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did r.j. rummel classify nazis as socialists leftists in his democide research?

AI Overview

Yes, R.J. Rummel classified Nazi Germany as a socialist/leftist regime in his democide research.

Rummel explicitly characterized National Socialism as a form of socialism and categorized it alongside communist regimes under the broader umbrella of totalitarian, left-wing collectivism.

1. Classification Under the "Left" and Collectivism

In his books—including *Death by Government* and *Democide: Nazi Genocide and Mass Murder*—and through extensive essays on his *Freedom, Democide, War* website at the University of Hawai'i, Rummel rejected the traditional political spectrum that places Fascism/Nazism on the far-right and Communism on the far-left. Instead, he argued that both systems belong on the totalitarian left because they share a fundamental collectivist ideology that subordinates the individual to the state. [1, 2, 3]

2. Focus on "National Socialism" as True Socialism

Rummel emphasized the "Socialist" portion of National Socialism. He argued that the Nazi regime heavily controlled the economy, dictated production, restricted private property rights in practice, and sought to engineer society collectively—all traits he associated with left-wing or socialist governance.

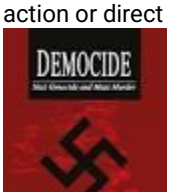
3. The "Power Kills" Framework

Rummel's central thesis was that **"Power kills, absolute Power kills absolutely."** Within his framework, he divided the political world not by left vs. right, but by total state power vs. individual liberty: [1, 2]

- **The Totalitarian Left:** Included both Communist regimes (such as the Soviet Union and Maoist China) and Fascist/Nazi regimes.
- **The Democratic Center/Libertarian Right:** Regimes with decentralized power, free markets, and individual liberties, which he found committed the least democide. [1, 2, 3]

While mainstream historians and political scientists generally classify Nazism as a far-right ideology due to its intense nationalism, racial hierarchies, and rejection of Marxist class struggle, Rummel explicitly treated them as part of the socialist/totalitarian left in his quantitative data tracking 20th-century mass violence.

- Wikipedia
  R. J. Rummel - Wikipedia
  Rummel coined the term democide for murder by government, such as the genocide of indigenous peoples and colonialism, Nazi Germany...

- University of Hawaii System
  DEMOCIDE IN TOTALITARIAN STATES
  Totalitarian States & Democide Tolls: USSR (Lenin/Stalin/successors, 61.9M total including Gulags/Ukraine famine); China
-
- Google Books
  Death by Government - R. J. Rummel
  His results clearly and decisively show that democracies commit less democide than other regimes. The underlying principle is that...
- Amazon.com
  Amazon.com: Democide: 9781560000044: Rummel, R. J.: Books
  entire subject of genocide and mass murder-what is herein called Democide. the 120,000,000 people killed action or direct interven...
  

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  20TH CENTURY DEMOCIDE (Genocide and Mass Murder)
  Rummel Letter to Bishop Creighton Power kills, absolute Power kills absolutely. This new Power Principle is the message emerging f...