Name_____ **1/13/17** **Global Studies, Paulic**

Benito Mussolini's 'Doctrine of Fascism'

A ***claim*** is a statement of the truth made by an author or speaker. Mussolini makes many claims in this document. Highlight or underline 1 or 2 of the most important claims made by Mussolini *in each paragraph*.

I Fundamental Ideas

2. The man of Fascism is an individual who is nation and fatherland, which is a moral law, binding together individuals and the generations into a tradition and a mission, suppressing the instinct for a life enclosed within the brief round of pleasure in order to restore within duty a higher life free from the limits of time and space; a life in which the individual, through the denial of himself, through the sacrifice of his own private interests, through death itself, realizes that completely spiritual existence in which his value as a man lies.

3. Fascism desires an active man, one engaged in activity with all his energies: it desires a man conscious of the difficulties that exist in action and ready to face them. It conceives of life as a struggle, considering that it behooves man to conquer for himself that life truly worthy of him, creating first of all in himself the instrument (physical, moral, intellectual) in order to construct it.

4. No action can be divorced from moral judgment; there is nothing in the world which can be deprived of the value which belongs to everything in its relation to moral ends. Life, therefore, as conceived by the Fascist, is serious, austere, religious: the whole of it is poised in a world supported by the moral and responsible forces of the spirit. The Fascist disdains the "comfortable" life.

7. Against individualism, the Fascist conception is for the State; and it is for the individual in so far as he coincides with the State, which is the conscience and universal will of man in his historical existence. Fascism reaffirms the State as the true reality of the individual. And for the only liberty which can be a real thing, the liberty of the State and of the individual within the State. Therefore, for the Fascist, everything is in the State, and nothing human or spiritual exists, much less has value, outside the State. In this sense Fascism is totalitarian, and the Fascist State, the synthesis and unity of all values, interprets, develops and gives strength to the whole life of the people.

12. The Fascist State, the highest and most powerful form of personality, is a force, but a spiritual force, which takes over all the forms of the moral and intellectual life of man. . . . It is the form, the inner standard and the discipline of the whole person.

Stating Mussolini's claims: Use the templates from the assignment on *Informal Citations* to create at least 2 statements of claims made by Mussolini in this document.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

II Political and Social Doctrine

3. Above all, Fascism believes neither in the possibility nor in the utility of perpetual peace. It thus repudiates the doctrine of Pacifism -- born of a renunciation of the struggle and an act of cowardice in the face of sacrifice. War alone brings up to their highest tension of all human energies and puts the stamp of nobility upon the peoples who have the courage to meet it.

6. Fascism attacks the whole complex of democratic ideologies and rejects its theoretical premises and its applications or practical manifestations. Fascism denies that the majority, through the mere fact of being a majority, can rule human societies; it denies that this majority can govern by means of a periodical consultation; it affirms the irremediable, fruitful and beneficent inequality of men, who cannot be leveled by such a mechanical and extrinsic fact as universal suffrage (voting rights). Democracy is a regime without a king, but with very many kings, perhaps more tyrannical and violent than one tyrant. . . .

9. . . . The theory of Fascism admits that the nineteenth century has been the century of Socialism, Liberalism and Democracy; it does not follow that the twentieth must also be the century of Liberalism, Socialism and Democracy. Political doctrines pass; peoples remain. It is to be expected that this century may be that of authority, a century of the "Right," a Fascist century. If the nineteenth was the century of the individual it may be expected that this one may be the century of the State.

11. . . . In the Fascist State the individual is not suppressed, but rather multiplied, just as in a regiment a soldier is not weakened but multiplied by the number of his comrades. The Fascist State organizes the nation, but it leaves sufficient scope to individuals; it has limited useless or harmful liberties and has preserved those that are essential. It cannot be the individual who decides in this matter, but only the State.

13. In the doctrine of Fascism, Empire is not only a territorial, military or mercantile expression, but spiritual or moral. One can think of an empire, that is to say a nation that directly or indirectly leads other nations, without needing to conquer a single square kilometer of territory. For Fascism the tendency to Empire, that is to say, to the expansion of nations, is a manifestation of vitality; its opposite, staying at home, is a sign of decadence. Fascism is the doctrine most fitted to represent the aims & states of mind of a people, like the Italian people, rising again after many centuries of abandonment of slavery to foreigners. . . . If every age has its own doctrine, it is apparent that the doctrine of the present age is Fascism.

Stating Mussolini's claims: Use the templates from the assignment on *Informal Citations* to create at least 2 more statements of claims made by Mussolini in this document.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____