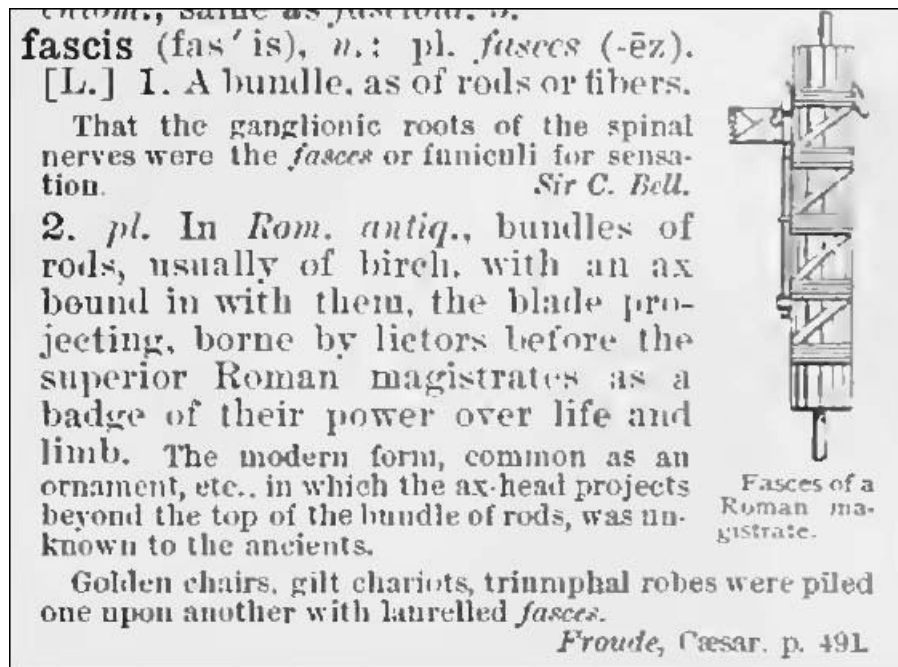


History of Fasces and Fascism

This study will explore the history of the fasces, and show how the United States has openly embraced their symbolism.

What are fasces?

From The Century Dictionary, an Encyclopedic Lexicon of the English Language, 1895:



A fascis was, in Roman antiquity, an ax tied with a bundle of rods, and borne before the Roman magistrates as a badge of their authority.¹ It symbolized the unification of people under a single government.²

In Acts 16:35 – 40 the holders of the rods were called “serjeants”:

“And when it was day, the magistrates sent the serjeants, saying, Let those men go. And the keeper of the prison told this saying to Paul, The magistrates have sent to let you go: now therefore depart, and go in peace. But Paul said unto them, They have beaten us openly uncondemned, being Romans, and have cast us into prison; and now do they thrust us out privily? nay verily; but let them come themselves and fetch us out. And the serjeants told these words unto the magistrates: and they feared, when they heard that they were Romans. And they came and besought them, and brought them out, and desired them to depart out of the city. And they went out of the prison, and entered into the house of Lydia: and when they had seen the brethren, they comforted them, and departed.”³



The word “serjeants” is translated from the Greek word ῥαβδοῦχος, which is transliterated as *rhabdouchos* and literally means rod holder, i.e. a Roman *lictor* (*constable* or *executioner*).⁴ During the Roman Empire, “serjeants” were Roman lictors, public officers who went before magistrates, one by one in line, carrying fasces. They inflicted punishment on the condemned, and commanded the people to pay proper respect to a passing magistrate, by uncovering, dismounting from horseback, and standing out of the way.⁵

What is fascism?

Economist and author Richard Maybury describes fascism as “the political philosophy that is no philosophy at all, do whatever appears necessary” and a “pseudopatriotic, paranoid philosophy of hate.”⁶ Derived from the laws of the Roman Empire, fascism is a system of government in which property is privately owned, but all industry and business is regulated by a strong national government.⁷ Fascists believe in

doing whatever appears necessary to benefit The State.

