

Designed for  
Cambridge O level

**Cambridge**

O level

Western Europe

**Italy**

1918-1939

Cambridge O level

Western Europe

**Italy** 1918-1939

**Post World War I**

**Mussolini's rise to power**

**Creation of Fascist state**

**Mussolini's rule over Italy**

**history**

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# Italy

## . Background .



### I.1

#### Background Unification of Italy

The unification of Italy began in about 1815. Different states were brought together. But some states in the north east were controlled by the Austro-Hungarians. Others wanted unification but disagreed about what that meant.

There were various leaders of the unification movement with Giuseppe Garibaldi perhaps the most famous.

Italy became united in 1861, but not all regions were unified.

King Emmanuel II ruled. Up until WWI Italy went after an empire in Africa (Somalia, Eritrea & Libya) as nationalism grew.

#### World War One

In 1914 Italy was part of the Triple Alliance, (with Germany & Austro-Hungary) but stayed neutral, saying the alliance was for defence only.

Country was split on what to do, but the nationalists won and signed the London Treaty - joining Britain and France in the hope of gaining land in Austro-Hungary.

Attacked A-H, then declared war on Germany. This led to

Germany supporting A-H. Italian army was poorly led and lacked equipment. Some factories went on strike rather than help the war effort.

War largely a stalemate until at the end of the war when A-H were defeated.

### I.2

#### Politics in Italy



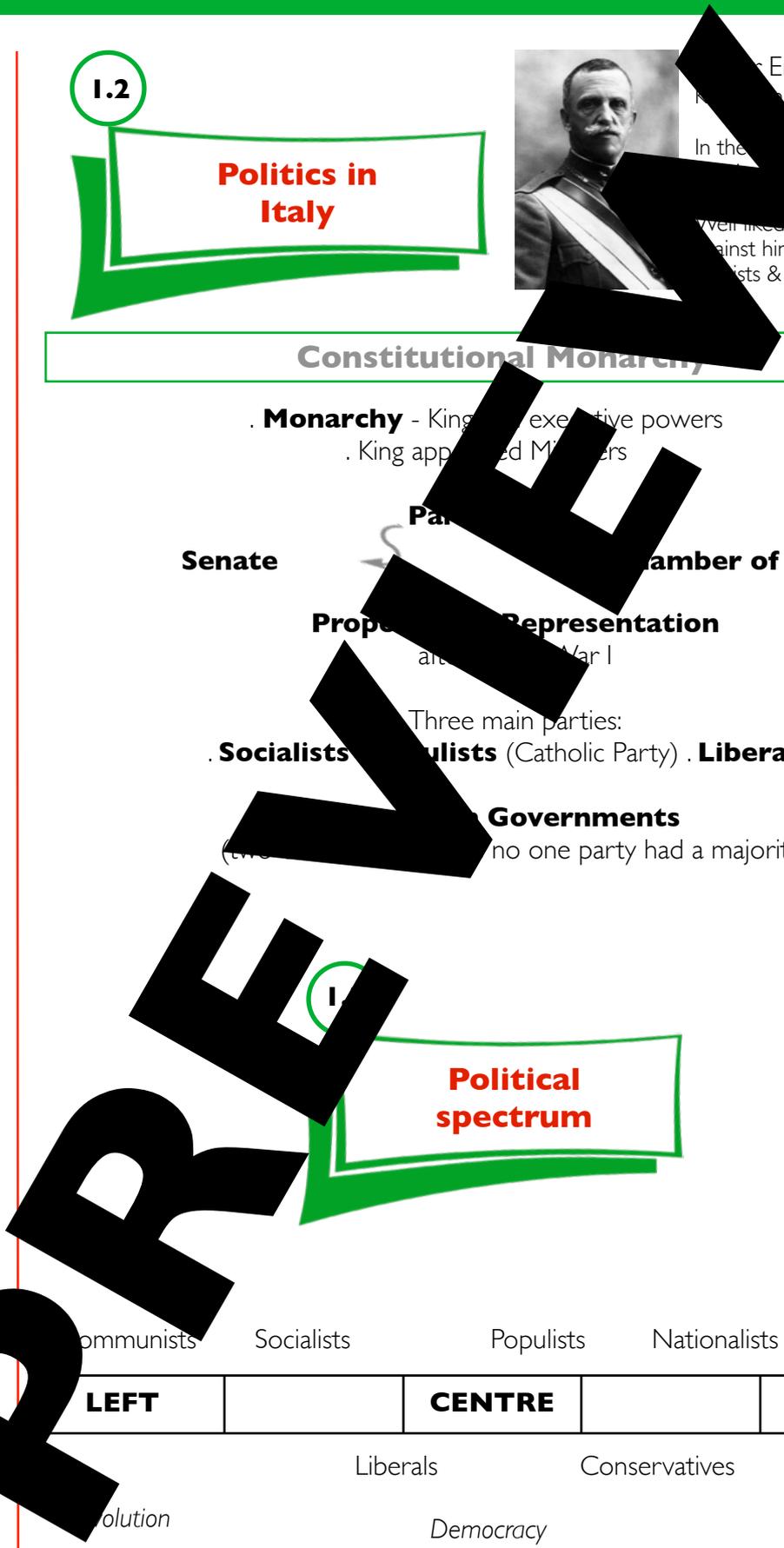
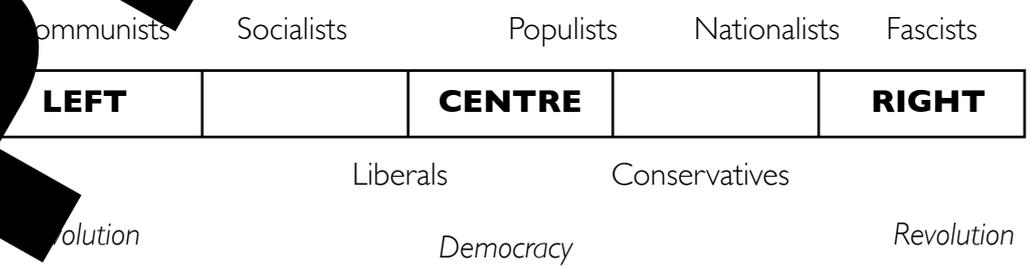
King Emmanuel III  
1900-46  
In the early 1900s, he was very powerful, but lost support of the people. When he tried to force people to support him, they turned against him for supporting the Socialists & Mussolini

