In many ways, **communist** and **fascist** movements had opposing ideologies but both ended up being repressive political systems based on the control of a single leader. While communism is based around a theory of economic equality, fascism is based around the glory of the state and strength displayed through violence and conquest. Both communism and fascism originated in Europe and gained popularity in the early to mid 20th century.

**Comparison chart**[***</> Embed this chart***](http://www.diffen.com/difference/Communism_vs_Fascism)

|  | **Communism** | **Fascism** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Political System** | No leader, directed directly by the people. This has never been actually practiced, and has just used a one-party system. | One charismatic leader has absolute authority. Often the symbol of the state. |
| **Religion** | Abolished - all religious and metaphysics is rejected. | Fascism is a civic religion - citizens worship the state through nationalism. The state only supports religious organizations that are nationally/historically tied to that state; e.g. the Iron Guard in Romania supported the Romanian Orthodox church. |
| **Key Proponents** | Karl Marx, Fredrich Engels, Vladimir Lenin, Leon Trotsky. | Benito Mussolini, Adolf Hitler |
| **Economic System** | The means of production are held in common, negating the concept of ownership in capital goods. Production is organized to provide for human needs directly without any use for money. Communism is predicated upon a condition of material abundance. | Focused on glorifying and strengthening the State. Both Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany attempted to pursue self-sufficiency. |
| **Ideas** | Human societies have divided into conflicting classes. Existing class structures become unsustainable as the technology progresses, resulting in contradictions which can only be resolved by having the subordinate class overthrow the ruling class. | Union between businesses and the State, with the state telling the business what to do, with private ownership. Also Known as National-Socialism. |
| **Economic Coordination** | Economic planning coordinates all decisions regarding investment, production and resource allocation. Planning is done in terms of physical units instead of money. | People control businesses properly, but Government makes business decisions. |
| **Philosophy** | From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs. Free-access to the articles of consumption is made possible by advances in technology that allow for super-abundance. | No single philosophy. The state must gain glory through constant conquest, aka war. Belief that the past was glorious, and that the State can be renewed. |
| **Private Property** | Abolished. The concept of property is negated and replaced with the concept of commons and ownership with "usership". | Permitted |
| **Social Structure** | All class distinctions are eliminated. | Strict class structure believed necessary to prevent chaos. Everyone has a specific, defined role. While a certain race is considered superior, individuality among members of that race is discouraged. |
| **Free Choice** | In a communist society, where a leader does not exist, everything is chosen freely.In those that have been practiced though, all choices, including education, religion, employment and marriage, are controlled by the state. | The individual is considered meaningless; they must be dedicated to the power of the State. Traditional gender roles are upheld. |
| **Political Movements** | Leninism, Trotskyism, Marxism-Leninism, Maoism, Left-Communism. | Nazism, Falangism |
| **Discrimination** | In theory, all members of the state are considered equal. | Belief in one superior race (Nazism). Blames society’s problems on members of other races or social groups. |
| **Definition** | A theory or system of social organization based on the holding of all property in common, with actual ownership ascribed to the community or state. | A government system led by a dictator having complete power, forcibly oppressing opposition and criticism, regimenting all industry and emphasizing an aggressive nationalism. |
| **Key elements** | An enhanced form of the principle of "Production for use". | Used to want to control the government, usually used by a harsh or demanding leader. |
| **Way of Change** | Government in a Communist-state is the agent of change rather than any market or desire on the part of consumers. Change by government can be swift or slow, depending on change in ideology or even whim. | Change can only occur within the party and the system itself. |
| **View of the world** | Communism is an international movement; Communists in one country see themselves in solidarity with Communists in other countries. | Fascists are ultra-nationalists who see no reason to respect the rights of other nations. |