Two outcomes of a fascist system are:

A.) Suppression of civil liberties, representative government, and intellectual freedom;

B.) Regimentation of the people under a despotic leader untrammelled by popular elections, legislative bodies, and a free press.⁸

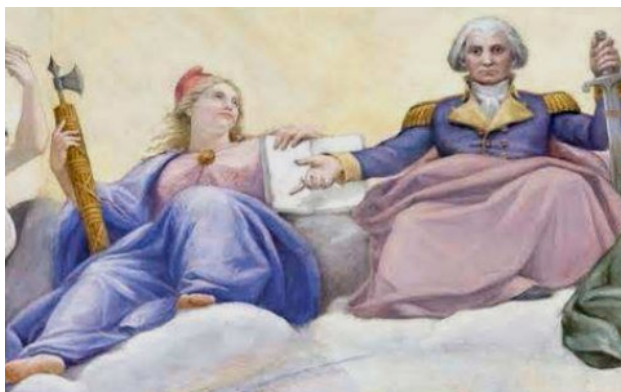
Under fascism, the State controls all aspects of manufacturing, commerce, finance, and agriculture.⁹ Benito Mussolini, the purported “father of fascism” said, “Fascism should rightly be called Corporatism as it is a merge of state and corporate power. Against individualism, the Fascist conception is for the State ... Liberalism denied the State in the interests of the particular individual; Fascism reaffirms the State as the true reality of the individual.” Mussolini also said, “The Fascist conception of the State is all-embracing; outside of it no human or spiritual values can exist, much less have value. Thus understood, Fascism is totalitarian, and the Fascist State -- a synthesis and a unit inclusive of all values -- interprets, develops, and potentiates the whole life of a people.”

The “Masters of Disguise”

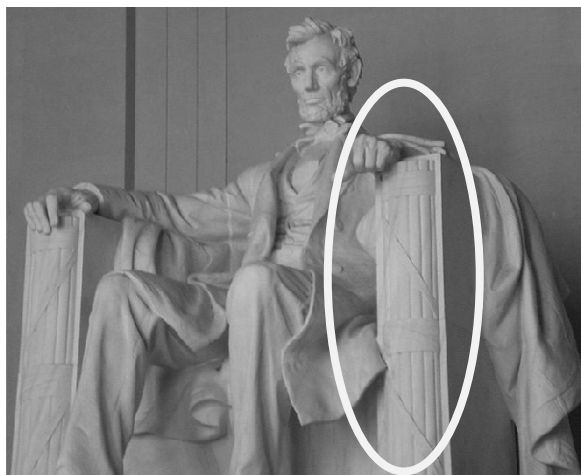
Maybury calls fascists “masters of disguise.” Because they always do what is expedient, if it benefits The State to call its system a Republic, or a Democracy, then that is what they call it. If “fascist” is given a bad name by Mussolini and his ilk, “progressive,” “patriotic,” “nationalist,” “corporatist,” “cooperative federalist” and/or “statist” become the new terms. It is always sold to the public as something it isn’t. As Sinclair Lewis said, “Fascism will come wrapped in a flag and carrying a bible.”



George Washington was a “master of disguise.” He embraced the Roman system, with all its symbolism and ideology, and is memorialized at the Washington Monument with his coat cleverly hiding a fascis, and on the Apotheosis of Washington on the rotunda of the Capitol Building in Washington DC.



Abraham Lincoln was a “master of disguise.” A “republican,” a modern-day successor to the ideals of the old Roman Republic, his goal was the unification, by force, of all the states under one central government. His fascist ideology was memorialized with a statue featuring fasces on the seat, as well as the stairway going up to the Lincoln Memorial.



Franklin Delano Roosevelt was a “master of disguise.” While rallying people to fight fascism abroad, he warned them of the problems liberation from fascist tyranny would bring.¹⁰ And he moved the United States closer and closer to a corporate state (another nicer word for fascism), with his New Deal controls over manufacturing, commerce, labor and farming, all the while keeping in circulation, until 1946, the Mercury Dime, featuring a fascis.

