

## Q2.4 Fascism

Benito Mussolini's regime, which led Italy into World War II, is considered to be the prototypical fascist government, and the word **fascism** comes into English from the Italian word *fascism*, which means "group" or "bundle" and was used by the Italians used to describe their political movement.

*Fascism* exists in different forms, but in general, fascist countries are headed by an all-powerful authoritarian leader and embrace war and patriotism as a way to keep the country unified and strong. Individual rights are abandoned in favor of the needs of the country. *Fascism* is strongly anticommunist and usually considered a far-right form of government. Inspired by Mussolini, Germany's World War II Nazi Party also instituted a *fascist* government.

Since the 1970s, *fascist* has also been used as an insult to describe someone who promotes any position in a militant or authoritarian manner (e.g., *eco-fascists*, airport TSA *fascists*, antitobacco *fascists*).

**The only thing we hate more than bad manners is the (gosh darn) fascist helmet law.**

—John DeSantis playing Tiny in the TV show *Dead Like Me*

