

# Definition of the Mafia, Fascism and Communism

Victor Aguilar

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**Translation from Ukrainian: *The mafia will be defeated! Justice will be restored!***

This is the motorcade of Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, who is in the Party of Regions, an extension of Putin's United Russia party in Russia. Observe that Ukrainians who yearn for a free society refer to their enemy as the mafia, not the communists. The Communist party controlled the Soviet Union thirty years ago, but today consists mostly of pensioners, whose rallies consist of elderly men holding up pictures of Lenin and demanding better healthcare. They are led by the decrepit Gennady Zyuganov. United Russia is the party of power in Russia.

In sharp contrast, United Russia rallies are a bit livelier, with the Nashi delivering severe beatings to anybody suspected of opposing Vladimir Putin. It is actually ironic that Putin smears everybody who crosses him as a Nazi – often resulting in bizarre claims about people who are no more Nazi than they are Martian – and yet the role of the Nashi in Moscow today is identical to that of the Brown Shirts in Berlin during the rise of Hitler.

When he is not denouncing people as Nazis, Putin's speeches are filled with talk about the need to invade other countries, ostensibly to "protect" ethnic Russians living there. These speeches sound a LOT like the ones given by Hitler to justify Germany invading other countries. If you use the find/replace feature on your word processor to switch "Aryan race" with "ethnic Russians" and "living space" with "near abroad," it is impossible to tell which man is speaking.

History will record that Hitler and Putin were cut from the same cloth; as a practical matter, there is no difference between the Nazi party and the United Russia party. But this leaves us in the quandary of terminology. Referring to Putin as Hitler and to the Nashi as Brown Shirts would be confusing because of their own over-use of the word Nazi. That would be like calling a homosexual a faggot when the homosexual himself is shrieking "Faggot!" in his high-pitched voice at everybody who comes near him. Also, while Hitler was a thoroughly unpleasant person, Putin has struck a chord with American conservatives by embracing Orthodoxy.

Another problem with referring to the United Russia party as Nazi is that fascism is really just a transition period to communism and, by the time the name catches on, they will have already made the transition. Note that the transition can go both ways; when the Soviet Union fell, it turned to fascism, not capitalism. People do not understand the transitional nature of fascism because the Nazis were still fascist at the time of their military defeat. But military defeat is unlikely for the Russians and Putin will retire in 2024 to be replaced by someone, possibly Sergei Udaltsov of Left Front, who wore a Stalin t-shirt to his own wedding and who recently made alliance with the aging Zyuganov. The most likely next step for Russian politics is that disaffected people will vote for change and get worse of the same. (Does Udaltsov running on a "change" platform to appeal to people who have grown to hate Putin remind you of anyone?)

How do Russians themselves actually refer to Putin's political party? In February 2011, Alexei Navalny – off the top of his head – referred to United Russia in [an interview](#) with Yury Pronko as "the party of crooks and thieves." This phrase stuck and today any mention of crooks and thieves in conjunction – alone the words retain their usual meaning – is a reference to the United Russia party. Every night, hundreds of stickers reading "The Party of Crooks and Thieves" are plastered on every smooth surface in Moscow and the next day they are scraped off by security forces. If one really wants to make money off this problem, one should go into the sticker-printing business. What a racket! [Note.](#)

Just as historians today can find no evidence of a Nazi ideology (they appear to have been driven entirely by pragmatism), the only consistent identifying characteristic of United Russia members is criminality. United Russia itself [carried out a poll](#) of people who wanted to join its ranks and just under half said that they were looking to make some extra money on the side.

Basically, for a pocketful of rubles, thugs from the provinces are bused in to Moscow to violently break up anti-corruption protests.

So should we call the United Russia party the mafia? This is what people in western Ukraine call them, as evidenced by the poster reprinted in the header of this paper. But if I use the word mafia when describing the situation to Americans, they think I am talking about La Cosa Nostra, a Sicilian organization. This impression is compounded by the fact that the Russian Nashi means Our Way, which is also the translation of the Italian La Cosa Nostra. So Westerners get confused and are like, "What? There are Sicilians in Eastern Europe? When did that happen?" But if I refer to Putin as a communist, then Easterners get confused and are like, "Viktor is not familiar with our political parties. United Russia is the party of power, not the Communists!"

In fact, organized crime is to communism as a boy is to a man; the same thing at different stages of development. Like a teenage hoodlum who graduates into real felonies, a communist is a criminal who is trying to or has succeeded in taking over his government. Fascism is basically a transition period between a community preyed on by the mafia and one with an outright communist government. During this transition, organized crime is given control of large industries in exchange for a tacit agreement not to assassinate officials; capitalism still prevails among cottage industries. These large businesses do not have to pay taxes; they get free electricity and gas and have industrial parks built for them; and they are fed lucrative no-bid government contracts. In sharp contrast, the owners of small businesses are stalked by tax collectors; they pay exorbitant fees for electricity and gas; and they are denied access to government contracts. Also, there is no law against stiffing a small business; indeed the government protects people who have done so while enforcing their debts to big businesses.

The problem with using the word fascism in the correct way, to refer to the economic system described above, is that most people think the word is synonymous with racism. This was true in one notable historical instance, but fascism is an economic system while racism is a sociological issue; they do not necessarily coincide. While it is true that corporations such as I.G. Farben and Volkswagen employed slave labor (mostly Poles), this was just one of many perks that they received from the Nazi government. Modern factory work is often too complex to be performed by slaves, but fascists that can use them do not import the slaves as German companies did but rather construct factories in countries like Vietnam that have a tradition of slavery and then import the finished product. Not nice, but it cannot be called racism either.

Bottom line: Because fascism is a transitional period to communism and the term mafia is only accurately applied to La Cosa Nostra, I will call the enemies of a free society communist. Parliamentary Mafiacracy might also apply, but it usually refers to the Greek government.

## Appendix

One final note on terminology: Here we have defined the words mafia, fascist and communist, but there is also a fourth type to consider, the Marxist. This latter term refers to a tweedy professor with bizarre and wholly illogical theories. The professor's power does not extend beyond his classroom door. He may claim to be the intellectual guiding light for communism, but actual communists are too busy thieving to care about such a fool. Indeed, they are often just as confused as everybody else by the Marxist's sniveling and illogical arguments. [Note.](#)

Basically, Marxists try to baffle their students with a lot of big words so they do not notice that he just defined away the existence of or even the possibility of a free society. The student is given a binary choice: fascism or communism. But, since fascism is a transitional period to communism, this is no choice at all. The Marxist's arguments are equivalent to denouncing a juvenile delinquent for shoplifting and then, without even considering the possibility of honest work, urging the boy to hurry up and start robbing banks like a real man. The student is like, "Wait... Isn't that worse?" The obvious reply is that what we want is a free market where everybody, big business or small business, is treated equally and fairly. But that reply just results in the Marxist shrieking "Fascist!" at you and of you storming out of his classroom.

If you are a high school student and have come to this paper because your assignment is to compare and contrast socialism to communism, I can sum it up for you in a single sentence: The communist has an AK-47 and is not afraid to use it; the socialist lives on other people's taxes and, while he knows that tax collectors are armed, he hopes that people will just give their money over willingly without too much bloodshed.