

FASCISM

Cause of the rise of Fascism in Italy :-

- Italy was on the side of England and France during the world war I (1914-18). Therefore, she had to suffer a great loss at the hands of Germany and Austria.
- Under the Secret Treaty of London, England agreed to give Italy sufficient money and large territory, but when England became victorious in war, she completely ignored the claims of Italy.
- Italy faced great loss in the First World War.
- Due to this there was a great resentment among its people.
- Secondly, there was a widespread discontentment in Italy because after the war, demobilisation took place in the army.
- Production was falling because the Communists were instigating the workers to resort to strike in order to bring in communism.
- Thirdly, there was indiscipline in all walks of life in Italy.
- Fourth, the democratic government established after first world war could not solve any problem of Italy satisfactorily.

- In such situation Mussolini established Fascist Party in March 1919.
- The principles of Fascist party is called Fascism.
- After the large scale demonstration of Mussolini against the Govn of Rome, then the Prime Minister Giulio Giolitti had to tender his resignation on October 27, 1922.
- After that the King of Italy appointed Mussolini the Prime Minister and announced a Council of Minister with his consent.
- Mussolini acquired all the powers of the gov'n and the King was left with only nominal powers.

Doctrines of Fascism-

- The term Fascism has been derived from Italian word fascio which means a bundle of wood.
- In ancient times the national symbol of Roman Empire was a bundle of wood and an axe.
- The bundle of wood was the symbol of unity and axe was symbol of strength.
- To exhibit national unity, Mussolini used the word 'fascio'.

Following are the principles of Fascism :-

1) Fascism is not based on doctrine but reality :-
Mussolini repeated several times that he hated abstract thinking.

- He said, "Fascism is based on reality, Bolshevism is based on theory. We want to be definite and real. We want to come out of the cloud of discussion and theory. My programme is action not talk".

2) Fascism believed in dictatorship :-

- Mussolini said that democracy is not suitable for Italy. He had no belief in three main bases of democracy, liberty, equality and Fraternity.
- He believed in dictatorship, because he believed that the Italians were not so capable to guide their leaders.
- He believed that national leader should guide them selflessly. Therefore he imposed restrictions on all party except fascist Party.
- Mussolini emphasised on three element of dictatorship - responsibility, obedience and discipline.

3) It is opposed to Individualism :- According to them the individuals cannot have any spiritual or moral life apart from the state.

- He said, that every individual should work for the welfare of the state nation without any selfish motive and he should seek his interest in the interest of the nation.

4) Fascism believes in Totalitarianism - Mussolini said "All within the state, nothing outside the state."

- Acc. to Fascism, state has the right to control all spheres of the state.

- The state is considered supreme in social, economic and political fields.

5) It believes in violence, force and imperialism - The fascists believe that the solution of international disputes through peaceful means is not possible. Therefore they believe in violence and force.

6) Opposition of Socialism and Communism :- The Fascist are bitter opponent of socialism and communism. Mussolini against of socialism because if he treated equally politically equal then his power to everyone then his power had been decreased.

- And he against of communism due to downfall of industry.

Criticism of Fascism -

- Fascism has been bitterly criticised because it encourages violence, dictatorship and bloodshed.
- It is a symbol of imperialism. It destroy world peace.

- It also opposed the democracy.