

The Debunker

Letter from the Editors

History aficionados,

We recently received an email from a concerned reader about our stance. Apparently we're leaning a bit towards the left. You can see the letter and our response in the right hand column.

In an effort to maintain a more fair and balanced history student newsletter we have devoted this issue to an examination of right wing-y-ness, fascism and authoritarianism. We figure the two extremes should balance each other out and we will appear to be objective journalists sitting in the middle of the road!

Anyway, in this issue we address our glorious email, discuss the contradictions of the public acceptance of communism and fascism, and try and figure out just what fascism is. There's also a new poster on the back page for the study tour to France, and finally, because you love it, Amanda has painstakingly handcrafted a new crossword puzzle, and Kim has created an awesome fascist matchup. The new and improved Debunker also contains an answer key for the last issue on the back page.

We also want to note that from now on any emails you send, whether praising us or cursing the very air we breathe, is now fair game for publication. You can either choose a pseudonym for yourself or we can choose one for you. Or you can use your real name, just make sure to give us authorization to print it. We really do encourage emails and submissions.

On that note, we will be putting out a special Remembrance Day issue. We would love submissions on any topic but particularly Remembrance Day themed; what it means to you, your experiences, or anything else you'd like to talk about.

Enjoy the new format,

Amanda and Kim

The Email Inbox

“I recently picked up a copy of the DEBUNKER. I'll be looking forward to future copies for a good chuckle. It makes me wonder what life experiences Amanda and Kim have. How old are they/you? In my experience anyone who supports social[ist] or communist ideologies at best do not have much life experience or are young. I'll agree a utopian society in theory is very desirable. I think proponents of social[ist]/communist theories have overlooked history as a whole however. Mankind has proven itself to be selfish, petty, and greedy.

Sure humanity has good qualities but over history we've proven ourselves to be essentially warriors and conquerors.

Do you actually believe a single publication can influence or change the nature [of] mankind? I don't mean to be overly critical as I do enjoy good intellectual conversations.

Maybe you could tell me... is there a debate club on campus or anything like a discussion group for social/economic issues?”

-Phil Anthropic

Howdy Phil,

You ask us about our life experiences. We are both seasoned veterans of the communist movement. By that we mean we have a connection with Gorbachev, both being born in the year he came to power. Amanda likes health-care and other social programs. She is a big fan of not stomping on the disenfranchised. She believes that a desire for equality is not the same as condoning putting people in gulags. Kim loves communism but realizes the utopianism of the idea, so she is socialist. We do not think we have overlooked history. As it stands, we tend to pay too much attention to it. Our experience in history has allowed us to create our own ideas about communism regarding what is possible and what is not. We recognize that historically communism has had its faults but our exploration of it was more of a kitschy topic than a manifesto. In regards to the power of a publication, if you are referring to ours we must confess we never attempted to change any minds but rather to entertain and inform. If you are not referring to ours, then yes, some publications have had remarkable effects on the course of history but the nature of man is an ambiguous thing. As for a debate club, we do not believe such a thing exists but you may be interested in starting one! Thank you for your email, it truly gave us something to think about (as well as a topic for this issue!)



Submit to the Debunker

Send a short article (400 word maximum), comments, questions or anything you would like to see in upcoming issues.

If you have any questions or concerns about the institution, the history department or what university status means to you allow Amanda and Kim to delve into these issues for you!

Hi.stu.new@gmail.com

Follow-up on the Library

By Kim Unruh

Submit!

Submit!

Submit!

Email:

Hi.stu.new@gmail.com



*"I'm
extraordinarily
patient provided I
get my own way in
the end."*

-Margaret Thatcher

If you were around this summer, or if you picked up a back issue of our Canadian History Newsletter you may have seen the article where the Debunker took up a cause. It was right next to the crossword, which I am convinced is the main reason our newsletter is opened. If you missed this issue I will recap. The library was cutting funding to monograph spending. In simpler terms, History is getting fewer books. Some of this was going towards e-books which I personally find a pain to use. The Debunker is following up. It is part of our new, forward looking and topical stance!

The Association of History Students (AHS) has brought forward a proposal to create a Library Shuttle bus to either SFU or UBC. One day a week (likely a weekend) would have a bus trip for students so they could get books at one of these institutions. The interlibrary loan system is not always helpful. Students are unable to preview the book, or skim the index, before ordering it. When the ordered book does show up it may or may not be useful to a topic. When combined with the time it takes to receive the item some of us last minute essay-writers may receive it too late.

Right now AHS is in the process of working with various parts of the institution for more research on student interest. We always like feedback though, so please send us your thoughts and comments on this proposal and we'll print them in a later issue. Our email is hi.stu.new@gmail.com.

What is Fascism? (I'm Still A Little Confused)

By Amanda Schaap

Fascism is a hard nut to crack, definition-wise. Most (if not all) states and individuals that seem to be fascist will not admit to espousing that particular ideology, as a result of certain negative connotations to the Second World War. Prior to the war, there were many right wing groups and the original fascist state, Italy. It was an acceptable political philosophy at that time. Afterward, however, fascism has become synonymous with Nazism, and the term is mostly used as an insult.

