**Definition of Fascism: Dictatorial movement: any movement, ideology, or attitude that favors dictatorial government, centralized control of private enterprise, repression of all opposition, and extreme nationalism**  
fas•cist: NOUN, ADJECTIVE  
fas•cis•tic:  ADJECTIVE  
  
Excerpts of, “What is Fascism”, by Benito Mussolini 1932  
  
Read this and do the following:   
  
A. Highlight all parts dealing with loyalty to State or leader  
B. Circle all parts dealing with the military or how a soldier should conduct himself.  
C. Underline all parts dealing with expansion or strengthening of the country   
  
The Fascist State is a will to power and to government. In it the tradition of Rome is an idea that has force. In the doctrine of Fascism Empire is not only a territorial, military or mercantile expression, but spiritual or moral. Once can think of an empire, that is to say a nation that directly or indirectly leads other nations, without needing to conquer a single square kilometer of territory. For Fascism the tendency to Empire, that is to say, to the expansion of nations, is a manifestation of vitality; its opposite, staying at home, is a sign of decadence: peoples who rise or re-rise are imperialist, people who die are renunciatory. Fascism is the doctrine that is most fitted to represent the aims, the states of mind, of a people, like the Italian people, rising again after many centuries of abandonment of slavery to foreigners. . . . If every age has its own doctrine, it is apparent from a thousand signs that the doctrine of the present age is Fascism. That is a doctrine of life is shown by the fact that it has resuscitated a faith. That this faith has conquered minds is proved by the fact that Fascism has had its dead and its martyrs.  
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The Ten Commandments of the Italian solider under Mussolini provide the essence of the philosophy of fascism. The following two versions of these commandments constitute one of the best examples of the way in which a political philosophy may be translated into maxims of individual conduct.

The Fascist Decalogue (2 Parts)   
1. Know that the Fascist and in particular the soldier, must not believe in perpetual peace.  
2. Days of imprisonment are always deserved.  
3. The nation serves even as a sentinel over a can of petrol.  
4. A companion must be a brother, first, because he lives with you, and secondly because he thinks like you.  
5. The rifle and the cartridge belt, and the rest, are confided to you not to rust in leisure, but to be preserved in war.  
6. Do not ever say "The Government will pay . . .” because it is you who pay; and the Government is that which you willed to have, and for which you put on a uniform.  
7. Discipline is the soul of armies; without it there are no soldiers, only confusion and defeat.  
8. Mussolini is always right.  
9. For a volunteer there are no extenuating circumstances when he is disobedient.  
10. One thing must be dear to you above all: the life of the Duce.  
(1934)   
Part II:   
1. Remember that those who fell for the revolution and for the empire march at the head of your columns.  
2. Your comrade is your brother. He lives with you, thinks with you, and is at your side in the battle.  
3. Service to Italy can be rendered at all times, in all places, and by every means. It can be paid with toil and also with blood.  
4. The enemy of Fascism is your enemy. Give him no quarter.  
5. Discipline is the sunshine of armies. It prepares and illuminates the victory.  
6. He who advances to the attack with decision has victory already in his grasp.  
7. Conscious and complete obedience is the virtue of the Legionary.  
8. There do not exist things important and things unimportant. There is only duty.  
9. The Fascist revolution has depended in the past and still depends on the bayonets of its Legionaries.  
10. Mussolini is always right.  
(1938)   
  
[Source: Michael Oakeshott, The Social and Political Doctrines of Contemporary Europe (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1939), in Carl Cohen, ed., Communism, Fascism and Democracy: The Theoretical Foundations 2nd. ed. (New York: Random House, 1972), pp.328-339.]