#### Constitutional Monarchy

- . **Monarchy** - King held executive powers
- . King appointed Ministers
- . **Senate**
- . **Parliament** - Chamber of Deputies
- . **Proprietary Representation**
- . **Socialists**
- . **Populists** (Catholic Party)
- . **Liberals**
- . **Coalition Governments** (no one party had a majority)

### I

#### Political spectrum





# Italy

## . Post World War One .



### 2.1

#### Government 'failures'

Nationalists blamed the liberal govt. for:

#### High inflation

. Govt. blamed for causing inflation & not solving the problem

#### Strikes & protests

. Govt. did little to stop strikes & rioting

#### Not dealing with socialists

. Many people feared a Bolshevik (Russian) type revolution  
. People said the govt. were doing nothing to stop them

#### Treaty of London

. Italy joined the Allies in 1915, largely to gain land at the end of the war including:  
South Tyrol, Trentino, Istria & Dalmatia, plus some German colonies.

With huge debt & the loss of 700,000 men in the war the Italians expected the Treaty of London to be honoured.

### 2.2 Economic problems

#### Inflation

To pay for the war Italy borrowed: 85 billion lira, but it was not enough so they printed more money = **inflation**  
**Prices increased 400%**  
. People lost their savings  
. Workers wages bought less  
. Factory owners making things for war did well as govt. bought their goods as prices increased - after the war the govt. stopped buying

#### Unemployment

After WWI soldiers after fighting expected jobs & a good life but they found **unemployment rising**  
. Factory owners needed less workers after the war  
. Unemployment 1 million

#### Workers' strikes

After the war workers had long hours - hours were long & wages bought less because of inflation & strikes were banned.  
**strikes & unions** followed the war  
. Workers took their chance to protest  
. Union membership from 0.25 million to 2 million  
. In 1919 1 million workers went on strike

### Consequences World War I

#### WWI deaths

. over 1.2 million died  
. inc. 700,000 soldiers  
. 300,000 soldiers died in the Battle of Caporetto

### 2.3 Political problems

#### Socialism

With the war problems people turned to socialism. **socialism** = (like the Russian Revolution) - workers business & land ownership  
. Workers wanted more things  
**Election 1919:**  
. Socialists = 32% vote  
. Largest party (156 seats)  
. Peasants complained about food prices  
. Peasants took land & started to farm it  
. Union workers demanded higher wages