Are the Armed Forces “masters of disguise?” While they are prohibited by Code of Federal Regulations (32 CFR§ 53.2) from wearing the armed forces uniform while conducting any fascist activity, including “acts of force or violence to deny others their rights under The Constitution of the United States, or as seeking to alter the form of Government of the United States by unconstitutional means,” the fasces, symbolic of fascism, appear on:



*Shoulder sleeve
insignia of 18th
Military Police Brigade*



*Seal of the National
Guard Bureau and
insignia of Regular
Army officers assigned
to National Guard*



*Shoulder sleeve
insignia of 42nd
Military Police Brigade*

Are officers of the United States “masters of disguise?” While they are prohibited by Code of Federal Regulations (5 CFR § 1501.8) from having “Membership in, or affiliation or sympathetic association with, any foreign or domestic organization, association, movement, or group or combination of persons, designated by the Attorney General as totalitarian, fascist, communist, or subversive, or as having adopted a policy of advocating or approving the commission of acts of force or violence to deny other persons their rights under the Constitution of the United States, or as seeking to alter the form of government of the United States by unconstitutional means,” the very fasces symbols say otherwise:



House chamber of the US Capitol



*The seal of the
United States
Courts
Administrative
Office*



*The seal of the
United States
Senate*

Who is the fascist?

Matthew 7:20 says, “Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.”¹¹

If we look at the fruits of fascism...

- Lawlessness (expediency is the rule of “law”)
- State control of manufacturing, commerce, finance, and agriculture
- Men retain the responsibilities of owning property, while State holds all power over it
- Suppression of intellectual freedom
- Destruction of individualism
- Lack of representation in government
- Elimination of opposition
- Oppression by police state
- Complete conversion of social power into State power
- Promises of security from the terror of crime

...it isn't too hard to figure out who the fascists are.

Richard M. Ebeling, professor of economics at Hillsdale College, asked:

“Who is the fascist? Individualism and the political philosophy of limited government is not only inconsistent with but is the exact opposite of fascism and Nazism. Under fascism and Nazism, the state reigns supreme with absolute power over everyone and all forms of property. It can well be asked: who is the fascist, when the president of the United States and many Democrats and Republicans in congress call for expanded authority for the FBI and other federal security agencies to intrude into the lives of the American citizenry? Who is the fascist, when the call is made for increased power for the FBI to undertake “roving wiretapping” or have easier access to the telephone and credit-card records of the general population? Who is the fascist, when the proposal is made to make it easier for the FBI to investigate and infiltrate any political organization or association because the government views it as a potential terrorist danger?”

History always repeats itself. We only need look through the pages of the history books to identify the fascists' *modus operandi*. Vasily Grossman was an anti-fascist Russian author who lived through fascist regimes. Let's learn from his experience, and heed his warning:

“Man and fascism cannot co-exist. If fascism conquers, man will cease to exist and there will remain only man-like creatures that have undergone an internal transformation. But if man, man who is endowed with reason and kindness, should conquer, then Fascism must perish, and those who have submitted to it will once again become people.”

Endnotes

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- ¹ Noah Webster, American Dictionary of the English Language, 1828
- ² Richard Maybury, Ancient Rome, How it Affects You Today, 1995
- ³ Holy Bible, King James Version, 1769
- ⁴ James Strong, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, 1890
- ⁵ Marvin Vincent, Word Studies in the New Testament, 1886
- ⁶ Richard Maybury, Are You Liberal? Conservative? Or Confused?, 2004
- ⁷ Thorndike Century Senior Dictionary, 1941
- ⁸ Charles and Mary Beard, The Beards' Basic History of the United States, 1944
- ⁹ Sheldon Richman, "Fascism." The Concise Encyclopedia of Economics, 2008. Library of Economics and Liberty. 5 December 2015. <<http://www.econlib.org/library/Enc/Fascism.html>>.
- ¹⁰ Franklin Delano Roosevelt, State of the Union Address, January 6, 1945
- ¹¹ Holy Bible, King James Version, 1769

Photos from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fasces>