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## Fascism: What It Is, How to Fight It

Leon Trotsky (1879 – 1940)

Read by: Douglas Harvey Language: English Length: 1 hours 49 minutes Style: Solo

Genre(s): Non-Fiction, History, Politics,

Political Science

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Fascism: What It Is and How to Fight It, written by Leon Trotsky in 1933, is a critical analysis of the rise of fascist movements in Europe, particularly focusing on Nazi Germany under Adolf Hitler. Trotsky argues that fascism is not a sudden, irrational outburst of violence but rather the result of deep structural crises in capitalist society, which the ruling class seeks to resolve through authoritarian means. He explains that fascism arises when the traditional political establishment is unable to suppress revolutionary movements from below (such as workers' uprisings or socialist revolutions) and when the capitalist system is threatened by economic collapse.

Trotsky highlights that fascism is a tool of the bourgeoisie, aimed at preserving the existing social order through terror, militarism, and the suppression of democratic freedoms. However, it is not simply a

reactionary force; it has its own set of internal contradictions, as fascists simultaneously defend capitalist interests while attacking the political establishment and the working class.

Trotsky warns of the dangers of fascism's rise and stresses the importance of building a united front of the working class and the Left to prevent its spread. He critiques both Stalinism and social democracy for their failures to adequately respond to the fascist threat, emphasizing the need for a revolutionary approach to combat the fascist

**Leon Trotsky**, born Lev Davidovich Bronstein on November 7, 1879, in Ukraine, was a prominent Marxistrevolutionary and a key figure in the early Soviet Union. Initially involved in revolutionary activities as a young man, he became a leading advocate for the Bolshevik cause during the 1917 Russian Revolution. Trotsky played a crucial role in the October Revolution, where he served as the head of the Red Army, effectively organizing the Bolshevik forces during the Civil War.

A prolific writer and theorist, Trotsky developed the concept of "permanent revolution," arguing that socialism could not succeed in a single country but must be a global effort. However, following Lenin's death in 1924, he fell into political conflict with Joseph Stalin, who ultimately consolidated power. Trotsky was expelled from the Communist Party and later exiled from the Soviet Union in 1929.

Despite his exile, Trotsky continued to critique Stalin's regime and advocate for his vision of socialism until his assassination by a Stalinist agent in Mexico City on August 21, 1940. His ideas and writings have continued to influence leftist movements worldwide, marking him as a significant figure in the history of revolutionary socialism.