

Modernity, trust and Identity

Mabel Berezin, *Making the Fascist Self*. (Cornell University Press, 1997) pp. 11-38.

Hobsbawm: Fascist movements

- The mobilization of masses
 - Reclassifying victims to superiors
 - Total transformation of society: adaptation of revolutionary rhetoric
- The resentment of the little men
 - Anti-modernism and pro-technology
 - Mass migration leading to xenophobia and anti-Bolshevik nationalism: *blood and soil*

What are identities about?

- Identities are forms of knowledge that we use as orientation devices.
- Identity is constituted by a particular relationship between an individual human being and a specific form of knowledge consisting of
 - Identity categories (names, titles)
 - Identity theories
 - Identity narratives

Self-identity and social identities

- Self-identity designates one's self-knowledge formed by reflexive discursive practices.
- The self-identity of a person is always constituted as a mosaic of various identity types.
- Social identity is a specific form of identity type that describes persons as elements of collectivities.

Basic sociological presuppositions

- Self-identity and social identities of the person are held to be constitutive of social reality and not merely derivative features of biological, economic or political processes
- Identities cannot be formed and performed outside structural conditions of language, knowledge and power.
 - Discourses and institutions

CZECHOSLOVAKS!
NOW
OR NEVER!





MAKING THE
FASCIST
SELF

The Political
Culture of
Interwar
Italy

Mabel Berezin

Interpreting fascism

- Culture and ideology as mobilizing devices and conversion mechanisms
 - Fascist movements vs. fascist regime
 - Fascist ideology vs. fascist state
- Totalitarianism as fascist fiction and political reality

The Political Construction of Identities

- The fractionalization of individual and collective identities into public and private
 - Multiplicity of identities
- The recognition of difference and the conversion of difference into and otherness

Ritual and Communication

- Identities that generate powerful emotions
- Death and mass political commitment
- The public spectacle as an arena of political emotion, a community of feeling
 - Liminal space

Hitler's Speech to German Workers



Wir Arbeiter (und) erwacht



unsere wöchentliche
Liste Nationalsozialisten 2

Modernity and Fascisms

- The sense of new beginning
- The significance of apocalyptic time as central metaphor of the modernist imagination
- The myth of rebirth and creative destruction
- The translation of ecstatic experience into political projects

Homo Faber

- Collaboration in the perfecting of matter while at the same time securing perfection of himself
- The war had brought forth a new type of human being, the Worker, a hybrid of soldier and technocrat.
- Creating a new postwar world by through the power of design, planning and technology.

ARBEITER



**DER STIRN
DER FAUST**



Figure 1.8. Boris Zvorykin, “Bor’ba krasnogo rytsaria s temnoi siloiu” (Struggle of the Red Knight with the Dark Force), 1919