There has been much debate on how to adequately define fascism, but there has been some consensus on common characteristics. If your regime has too many of the following characteristics, you may be in charge of a fascist state. They include (but are not limited to): authoritarian rule, elitism, philosophical idealism, anti-modern or traditionalist, hierarchical leadership, militarism, imperialism, fear of difference (i.e. racism) and right-wing-ed-ness. This is not a complete list, and there are countless debates over what constitutes fascism, but this provides a general idea.

There are many countries which have been ruled by an authoritarian government, but some in particular are often presented having a history of fascist rule. They include: Germany and Italy (of course,) Spain, Brazil, Hungary and Greece.

The Quest for Ideological Popularity

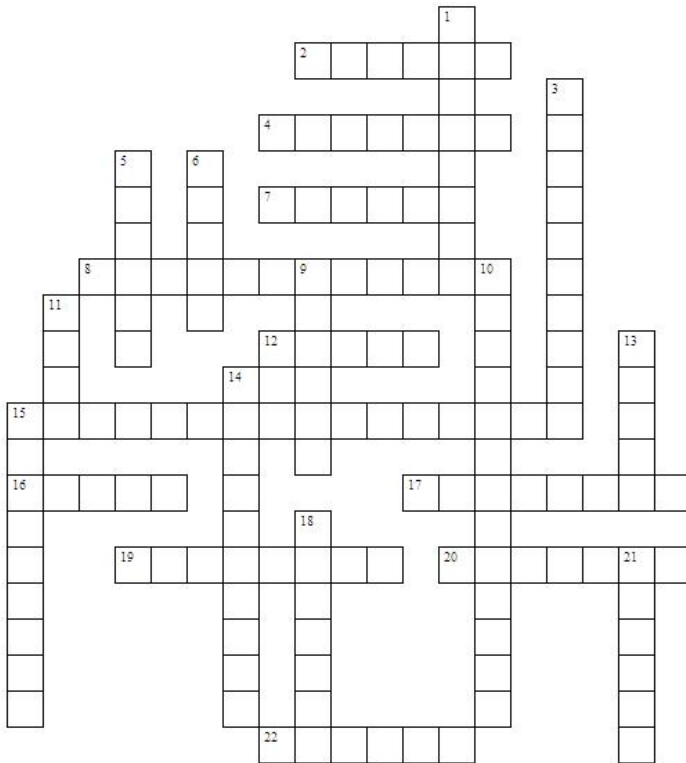
By Kim Unruh (Not a Fascist)

Communism and Fascism. They have so many similarities and yet so many differences. The most prominent reason they are divided may be the vilification of communism in fascist states. Popular history, however, has judged communism far differently than it has fascism. It can be said that if we look at the history of fascist states that it deserves the treatment it receives. The best known deeds of the fascist state are Italy and the paramilitary Black Shirts and Hitler's concentration camps. Fascism always seems to incorporate some racist ideology and persecution of dissenters. This likely stems from the highly nationalistic character of such an ideology.

There are parallels here. Soviet Russia had its gulags and secret police. It may not have been racially motivated; ideological persecution fits better. There was the Cold War and the "Red Threat." The United States had its famous trials of suspected "communists." Then the USSR collapsed. The actions of the Communist Party in the USSR became widely known and were backed up with sources. Similar events occur in other "communist" countries, most notable after the USSR is probably China. Political persecution, internment camps, this all starts to sound familiar. This is not to say that Communism has emerged with a clean rap sheet but it does seem that Communism got off with a slap on the wrist while fascism was sentenced to life on death row.

So why the discrepancy? I have theories but no answers. The Second World War was fought against Fascism and became synonymous with attempts to save the Jewish people and other victims of the regime. The Cold War seemed more ideologically motivated. The "Domino Effect" warned about other countries falling victim to the evils of "communism." Even after the fall of the USSR the Cold War was not justified as an attempt to save the political prisoners within the Soviet bloc. Or maybe we look to communism in Marxist theory and ignore Stalinist or Maoist practice. It is utopian but supposedly peaceful after the revolution has ended. Fascism and Nazism glorify militarization of society, something that is inherently aggressive and arguably not utopian. Neo-Nazism has to be crushed, but adoption of communist ideals is just "youthful indiscretion." This is just something to think about.

Fascist Crossword



ACROSS

- 2 In the movie "The Boys from Brazil," the boys were all clones of this dictator.
- 4 This Asian country's repressive government has made its way into the news recently because of its protest movement.
- 7 Estado Novo was an authoritarian regime in this, the most hairless of the Latin American nations.
- 8 Many authoritarian dictatorships were installed by this country as a safeguard against Communism.
- 12 This collaborative French regime had many fascist properties.
- 15 Not a dictator, but a sometimes reviled Tory prime minister from the 1970s.
- 16 This country was fascist, and lives next to Portugal!
- 17 The dictator of an extra-skinny Latin American country.
- 19 A Norwegian leader (much reviled) who tried to copy Italian fascism.
- 20 The opposite of communism, maybe?
- 22 Mussolini's two-word nickname.

