

RIVISTA INTERDISCIPLINARE ON LINE REVUE INTERDISCIPLINAIRE EN LIGNE INTERDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL ON LINE

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*Rivista scientifica accreditata da ANVUR per le aree 11, 12 (classe A), 14

CALL FOR PAPERS POLITICA.EU 2022

Fascism a century later. But what is «fascism»?

28 October next year will mark the centenary of the March on Rome. This is an event that today's historiography interprets as a serious injury to the liberal state (sometimes as a traumatic break-up of it), even if it is not yet considered as the start of a regime, which would establish after the Matteotti crisis. However, from the point of view of fascism itself, 28 October coincides with the beginning of the Revolution, with the year from which the new Fascist calendar was to start, with the advent of fascism to power. In the years following the March on Rome, and especially from the 1930s onwards, starting from the question about what fascism was, the fascist phenomenon became the subject of a myriad of interpretations, which did not cease even after its defeat in 1945. There is no political phenomenon of the contemporary age that has opposed scholars more than others on the interpretation of the very definition of the fascism in a spectrum ranging, on the one hand, from the most radical readings, according to which Fascism never existed, to those at the opposite extreme, according to which, at least in 1930s Europe, the entire political field, even in democracies, was contaminated by elements of fascism. This framework is complicated by the fact that the phenomenon of fascism, already evanescent and elusive in itself, has attracted the attention of scholars from different disciplines, from history to political science, from sociology to philosophy, from psychoanalysis to anthropology. Finally, even after the fall of the regime, the concept of fascism is a polarising concept, used to delegitimise political opponents, with a practical-political impact that has made almost impossible, except for brief periods, a reflection on fascism inspired by the Weber's Wertfreiheit. The aim of this call is to offer, on the one hand, an overview of current interpretations of fascism and, on the other hand, to retrace some analysis from the past, to verify whether they have exhausted their scientific

programme or are still able to offer new readings of the fascist phenomenon.

The final draft should be submitted to redazione.rivistapolitica@gmail.com by September 30, 2022.

Languages: Italian, English

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