#### Mutilated victory

People lacked confidence in Italian govt. at Paris Peace Conference.  
Nationalists demanded the govt. got what Italy was promised in the Treaty 1915 (South Tyrol, Trentino, Istria & Dalmatia, plus some German colonies)  
. Treaty gave them: South Tyrol & Trentino  
But not get: Dalmatia or colonies  
Nationalists called it: **'Mutilated Victory'**  
. Soldiers angry  
. Socialists never wanted war

#### Seizure of Fiume

Nationalist Gabriele D'Annunzio in Sept. 1919 seized control of **Fiume**  
. Many soldiers & nationalists saw D'Annunzio as a hero for being strong & using force  
. D'Annunzio became very anti-govt in his speeches  
. The govt. did nothing



# Italy

## . Growing support for Fascism & Mussolini



### Benito Mussolini

#### Early life

- . Not academic & a bully in school
- . Teacher in village schools

#### Journalist

- . Journalist & writer
- . Editor for Socialist paper

#### Intellectual

- . Saw himself as an intellectual, reading political philosophy

#### Socialist

- . Mussolini was a leading member of the Socialist Party

#### World War I

- . Mussolini kicked out of Socialist Party as he was for joining the war & the Socialists were against

#### Nationalist

- . Joined the revolutionary Nationalists
- . Supported a revolution by anyone, rather than by the working class like the Socialists

#### Fascists

- . Formed his own Fascist party which was pro
- . Few supporters to begin
- . Clashed with Socialists

#### Army

- . Joined the army
- . Wounded in 1917
- . Back to writing Fascist newspaper

### 3.2 Facists for:

#### Military

- . Party is military style
- . Create large armed forces

#### Leadership

- . One strong power
- . Leads a one party
- . United behind leader
- . Dictator

#### Nationalism

- . Loyal to your country
- . Country before everything else
- . United behind culture, religion etc. of country

### 3.3 Facists against:

#### Internationalism

- . Against international organisations

#### Democracy

- . Against multi-parties & democracies
- . Elections
- . Free speech

#### Socialism

- . Against socialism & communism

### 3.4

#### Combat

- . More than 100 people
- . People
- . Republican
- . Socialists & democracy

#### March 1919

#### Mussolini's Fascists

#### Ideas

- . National Assembly
- . Republic (no royal family)
- . No royal titles
- . Control of banks, industry etc by govt.
- . Tax private wealth
- . Take private rent
- . Workers share companies profits

#### Mussolini

- . Fascist little known
- . of small new parties
- . Mussolini known through his writing in *Il Popolo d'Italia*
- . Failed to be elected in Milan, with 5,000 votes out of 270,000

#### November 1919

#### Elections

#### Election results

- . Disaster for Fascists
- . Not win any seats in parliament
- . Less than 5,000 members of the party



# Italy

## . Growing support for Fascism & Mussolini



4.1

### Liberal governments

#### Proportional Representation

- . introduced after WWI
- . gave small parties a voice like the Socialists & Fascists

#### No majority

- . PR meant the vote was split so it was not possible for one party to get a majority

#### . Coalition govts.

- . Liberals needed the help of other parties to form a govt. These govts. often fell-out & new govts. had to be formed

#### . Anti-clerical

- against Catholics in govt.
- . Though they needed their support in Parliament
- . Hence coalitions very tricky as a result

#### . Nitti govt

1919-20

- . Coalition govt. with Catholic Party
- . Embarrassed by Fiat
- . Not stop protests

#### . Giolitti govt

1920-22

- . Coalition with Catholics & some Socialists

### Liberals in Govt

- . Liberals not have majority, so coalition govts
- . Weak coalition govts
- . Needed support from Catholic party, but helped only a little as not trust Liberals
- . Five govts between 1917-22

### Problems

- . Faced a number of problems
- . inflation & huge debt
- . unemployment
- . strikes & protests

### Criticism

- . Govts. criticised
- . Growth in socialism & fascism, who both wanted revolutions

4.2

### Government in Italy

#### Socialist Unions

#### Government

- . Socialists had 156 out of 508 seats in Parliament
- . Some helped Liberals
- . most did not
- . In regional areas Socialists controlled 26 of 69
- . In Emilia region controlled 80% of councils

