# 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?

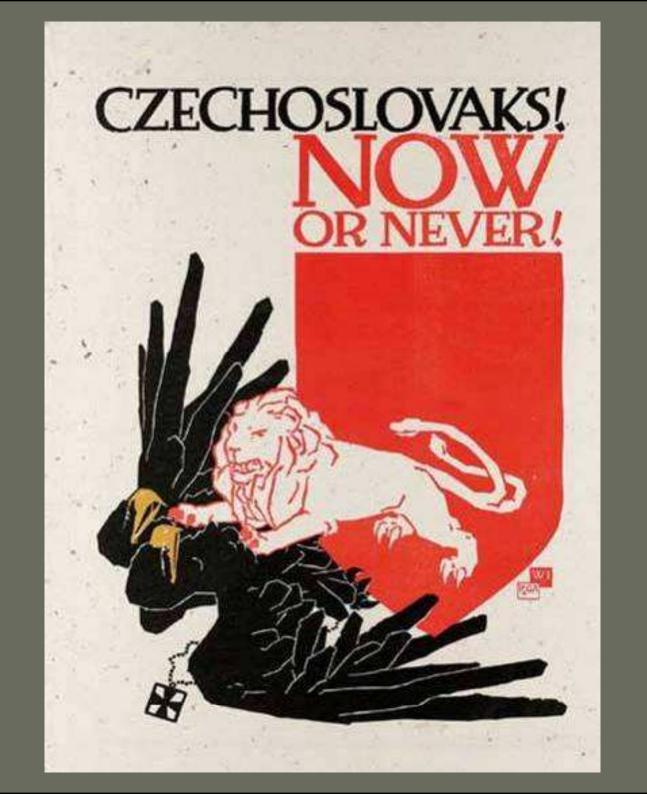
- Identities are forms of knowledge that we use as orientation devices.
- Identity is constituted by a particular relationship between an individual human being and a specific form of knowledge consisting of
  - Identity categories (names, titles)
  - Identity theories
  - Identity narratives

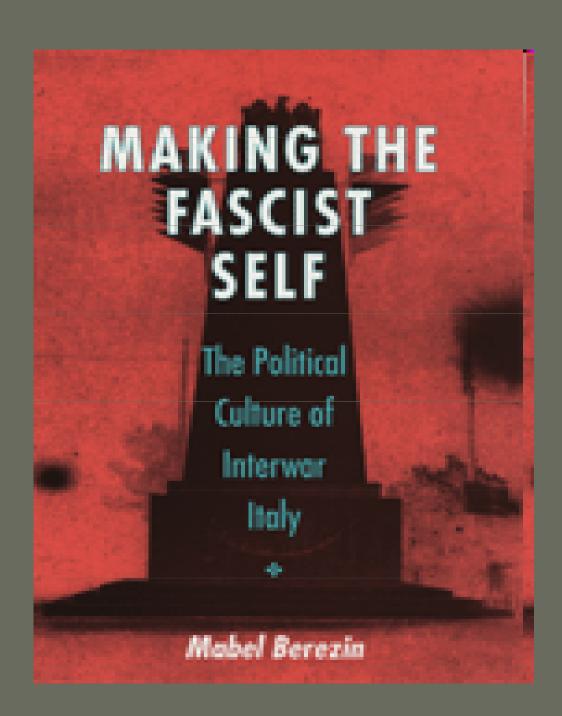
## Self-identity and social identities

- Self-identity designates one's selfknowledge 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





## 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
  - Mulitplicity 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 as arena of political emotion, a community of feeling
  - -Liminal space

# Hitler's Speech to German Workers





## Modernity and Fascims

- The sense of new beginnig
- The signigicanceof apocalyptic time as centralmetaphor of the modernist imagination
- The myth of rebirth and creative destruction
- The translation of extatic 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 newpostwar world by through the power of design, planning and technology.



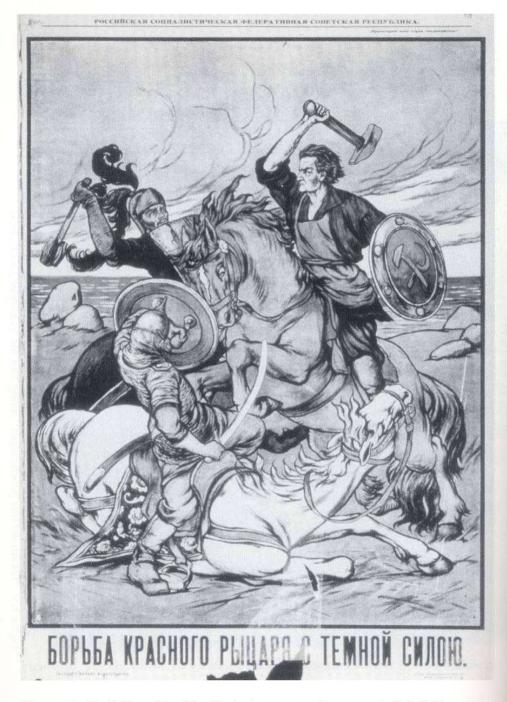


Figure 1.8. Boris Zvorykin, "Bor'ba krasnogo rytsaria s temnoi siloiu" (Struggle of the Red Knight with the Dark Force), 1919