**How do we define fascism today?**

***The Fascist Century, Anthony James Joes, May 1, 1978***

Writing about fascism can get one in trouble. "Fascist" is used to describe every nasty person—from Mussolini and his henchmen to ill-tempered policemen and professors who expect their students to complete assignments…

Fascists I define as those who, like the rulers of Italy after 1922, approach political life with certain fundamental ideas. *First*, politics is preeminently a dangerous competition among nations; the strong may survive, the weak will be subjugated. *Second*, and consequently, the productive power of one’s country must be raised to the utmost; in this struggle for production (and survival) there is room for neither capitalist egoism nor Marxist class struggle, but only for class collaboration under state supervision. *Third*, ensuring these goals in a perilous world requires not constitutional restraints, parliamentary palaver [hassle], or partisan divisions, but unlimited authority wielded by a sagacious and acknowledged elite: "Nothing above the State, nothing against the State. "

Fascist *policies* will vary from state to state and from time to time. Above all fascism does not require "racial" campaigns of the Nazis. It is basic *beliefs* that make fascism what it is.

1. From your understanding of fascism, is this definition too expansive or limited? *It may help to think of “fascist” countries when answering this question.*
2. This excerpt is from 1978. In your opinion, has the definition of fascism changed since then? Explain.
3. What does the author mean by "It is basic *beliefs* that make fascism what it is"?
4. What does the quote "Nothing above the State, nothing against the State" mean when referring to fascism?
5. According to this definition, do any countries today classify as fascist? Explain.