#### Towns

- . Socialists encouraged workers protests in Sept 1920:
- . forcing workers to close their factories
- . 400,000 workers on strike
- . Liberal govt. did nothing, factory owners angry
- . Strikes finished after a month, made liberal govt look weak
- . Socialists set-up co-operative shops, offering cheap prices & share in profits

#### Countryside

- . Landowners complained to govt. about actions of Socialists
- . Socialist Unions had over 1 million members & controlled large areas of land
- . Workers occupying land & farming it for themselves

4.3

### Socialist threat ?

### Revolution

- . Talk of revolution but no plan
- . Idea of revolution scared:
  - the rich
  - middle classes
  - farmers
  - landowners
  - shopkeepers
- . Anti WWI made enemies amongst soldiers etc

Mussolini's opportunity



# Italy

## . Growing support for Fascism & Mussolini



5.1

### Fascist Party

1919

- . Party set-up
- . Few votes in election

1920

- . Fascist Squads
- . Support for being anti-socialist
- . Mussolini more & more anti-socialist
- . Fascist Party attract rich & poor in farming areas

1921

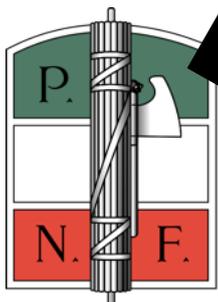
- . Fascist violence carried out by the **blackshirts** brought the Fascists much publicity & support from those scared of socialists/communists

**Il Duce**

was Mussolini's title meaning the leader

“

we are causing today is a revolution to break up the Bolshevik (communist) state  
**Mussolini**



Party of National Fascists

**The fear of Socialist revolution, was a huge opportunity for Mussolini & his Fascists. People turned to them to stop the threat of the Socialists**

### Landowners

- . Scared of socialism in the countryside
- . Fight back with fascists to attack the Socialists in Emilia & Tuscany
- . By 1921 areas became Fascist controlled

5.2

### Anti-Socialist

- . ex-soldiers
- . 3000 fascists aged 18-30
- . led in Ferrara in 1919
- . joined with Mussolini

### Fascist Squads

- . squads were formed to attack Socialists
- . Fascist squads = ex soldiers plus others e.g. farmers as they became more successful & famous
- . Farmers scared of collectivisation
- . Local Fascist leaders or RAS had their own squads

**The Fascist Squads had acted independently across Italy. Mussolini had to wait around to get the Ras to see him as their leader - through his newspaper & promised them a way to power**

### Mussolini

- . Mussolini was the dominant personality in the party
- . Most Ras stood behind him
- . Mussolini stopped the violence was to stop the Socialists
- . Anti-Socialist crusade

### Rise of the Fascist Party

- . Mussolini convinced Giolitti that the Fascists were violent
- . Giolitti was persuaded & said the Fascist were just "fireworks"

### Elections 1921

- . Giolitti & the Liberals decided to work with the Fascists to defeat the Socialists
- . Fascist violence continued
- . Fascists won 35 seats
- . Socialists won 123
- . Liberals won 107
- . Mussolini elected as a deputy to Parliament

### Threat

- . Socialists strong in parliament

### Mussolini

- . Charismatic
- . Influence through newspaper

### Weak Liberal govts

- . Liberals unable to form strong govts.

5.4

### Reasons for success

### Strikes, protests

- . Made the Liberal govt look weak

### Occupations

- . Takeover of land & factories scared many people

### Support of Giolitti

- . Gave the Fascists credibility
- . Important role in parliament

### Fascist Squads

- . Anti-socialist crusade
- . Fascists looked strong



# Italy

## . Growing support for Fascism & Mussolini .



6

6.1

### Fascist policies

Mussolini gave few specific policies - he did not want to upset any group of voters

#### November 1921

- . unite everyone
- . strong govt.
- . military service
- . schools for physical & moral training for military
- . train school elite for ruling the country
- . national interest comes before individual freedoms
- . govt. owned industry to be sold
- . govt. spending to be cut
- . tax based on income
- . bigger role for Italy in Mediterranean area

#### Did not talk about:

- . political structure
- . catholic church

“ we must have a State that represents the Nation as a whole, it includes all, protects all.....”

Mussolini



### Not with Liberals

- . Mussolini refused to work with Giolitti & the Liberals
- . Wanted to show that the Liberals were no longer a party worth voting for

6.2

### Fascists in Parliament

#### Govt. instability

- . Giolitti govt. lasted a month when Catholics stopped supporting
- . Liberals divided themselves
- . 3 govts from may 1921 - Oct 1922

### Party tactics

- . Wanted to show that the Fascists were the party of the future
- . Mussolini needed the support of the middle class & conservatives
- . Less radical ideas to get votes

### National Fascist Party

- . Aim to get more support
- . National Assembly chose Mussolini as leader
- . Party organised by Mussolini Milan men (loyal to him)
- . More control over Squads

### Liberals

- . Keep with Liberals
- . Spoke about Fascists in power, with Libs helping

### Conservatives

- . Conservatives could get Mussolini to power
- . Conservatives: Against Socialists
- . Angry with the Liberals
- . Wanted law & order

6.3

### Fascists in 1921

### Fascist violence

- . Squads continued their actions
- . Socialists were attacked & some killed
- . Socialists in parliament attacked

#### Violence continued

- . May 1922: Bologna town council ran out of office
- . Fighting in many Northern cities
- . Police did little to stop the Fascists - sometimes actually helping them against the Socialists

### Catholics

- . Mussolini wanted the support of the Catholics
- . Agreed with the Catholics that divorce should be banned & peasants deserved a better deal

6.4

### Fascist violence

### Conservatives

- . Conservatives worried Fascist violence went to far
- . Mussolini tried to say the violence was not Fascist policy that he would control it
- . Socialists were still a threat & causing problems

### Fascist Squads

- . Fascist Ras very powerful in their area
- . Needed their support but needed to control them



# Italy

## . Growing support for Fascism & Mussolini .



7.1

### Key people

#### King Victor Emmanuel

- . Frustrated with parliament
- . Feared civil war with Fascist Squads
- . Cousin & Mother were pro Fascist
- . Lacked confidence in the army

#### Salandra

- . Wanted Mussolini in govt
- . Mussolini refused & Salandra preferred him to be PM rather than his rival Giolitti

#### Giolitti

- . 80 year old master of Italian politics not in Rome in October
- . Eventually approved of Mussolini's appointment

#### Army

- . Some generals pro Fascist
- . Some took part in March on Rome
- . Unsure if they could stop the Fascist Squads

#### People

- . Many people saw it as a chance to start again:
  - . Press
  - . Rich elite
  - . Intellectuals

#### Socialists

- . End of Liberals
- . Chance for their revolution

7.2

### 1922 What to do?

1 August 1922  
**Socialists called a General Strike**  
(stop work across the country)  
. made them look like revolutionaries  
. lasted only one day

#### Mussolini had a choice:

Fascist Ras wanted a coup (take power)  
**or**  
Persuade the Liberals to give the Fascists more power

16 October

#### Fascists agree a plan

- . Mussolini & Ras design a plan for a coup

24 October

#### Fascist congress in Naples

- . Mussolini said he would be appointed leader or they would take power

7.3

### March on Rome

31 October

#### Mussolini parades in Rome

- . More Fascist Squads arrived
- . Parade with King & Mussolini

27 October

#### Decision time for Mussolini

- . Mussolini offered position in govt.
- . Fascist Ras said wait for better position
- . While waiting:
  - (not to fight with the army)
  - Fascists prepared
- . Blackshirts got ready in city of Perugia
- . Across Italy tried to take:
  - police stations; govt. offices; telephone exchanges
  - some success in cities

30 October

#### Mussolini arrives in Rome

- . King made Mussolini PM
- . The Fascist Squads head to Rome
- . 12 killed in clashes involving Squads

Prime Minister Facta asked King to use the army against the Fascists

29 October

#### Mussolini offered PM

- . Salandra advises King to make Mussolini Prime Minister
- . King agrees

28 October

#### Martial law

- (2am) . King allows army to take control
- . Mussolini to be arrested
- (9am) . King stops martial law
- Prime Minister Facta resigns
- New govt formed by Salandra, but Mussolini refuses to join



# Italy

## . Growing support for Fascism & Mussolini .



### Consequences of WWI

- . military losses
- . huge debt to pay for war

### D'Annunzio & Fiume

- . invasion of Fiume
- . showed Italian govt. to be weak

### Why did Mussolini come to power in 1922?

### Socialists

- . rise in Socialism - largest party
- . threat of Bolshevik style revolution

### Mussolini

- . charismatic style
- . influence of newspaper
- . united Fascists into National Party

### Role of the King

- . refused Martial Law
- . approved Mussolini as PM

### March on Rome

- . Arrival of Mussolini & Fascists to Rome
- . Mussolini becomes Prime Minister

### St. Germain Treaty

- . Mutilated Victory
- . anger from Nationalists + ex soldiers etc

### Economic problems

- . unemployment high
- . rising inflation

### Liberal governments

- . weak Liberal coalition govts.
- . Liberals blamed for WWI, economic problems, strikes & protests, socialist threat

### Strikes & Protests

- . series of strikes & protests
- . Govt. do little to stop them

### Fascist Squads

- . importance of Ras
- . violence against Socialists
- . powerful regional leaders

### Electoral success

- . no seats in 1919
- . 35 seats in 1921

### Support of Conservatives

- . Mussolini appealed to Conservatives for their support
- . seen as being able to deal with Socialists



# Italy

## . Founding of the Fascist State .



8.1

### Mussolini

. Told everyone in Oct 1922

“ I'm here to stay

. Most people expected Mussolini's gov't not to last long

### First speech as PM

. explained he could have taken power by revolution but did not  
 . chose to work with the King & the constitution  
 . but left the threat of revolution hanging in the air

### Situation in 1924

. Fascists had state power on their side  
 . Socialists weakened  
 . Militia (blackshirts) strong & violence continued  
 . Opposition more silent

### More support:

. saved Italy from Socialist revolution  
 . brought strong gov't.  
 . united Italy

### Corfu & Fiume

. Gets money from Greece after Italy invaded Corfu  
 . Italy takes Fiume from Yugoslavia

### Govt. cabinet

. Only 3 Fascists in the cabinet

### Problems facing Mussolini in Nov 1922

8.2

### Popularity

. Fascists had only 7% of the vote

### Weak govts

. Govts lasted less than 2 years

### Parliament

. Fascists 35 out of 535 seats

### Fascists

. No policies & divided over what to do

### Mussolini

. No experience in gov't.  
 . Had to keep his own Fascists happy, some 'radicals' wanted to take power, 'moderates' wanted to take things more slowly.

### Nationalists

. Nationalist inc. leaders Rocco & Federzoni joined the Fascist Party

8.3

### Consolidation of Mussolini's government 1922-24

### Fascist National Party

. Created Fascist Grand Council - similar to Gov't cabinet

### Emergency powers

. Gave Mussolini the right to make laws  
 . Made laws to help factory owners & farmers  
 . Increased priests' pay

### Acerbo Law 1923

. Changed from Proportional Representation to a system: majority party (at least 25%) gets 66% of the seats in Parliament

### Fascist Militia

. Created militia (private army) made from Fascist Squads - the Blackshirts - & paid for by the state

### Election April 1924

. Militia disrupted Socialist meetings  
 . Many Fascists were allowed to vote several times  
 . Fascists won 275 seats + 100 from other parties who supported them  
 . Socialists + Catholics less than 50





# Italy

## . Founding of the Fascist State .



9.1

### End of the Fascists?

#### The Matteotti Crisis:

- . Crowds protested
- . Fascists tore up their membership cards
- . Communists called for a general strike
- . People questioned the role of the Fascists in govt.

#### BUT

#### Response from others was weak:

- . **King:** not want to act, better to keep Mussolini
- . **Army:** obey the King
- . **Fascist Ras:** take power & set up Fascist country
- . **Church:** Mussolini saved us from socialism
- . **Elite:** Not like what happened but better to stay with Mussolini
- . **Parliament:** many walked out in protest, so Fascists in majority
- . **Opposition:** wanted to do something, but could not decide what
- . Believed that Mussolini was now weak & could be controlled

#### OVRA

- . Secret police that was feared by the people
- . Stop organised opposition

9.2

#### Giacomo Matteotti

- . Leader of Socialists

#### Mussolini

- . in the newspaper the next day Mussolini said that Matteotti deserved a concrete reply

### Matteotti Crisis

#### Dumini & Rossi + 3 others

- . 2 left off, 3 sentenced to six years in prison - released after two months!

#### Mussolini involvement

- . People believed that Mussolini ordered the killing of Matteotti

#### