being, but to a Fascist, heroism is the norm. This is also linked with the cult of death. The Fascist hero craves heroic death, and is, therefore, impatient to die. In his impatience, he very often sends other people to death.

## SECTION - II: WAVE OF EMERGENCE OF FASCIST LEADERS

### Donald Trump

Donald Trump has been compared to Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin by a professor at America's Yale University. "In my world, where I come from, it's the 1930s," Timothy Snyder told talk show host Bill Maher, in March 2017. "Picking out a group of your neighbours and citizens and associating them with the worldwide threat, that's the 1930s.

"And what we have to remember with the 1930s, we think of Hitler and Stalin as super villains. But they're not; they could only come to power with some form of consent."<sup>3</sup>

There have been unmissable Hitlerian undertones in many of Trump's speeches and tweets, his preferred but reckless mode of communicating with the world. At the occasion of pulling America out of Paris Climate Accord on June 1, 2017, Donald Trump said, "At what point does America get demeaned? At what point do they start laughing at us as a country? .... We don't want other leaders and other countries laughing at us anymore, and they won't be. They won't be." He was eerily borrowing expressions from one of Hitler's speeches in 1942. Shortly after the Jews started being executed in the gas chambers, Hitler declared, "Today countless numbers of those who laughed at that time laugh no longer. Those who are still laughing now also will perhaps laugh no longer after a while."<sup>4</sup>

He loves to exploit the natural "*Fear of Difference*" (1.1 – Features of Fascism). He referred to refugees from Central America as 'an invading criminal force'<sup>5</sup> against whom he was ready to use military force. Instead of acknowledging that his rabidly racist rhetoric might have contributed to the massacre of 11 people in a Pittsburgh synagogue, he blamed the media<sup>6</sup> for the violence, because to a Fascist, "*Disagreement is Treason*".

## **Narendra Modi**

The elected leader of the world's largest democracy stunned the rational world when he claimed that cosmetic surgery and reproductive genetics were practiced thousands of years ago in ancient India<sup>7</sup>. He tried 'proving' his point by citing examples from 'Mahabharata' of the warrior Karna and the elephant-headed Hindu god Ganesha. This is much in line with the Fascism's feature of '*Traditionalism*', which seeks to interpret the obscure messages contained in the 'eternal truths' when it serves the Fascists' purpose.

Other features of Fascism are also clearly discernable in Modi's India, like equating the Muslims with 'demons' and 'descendants of Ravana', or asking the Muslims to 'go to Pakistan' by the BJP parliamentarians at a Sangh Parivar meeting in 2016<sup>8</sup>, in line with the '*Fear of Difference*' at the heart of Fascism. Even the country's top universities are not exempt. A lower caste untouchable Hindu was banned from University of Hyderabad campus, which resulted in his suicide in January 2017<sup>9</sup>. Other incidents included the replacement of German with Sanskrit in schools<sup>10</sup>, and the issuance of a letter by an RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh) member of the Human Resource Development (HRD) ministry to all the sixteen Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) directing to stop the spread of bad culture resulting from the serving of non-vegetarian dishes on campuses<sup>11</sup>.

## **Comparison with Past Fascists**

### **Mussolini**

The pro-war (WW-I) lobby which formed in the autumn of 1914<sup>12</sup> included democrats, right wing liberals, reformist socialists, several cabinet members and even the Italian prime minister and foreign minister. A feature of Fascism, '*Action for Action's Sake*', is manifest here. All diverse political entities thought it expedient to forge a united front with forces with

which they had nothing in common, because each one sensed that it was *the time to strike*.

The important lesson is that Fascism cannot be defined as a movement in the initial stages. As Karl Polanyi in his magnum opus, *The Great Transformation*, (1944) writes: A country approaching the Fascist phase showed symptoms among which the existence of a Fascist movement proper was not necessarily one. At least as important signs were the spread of irrationalistic philosophies, racialist esthetics, anti-capitalistic demagogy, heterodox currency views, criticism of the party system, widespread disparagement of the ... existing democratic set-up.<sup>13</sup> Initially, Fascism is just a fringe activist phenomenon lurking on the outskirts of mainstream political activity. It is the development of peculiar circumstances – October 1914, in this case – which transforms this phenomenon into a movement.

Mussolini's Fascism was based upon the idea of a charismatic ruler, on corporatism, on the utopia of the Imperial Fate of Rome, on an imperialistic will to conquer new territories, on an exacerbated nationalism, on the ideal of an entire nation regimented in black shirts, on the rejection of parliamentary democracy, on anti-Semitism<sup>14</sup>. In Italian Fascism, the free press was a dream, the labor unions were outlawed, and political dissenters were sent to remote islands. The Fascist Party while claiming that it brought a revolutionary new order was financed by the most conservative landowners who were actually providing a mildly revolutionary alternative to the Communist threat.

### **Hitler**

Nazism did not flow directly or naturally from the *völkisch* (populist / nationalist / racist person or ideology) nationalism prevalent in the German society before it. That nationalism represented diverse and diffuse phenomena with many foci of associated organizations and publications. Hitler's National Socialists, on the other hand, were relatively well-organized. Nazism drew upon the political myth that the German nation had been reborn in a new post-liberal order, to convert conservatism into full-blown Fascism once the war had



obliterated the lines of distinction between already blurry sub-cultural phenomena (Griffin 1996, 86). Again, the First World War was the event that gelled the discrete into cohesion. It acquainted Adolf Hitler, ‘an unusual soldier with a sloppy manner and un-military bearing’<sup>15</sup>, with war.

He continued to work for the military after WW-I, and then joined the Workers’ Democratic Party (DAP) – later, the Nazi Party – in 1919 adopting its anti-semitic, nationalistic and anti-Marxist ideas<sup>16</sup>. In 1921, he became the Nazi Party chairman. But it was the Great Depression, with millions of unemployed in Germany, which provided him with the political opportunity and saw him rise to the position of Chancellor of Germany, which he used to form a de-facto legal dictatorship. Reichstag Fire Decree allowed for the suspension of basic rights and detention without trial, while the Enabling Act allowed for deviations from the constitution. From 1933 to the start of WW-II in 1939, Hitler’s Nazi Party instituted hundreds of laws to restrict and exclude Jews in society, including the national boycott of Jewish businesses and Jews’ exclusion from state service<sup>17</sup>. All this culminated in the killing of six million Jews during WW-II, known as the Holocaust.

Hitler’s Fascism was not limited to the persecution of the Jews only. He came down hard on the homosexuals, children born with disabilities, Poles, communists, Jehovah’s Witnesses and trade unionists. The people in the Concentration Camps were subjected to the most inhuman atrocities, including having to endure gruesome and painful medical experiments.<sup>18</sup>

## **Causes of Emergence of Fascism**

### **Global Economic Crisis**

The Fascist solution of the impasse reached by liberal capitalism can be described as a reform of market economy achieved at the price of the extirpation of all democratic institutions, both in the industrial and in the political realm (Polanyi 1944, 237). Actually, the degree of success or failure

of Fascism can be determined by the sole factor of the condition of the market system. During 1917-23, the markets were not doing too badly. That is why Fascism, during that period, was not the force it turned into less than a decade later. Between 1924 and 1929, the market system was sustaining itself, and Fascism fizzled out of the global political horizon (Polanyi 1944, 242). However, as soon as the market economic crisis appeared in 1930, the world witnessed the rise of Fascism as the force to reckon with.

The world was hit by an Economic Crisis in 2008. The first world, in particular, responded to the Crisis in one of the two ways. On the one hand, the acceptance of Marxist / socialist ideals started gaining currency. In 2008, as many as 52% of East Germans believed capitalism to be unsuitable and a whopping 43% wanted socialism back. In 2012, a five-day festival in London, 'Marxism 2012', organized by Socialist Workers' Party, was attended by thousands of people, with ever-increasing youth participation<sup>19</sup>. A book in 2011 by English literature professor Terry Eagleton was titled "Why Marx Was Right". These trends led to socialist leaders, Bernie Sanders and Jeremy Corbyn, attracting audiences which were unimaginable in the pre-2008 world.

On the other hand, ultra-nationalism and ultra-conservatism also saw an unprecedented global appeal. Trump and Modi belong to this category. Could it be that this wave of Fascism is being regulated so as to ward off a resurgent socialism in the very heart of capitalism, just as the Italian Fascism under Mussolini was seen as a mild revolutionary alternative to Communism? As pointed out by Wilhelm Reich, "But Fascism was anything but a revolutionary movement. It was merely a precipitant change from the autocracy of private capitalism to state capitalism (Reich Kindle ed, 1616).

### **War Economy**

War is widely, and wrongly, accepted to be linked with good economic times. Again, it is mistakenly held that it was the Second World War which brought the world out of the Great Depression. Joseph Stiglitz, the American Economics Nobel laureate, however, believes it to be hogwash<sup>20</sup>. He thinks that

markets abhor uncertainty and volatility, and that conflict or war brings about both. The economic recession of 1991, according to Stiglitz, owed itself in large part to the Gulf War the same year.

While war costs are met by cuts in education, healthcare and environment, invariably bringing the ordinary man's standard of living down, the proponents of war as a real spur to economic growth outnumber and outwit the rational voices, like that of Stiglitz. War could increase demand for oil (needed by countries involved in war), or decrease supply by the oil producers (especially when the war is happening in an oil producing region), both resulting in increasing the oil prices. War-mongers cannot forget, for instance, that in the first two months after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1992, the oil price doubled from around \$20 per barrel to almost \$40 per barrel.

To wage perpetual wars is not possible without simultaneously whipping up mass war hysteria. And that is what the Fascist loves to do. It isn't just Al-Qaeda or ISIS which needs to be eliminated to ensure freedom for civilization. The list needs to be continuously updated to include the potential foes to wage wars against, including Muslims, Mexicans, non-British Europeans, Blacks and Homosexuals.

### **Middle Class Anxiety**

Middle class encompasses all the upholders of eternal moral (and patriarchal) values and all the movers and shakers of the new world order. "Owing to its character structure, the middle class has a social power far in excess of its economic importance. It is the class that preserves nothing less than several thousand years of patriarchy (Reich Kindle ed, 1056)."

One of the most important causes of Fascism is middle class frustration or anxiety. The middle class was recently exposed to this anxiety in the wake of the 2008 global economic recession. It manifested differently in different parts of the world.

A series of movements bringing down one entrenched dictatorship after another, popularly known as the Arab Spring,

was a manifestation of middle class anxiety. The rise of Aam Admi Party of Kejriwal in India and that of Tehreek e Insaf in Pakistan were also expressions of the same middle-class frustration at the unexpected turn of events robbing them of their recently earned economic security.

Middle class movements are more of storms in teacups. It is because the middle class is an anti-revolutionary class. As explained by Wilhelm Reich (Reich Kindle ed, 1044-46): “The middle class can be and is ‘a motive force in history,’ if not permanently then at least temporarily; it prevents the economic crisis from developing into a political upheaval, into a social revolution.”

### **Psycho-sexual basis of Fascism**

There is a significant body of scholarly work which points to a psychological basis of propensity towards Fascism in the common man, and woman. Two factors in particular suggest that it is almost natural for the ordinary man to bow willingly and obsequiously to authority.

### **Patriarchy**

When human civilization took the turn from matriarchy to patriarchy, it sowed the seeds of deference towards authority. For millennia now, humans have been trained, through the institution of family, to look up towards an alpha male to deliver them from misery. “Thus, the family is the authoritarian state in miniature, to which the child must learn to adapt himself as a preparation for the general social adjustment required of him later (Reich Kindle ed, 843).”

Add to that the dynamics of a machine civilization, and reverence for the tyranny of religion, and you have a mind ready for the Fascist ideology. “Fascism is the basic emotional attitude of the suppressed man of our authoritarian machine civilization and its mechanistic-mystical conception of life (Reich Kindle ed, 114).”

### **Civilization based on sexual suppression**

Freudian psychologists claim that modern civilization is based on suppression of sexuality. Suppression of only such a profound instinct as sex could ensure the enslavement of humanity.

“The suppression of one’s primitive material needs compasses a different result than the suppression of one’s sexual needs. The former incites to rebellion, whereas the latter ... prevents rebellion against both forms of suppression. Indeed, the inhibition of rebellion itself is unconscious (Reich Kindle ed, 856).”

Also, “Sexual inhibition prevents the average adolescent from thinking and feeling in a rational way (Reich Kindle ed, 2321).” It is for this reason that the average youth of our civilization is so vulnerable to befuddlement and confusion, and lends himself that easily to ‘Syncretistic Traditionalism’. In fact, the institution of family plays the role of entrenchment of this sexual suppression of which both men and women are victims. Even more unique and particularly disposed in the bourgeois society is the position of the woman. This society has attributed certain mythological features to the woman within the family which deprive her completely of any creative and constructive role in society<sup>21</sup>: Family is a natural (not social) and inevitable creation; the woman belongs in the home to raise the children and to submit to the man; she has to maintain what her man ‘creates’ by earning a livelihood.

## **SECTION - III: IMPLICATIONS OF EMERGENCE OF FASCISM**

### **Economic Implications**

#### **Increased protectionism**

With Trump having already rescinded the momentous Iran deal, it is possible that the states' obligations under the WTO might also not be kept. The states might move towards increased protectionism, the signs of which are already apparent. For instance, as reported by the Financial Times, the WTO warned in June, 2016 that the world's leading economies are increasingly introducing protectionist measures<sup>22</sup>. The same 2016 WTO Report<sup>23</sup> observed that there had been a slowdown in global trade for the fifth consecutive year. Between 2008 and June 2016, the time of publishing of the WTO Report, G20 economies introduced 1,583 new trade restricting measures and removed just 387. Between mid-October of 2015 and mid-May of 2016, 145 new protectionist measures were introduced —the worst monthly average since the WTO began monitoring G20 economies in 2009. That increasing protectionism is widely believed to be one of the major factors why the world economy has not been able to emerge from the tailspin it found itself in 2008. More worrisome is the fact that trade barriers like these worsened the 1930s Depression. Although the world today is still far from the trade barriers erected before the Great Depression – more than 50% of global trade was lost then, as opposed to just over 5% loss of global imports since 2008<sup>24</sup> – the loss of subtlety in Fascist overtones about their impassioned protectionist rhetoric has had many an economic pundit worried.

## **Political Implications**

### **War**

Fascism leads to War! In August 1935, i.e. four years before WW-II was upon the world, the Seventh Congress of the Communist International declared: *Fascism is war*<sup>25</sup>. It serves many purposes. First, war makes better headlines than economy. Second, there is no better cover than war to hide the truth behind, which in the case of Fascism is the first casualty (Dictatorial power and truth do not go together. They are mutually exclusive – Reich Kindle ed, 5627). Third, and most importantly, the Fascists' real purpose of 'providing a soft alternative to (a socialist) revolution' can only partly be achieved if the wheel of economy is somehow kept spinning. War can help sustain that, albeit over the very short period.

### **Instability Arising out of Multi-polarity**

The heydays of unbridled US superiority seem already to be over. There are other powers claiming their stakes in the global power pie. The pace at which China is acquiring parts of the American economic debt could enable her to economically overtake the US in the next decades. Population growths in India and Brazil have been predicted since the late 1990s to foster the 'inexorable' economic rise<sup>26</sup> of these two countries to play important roles on the global stage. Russia enjoys a leverage viz-a-viz Europe due to its natural resources under the Siberian soil, and her military might.

But will multi-polarity be a good thing with Fascism looming on the global horizon? Unfortunately, history suggests otherwise. Multi-polarity has been equated with instability. In 1914, the Triple Alliance, counterbalanced by the Triple Entente, unleashed upon the world the catastrophic devastation of the First World War. Similarly, though the Axis Powers under Hitler's Germany and Mussolini's Italy were vanquished in WW-II by the Allied Powers (Great Britain, US, China and Russia), the world had suffered from the consequences of the instability wrought by multi-polarity. Multi-polarity in the present day poses far more serious challenges to stability than

the last century. There are other factors at play today. The two most important ones are nuclear capabilities in the hands of small or medium states – Iran, Pakistan and North Korea – and the increased relevance of quite well armed non-state actors in global affairs. While some scholars argue that the new multi-polar world would be less war prone because of nuclear deterrence<sup>27</sup>, the majority of them consider the presence of nuclear weapons as source of instability<sup>28</sup>.

## **Social Implications**

### **Xenophobia**

In a world going through the social media revolution, it is ironical that this phase of sweeping Fascist tendencies is giving way to xenophobia, which was considered buried at the altar of IT/social media revolution. The American society, after 9/11, had started believing in the notion that patriotism and racism are synonymous<sup>29</sup>. In the first week after 9/11, US media reported 645 hate- or bias- motivated incidents across the country. In 2015, three young Arab students in North Carolina were murdered in their homes by their white-supremacist neighbor. But in 2017, the communities in the US started witnessing hate violence on a scale which is comparable to the immediate aftermath of 9/11. And it is all because the Trump administration is targeting the Muslims and the immigrants with discriminatory policies, which embolden hate groups to attack them. Since the presidential election till October, 2017, South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT) documented over 150 incidents of violence against those who identified or were perceived as Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, South Asian, Middle Eastern, or Arab American. Trump administration's "America First" policy is drenched in xenophobia<sup>30</sup>. The US is not alone in the developed world to be falling prey to this xenophobic phenomenon. An 'Identitarian' movement in Europe presents millennial professionals who are openly disdainful of the immigrants and echoing the far-right perspective<sup>31</sup>.



## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Mixed Economy**

The concept of Mixed Economy implies an economic system embracing the capitalist economic principles (like free trade and open market) as well as the socialist ones (like state monopolization of subjects of social welfare e.g. health, education, public transport). The rate of personal income tax in such economies is very high and may reach up to 55 to 60%, as is the case with Sweden<sup>32</sup>.

In a Mixed Economy, the circulation of capital does not stop; it reaches the lowest echelons of society – a measure that leads to the elimination of the class based society in general i.e. in due time, there will be no lowest echelons. Secondly, market failures, and consequently recessions, can be avoided in a mixed economy. It is because ‘demand’ in a mixed economy does not have to be invented. Demand for clean drinking water, free healthcare for all, or access to quality education will always be there. The chances of failure of a market spending in these areas would be minimal. Therefore, avoid market failures, and you can avert Fascism.

### **Social Democracy**

Social democracy and mixed economy augment each other. Eduard Bernstein (1850 – 1932), a German political theorist and politician, was the father of social democracy. As opposed to Marx, despite loving the socialist idea, Bernstein was not an advocate of class struggle, but a proponent of cross-class cooperation. Social democracy is distinguished by its belief in the possibility of a “parliamentary road” to socialism<sup>33</sup>.

In a world where neo-liberal capitalism has almost certainly failed us, and Marxim is being awaited by those who are keeping their fingers crossed, social democracy not only provides a full-fledged alternative to Marxism and Liberalism<sup>34</sup>, but also is currently the only successfully delivering political ideology. The global intelligentsia has to invest its energies to save democracy from remaining just a ‘project for the capitalist’.

### **Sexual Freedom**

The notion of sexual freedom implies the emancipation of sexuality from the whimsical shackles prescribed by traditional orthodoxy, and sometimes even by law<sup>35</sup>.

As discussed under the ‘*Civilization based on Sexual Suppression*’ earlier in this paper, women are particularly subjected to sexual suppression through some mythological attributions. Therefore, sexual freedom for the women would mean the liberation of women from exploitative shackles. As Victoria Woodhull, a very forcefully vocal 19<sup>th</sup> century feminist, who raised her voice for sexual freedom for the women in times of Victorian morality, said<sup>36</sup>: “Sexual freedom means the abolition of prostitution both in and out of marriage, means the emancipation of woman and her coming into control of her own body.” Not only this, it will also deliver a death blow to the dictatorial mindset resulting in the women’s exploitation and subjugation, and consequently to the Fascist ideology. As summed up by Wilhelm Reich (Kindle ed, 1,987): Sexually awakened women, affirmed and recognized as such, would mean the complete collapse of the authoritarian ideology.

### **CONCLUSION**

Fascism is radical authoritarianism, tinged with shades of ultra-nationalism, racism, misogyny and characterized by regimentation of industry and commerce. Outwardly it pretends to be anti-capitalist, but in essence it aims at ensuring that capitalism sails through turbulent times by providing a soft alternative to socialism. Unless gelled into cohesion by peculiar circumstances (economic recession or war), Fascism would remain on the insignificant fringes of the political spectrum.

Trump and Modi evince many features of Fascism which make them the direct descendants of Hitler and Mussolini whose authoritarianism and perverse nationalism also won popular appeal in times of economic recession and rising unemployment. Both generations of Fascists have banked upon

middle class anxiety as well as the psycho-sexual propensity of the ordinary man to bow before the Fuhrer.

Protectionism and increased trade barriers at the hands of the Fascists of the previous century prolonged the Great Depression. The same economic implications are becoming unnervingly manifest today. On the political front, the fist pumping and chest thumping Trump is a scary reminder of how the past Fascists took the world to the Second World War. Socially, xenophobia, which was expected to have been killed at the altar of social media revolution, is alive again.

Unbridled capitalism in its current crude form cannot deliver the world out of economic chaos. The answer lies in Mixed Economy which implies an economic system embracing the capitalist economic principles (like free trade and open market) and the socialist ones (like state monopolization of subjects of social welfare e.g. health, education, etc.). That needs to be augmented with Social Democracy which leads to a class-less society not through class conflict but through cross-class cooperation. Finally, Sexual Freedom, emancipating sexuality from whimsical shackles of orthodoxy can deal the surest deathblow to any authoritarian ideology.

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