**The Principles of Political Philosophy of Italian Fascism.**

**Alfredo Rocco’s Approach.**

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This report is dedicated to the analysis of key principles and political aspirations of Italian Fascism in the interpretation of the lawyer, Mussolini’s Minister of Justice Alfredo Rocco. In the text “The Political Doctrine of Fascism” (1925) Rocco aims to comprehend the most significant doctrinal foundations of the fascist regime and tries to construct its political philosophy.

The undertaken research has shown that, according to A. Rocco, fascism is “first of all, action”, directed against the entire political thought inspired by the Enlightenment: against liberalism, against socialism, against communism. Rocco presents fascism as “an integral doctrine of social, opposed to liberal social atomism”. He evaluates the fascist approach to the most notable problems of the political theory: the problems of freedom, government and social justice. Rocco has also tried to historically reconstruct a tradition of thought alternative to the Enlightenment, which gave birth to fascism: from Ancient Roman political tradition to the medieval scholasticism, from N. Machiavelli to the Italian idealists of the Risorgimento.

Some intellectual constructs created by Rocco were integrated in the “Doctrine of Fascism” (1932) by B. Mussolini and G. Gentile.

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Alfredo Rocco (1875 – 1935) was an Italian scientist and politician. Born in Naples, Rocco attained early success in the fields of commercial and financial law. At the age of 24 he was appointed the professor of law in the University of Urbino, at the age of 38 he has become the professor of law in the University of Padua. In 1914 he joined the Italian nationalist association (ANI), in 1921 he became a parliament member. In 1923 the ANI merged with the Mussolini’s National Fascist Party. Rocco supported fascism and in 1924 became the President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies. In 1925 – 1932 he was the Minister of Justice in Mussolini’s government. After that he was appointed senator for life.

At august 30, 1925 Rocco delivered a speech in Perugia which aimed to uncover the key principles of political doctrine of fascism, which was later published. Rocco’s lecture was endorsed by B. Mussolini.

During his speech Rocco claimed that “fascism is, first of all, action and sentiment”, but it also has a unique intellectual and theoretical content. Rocco opposed fascism to the political doctrines inspired by the Enlightenment: to liberalism, socialism and communism. For Rocco, they are all united by a common conception – the presentation of society as a sum of individuals, and by a common goal – towards the happiness of individuals which is expressed in their welfare.

Fascism, as an “integral doctrine of the social”, prioritizes the interests of the whole over the interests of the single “atomistic” individual. Rocco claims that the unity of language, culture, religion, customs and traditions is as important for human society as the common understanding of the material interests: economic aspirations, territory, the conditions of living. That fascist understanding of social gives meaning to the past and the future. Fascism, for Rocco, is an organic and historic political doctrine.

Rocco evaluates in detail the fascist approach to the key problems of political theory: the notions of freedom, government and social justice. Speaking about freedom, he claims that fascism doesn’t take as a dogma the liberal yearning for economic freedom and for the defense of human rights. Fascist state considers its citizen “the economic instruments for social development”, making the individual interests serve the interests of the whole. It guarantees the individual as much freedom as possible without harming the strategic interests of the whole as the holistic organism. Speaking about the government administration, Rocco claims that for fascism, unlike other political theories, sovereign is the society as a whole which is organized in a state on the basis of law. Speaking about social justice, Rocco talks about the fascist corporative institutions as a mean of wiping out all the possible class conflicts and a mean of integration of all the syndicalist organizations into the fascist state.

Rocco also analyzes fascism as a typically Italian political philosophy. He derives it from the works of G. Mazzini, G. Vico, N. Machiavelli, medieval and Ancient Roman philosophy.

In “The Doctrine of Fascism” (1932) written by B. Mussolini and G. Gentile we may trace the following influences of Alfredo Rocco’s “Political Doctrine of Fascism”: fascism’s opposition to the main ideas and inspirations of 1789, liberalism and socialism; the fundamental statism; fascism’s compromise with tradition (first of all, with Roman Catholic tradition).

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