

# ORIGINS OF TOTALITARIANISM

## REVOLUTION

### SOCIALIST REVOLUTION

### NATIONALIST REVOLUTION

Socialism/Communism	<<< Form of Government >>>	Fascism
Soviet Union	<<< Prototypical Country >>>	Germany
Joseph Stalin	<<< Political Leaders >>>	Adolf Hitler
Karl Marx	<<< Ideological Leaders >>>	Carl Schmitt
Communist Manifesto et al.	<<< Philosophical Tracts >>>	The Concept of the Political
Marxism/Historical materialism	<<< Political Philosophy >>>	Nazism/Völkisch movement

## ROMANTICISM

### KEY CONCEPTS

#### 1. The Myth of the Stolen Birthright

The rhetoric of revolution, and totalitarianism generally, is one of “restoration”, harkening back to a better time, when society reflected what the “Founding Fathers” intended. Examples of this kind of rhetoric include:

“Make America Great Again”      “Take Our Country Back”

#### 2. The Myth of the Popular Uprising

“There is no proletarian, not even a Communist, movement that has not operated in the interest of money, in the directions indicated by money, and for the time permitted by money – and that without the idealist amongst its leaders having the slightest suspicion of the fact.”

*Political Romanticism was a counter-rationalist philosophical reaction to The Age of Enlightenment, whereby moral absolutes and objective truth were rejected, and the subjectivity of individual sense experience was held as the pinnacle of human expression and truth. This paved the road for nihilist thinkers like Friedrich Nietzsche and his argument for the Will to Power.*

*“...in the realm of ethics, **politics**, aesthetics it was the authenticity and sincerity of the pursuit of inner goals that mattered; this applied equally to individuals and groups – states, nations, movements.”*

*~ Isaiah Berlin, Political Theorist*

~ Oswald Spengler, *The Decline of the West, Volume II: Perspectives of World History* (page 402)