

## FASCIST LEADERS

### Mussolini and Italy

*This excerpt is taken from Benito Mussolini's "What is Fascism (1932)." This was written by him for an Italian dictionary to define what fascism was and his intentions for Italian fascism.*

**“For Fascism, the growth of empire—the expansion of the nation—is essential to survival. People who are rising are always imperialist. Fascism is the doctrine [theory] best adapted to represent the tendencies and the aspirations of a people, like the people of Italy, who are rising again after many centuries of humiliation and foreign servitude. But creating an empire demands discipline, the coordination of all forces and a deeply felt sense of duty and sacrifice: this explains many aspects of our regime such as the necessarily severe measures which must be taken against those who would oppose this inevitable movement of Italy in the twentieth century; for never before has the nation stood more in need of authority, of direction and order. If every age has its own characteristic doctrine, there are a thousand signs which point to Fascism as the characteristic doctrine of our time.”**



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### Hirohito and Japan

*This excerpt is taken from a collection of Japanese primary sources that talk about the intentions of Emperor Hirohito in the pre-WWII era.*

**"Hirohito began all considerations with a sad awareness that his father's reign had been a failure. The dream of the ancestors to rule a government by God and keep Japan sacred for the Sun Goddess remained unfulfilled. Hirohito had reservations about the dream. Because of his training in geography and economics, Hirohito could not think of Japan in isolation. He thought of Japan as the most superior part of Asia, and sought to control Asia for the Asian continent. He was a devout Shinto priest and believed in the ghosts of his ancestors, but not in a simple superstitious way like most of his countrymen. He doubted that the spirits of his ancestors could provide physical assistance to men in battle, as many Japanese believed. No, if his country was to realize her imperial ambitions, she would have to count on armies of living men equipped with modern weapons and deployed with strong diplomacy. He was inclined to agree with his father that the most natural growth for Japan would be as a sea power into the islands of Southeast Asia. This is where he would soon go, to fulfill his imperial desires."**



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### Hitler and Germany

*This excerpt is taken from Hitler's Mein Kampf (My Struggle), a personal diary he wrote in jail about his political and social intentions for the future of Germany.*

**“Jewry [the activity of Jews] had much to answer for in my eyes when I got to know its activity in the press, art, literature, and the theater. It was enough to see a billboard, to study the names of the creators of the horrible trash they advertised for the movies and theater. This was the intellectual filth, far worse than the Black Death of long ago, with which the people were being infected. And in what quantities was this poison being produced! Just think, for every true German artist, Nature can easily come up with ten thousand polluters of the environment, who now poison the soul like germ carriers of the worst sort...**



**...[and] after we had laid down our arms, in November of 1918, a policy [given by the Treaty of Versailles] was adopted which in all probability was bound to lead to our complete enslavement...millions of people now became clearly convinced that Germany could only be saved if the whole system were destroyed root and branch...**

**...if Germany, in an time of racial corruption and inferiority, devotes itself to the duty of saving the best elements of its racial stock, then it must one day become ruler of the Earth...”**