

Fascism...believes neither in the possibility nor the utility of perpetual peace. It thus repudiates the doctrine of Pacifism -- born of a renunciation of the struggle and an act of cowardice in the face of sacrifice. War alone brings up to its highest tension all human energy and puts the stamp of nobility upon the peoples who have courage to meet it....

Such a conception of life makes Fascism the complete opposite of so-called scientific and Marxian Socialism, the materialist conception of history.... Fascism, now and always, believes in holiness and in heroism; that is to say, in action influenced by no economic motive

Fascism repudiates the conception of "economic" happiness, to be realised by Socialism . . . which would reduce men to the level of animals, caring for one thing only – to be fat and well-fed – and would thus degrade humanity to a purely physical existence.

After Socialism, Fascism combats the whole complex system of democratic ideology, and repudiates it.... Fascism denies that the majority, by the simple fact that it is a majority, can direct human society; it denies that numbers alone can govern by means of a periodical consultation, and it affirms the immutable, beneficial, and fruitful inequality of mankind... The Fascist State organizes the nation, but leaves a sufficient margin of liberty to the individual; the latter is deprived of all useless and possible harmful freedom, but retains what is essential; the deciding power in this question cannot be the individual, but the State alone...

For Fascism, the growth of Empire, that is to say the expansion of the nation, is an essential manifestation of vitality, and its opposite a sign of decadence. Peoples which are rising, or rising again after a period of decadence, are always imperialist; and renunciation is a sign of decay and of death. Fascism is the doctrine best adapted to represent the tendencies and the aspirations of a people, like the people of Italy, who are rising again after many centuries of abasement and foreign servitude. But Empire demands discipline, the co-ordination of all forces and a deeply-felt sense of duty and sacrifice... for never before has the nation stood more in need of authority, of direction and order.

-Benito Mussolini, translated by Jane Soames, "The Political and Social Doctrine of Fascism" (1933) excerpt.