DOWN

- 1 Ce président français était conservateur. (1958-1969) (2 words)
- 3 This lemur filled country has had a history of dictatorships.
- 5 This general ruled an Iberian country from 1939-1975.
- 6 A term used in Latin America to refer to military dictatorships.
- 9 The Black ____: Mussolini's paramilitary force.
- 10 Canada's (conservative, NOT fascist) PM.
- 11 This tropical worker's paradise was once a dictatorship under Batista.
- 13 This Latin American country's democratically elected communist president was overthrown in a military coup.
- 14 "God save the queen, the fascist regime" band.
- 15 Mr. Fascism in Italy.
- 18 Ironically, conservative governments often follow ____ economic policies.
- 21 The term 'fascist' comes from a Latin word meaning a bundle of ____.

The Fascist Matchup



Augusto Pinochet



Georgios Papadopoulos



Francisco Franco



Benito Mussolini



Adolf Hitler

- ____ Had his daughter go on the radio to urge children to pray for his victory. Kept his country out of the Second World War despite declaring sympathies with the Nazi Regime.
- ____ Named Time magazines "Man of the Year" in 1938. A failed artist. Associated with the coup attempt, the *Beer Hall Putsch*.
- ____ Edited the paper *Avanti* while still a follower of socialism. Conscripted by the army but was unable to serve after being injured by a grenade in training.
- ____ Director of *Cien Aguilas*, a magazine for army officers. Appointed commander-in-chief of the army in August only to overthrow the President less than a month later. Loses his presidency in an election.
- ____ Graduated a year early because of an invasion by Mussolini. Led a coup d'état and became Prime Minister after a counter-coup. Began gradual democratization before being overthrown by hardliners in the army.

A Desperate Plea for Submissions!

Questions, Comments, Suggestions, or Issues you would like us to address

Send us an article: 400 word Maximum

Choose your topic!

Publication in a Student Newsletter looks great on a resume

Email: hi.stu.new@gmail.com

Next Issue is a Remembrance Day Special: Share your thoughts, experiences, or what this day means to you

Rediscovering the Great War

Study Tour to France and Belgium 2008

Rediscovering the Great War is a study tour traveling from Paris, through north-eastern France, to Belgium. The tour examines French language, and the literature and history of the Great War along the Western Front and combines credits for the following courses: ENGL 360, FREN 215 or 325, and HIST 418

The Study Tour will investigate the way we understand and remember the war by visiting the battle sites, the memorials and museums of the Western Front, and the literature it inspired. And, starting with a week in Paris, we will explore the language and culture of France and Belgium.

Offered in the Summer Semester (May-June), 2008. The three week tour will be preceded by preparatory classes and assignments. You need to commit to the tour with a down-payment by November 15, 2007.

For more details including the complete itinerary and costs see
<http://gloaleducationaltravel.com/efv/>

Then contact: Alan Cameron (Modern Languages), Susan Fisher (English Department), or Chris Leach (History Department)

Don't delay; reserve your spot on the tour by Nov. 15!

Upcoming Events

- Association of History Students Annual General Meeting. Tuesday October 30, 2007 at 6:00 PM in room F110 (Board Room in University House). *Army of Darkness* will be shown and food and drinks will be provided.
- History Roundtable with Scott Sheffield. "The Mirror of an Other: Settler-Indigenous Relations in New Zealand and Canada, and the Practice, Pitfalls and Promise of Transnational Comparative Analysis." Tuesday November 20th at 3:00 PM. Room A225. Refreshments provided.
- The Remember Project. Western Canada's largest Remembering week activity. A 25,000 sq. ft. living history exhibit of the Canadian Military through interpretive displays, dioramas and tours. The display will feature vehicles, equipment and memorabilia of the Canadian Forces. Dr. Molly Ungar will be giving a talk November 6th at 7:00 PM. The Project will be located at 32470 Haida Drive (Ag. Rec. Centre) in Abbotsford, on November 6, 7, 8 from 8:30 am to 8:30 pm. Admission is FREE.
- The Abbotsford Collegiate is also hosting a speaker series. Roberta Bondar on February 18th 2008 and Romeo Dallaire on April 28th 2008. For information call 604-843-3367. To buy tickets their address is 2329 Crescent Way. It's \$25 for each single talk (with student ID) or \$35 if you aren't a student. Tickets are also available at 6:30PM the evening of the event at the Abby Arts Centre Box Office.

Communist Crossword Across:

- 4) Venezuela
- 5) Socialism
- 8) North Korea
- 12) Yugoslavia
- 13) Proletariat
- 14) Trotsky
- 16) Communism
- 17) Hammer
- 18) Manifesto
- 20) Engels

Communist Crossword Down:

- 1) Vietnam
- 2) Cuba
- 3) Castro
- 6) Iron Curtain
- 7) Berlin Wall
- 9) Tito
- 10) Bourgeoisie
- 11) Chairman
- 15) Karl Marx
- 19) Stalin

Answer Key for the Dictator Matchup:

- A-2 Lenin
- B-4 Castro
- C-6 Pol Pot
- D-1 Mao
- E-3 Tito
- F-7 Kim Jong-Il
- G-5 Stalin