

THE CHALLENGE TO LIBERTY

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antithesis to Liberalism, we may well accept Premier Mussolini's definition of Fascism:⁷

. . . Fascism combats the whole complex of democratic ideology and repudiates it. . . . Fascism denies that the majority by the simple fact that it is a majority can direct human society, it denies that numbers alone can govern by means of periodical consultation. . . . Fascism denies in democracy the absurd conventional untruth of political equality . . . and the myth of "happiness" and indefinite progress. . . . Fascism has taken up an attitude of complete opposition to the doctrines of Liberalism born in the political field and the field of economics. . . . let it be pointed out that all political hopes of the present day are anti-Liberal. . . .

Granted that the nineteenth century was the century of Socialism, of Liberalism, and of Democracy . . . it may rather be expected that this will be a century of authority, a century of the left, a century of Fascism; for if the nineteenth century was a century of individualism (Liberalism always signifying individualism) it may be expected that this will be the century of collectivism, and hence the century of the state. . . .

The Fascist state is an embodied will to power and government; the Roman tradition is here an ideal of force in action. . . . this

⁷ *Enciclopedia Italiana*, Vol. 14. Translation of the *Political Quarterly*, London.

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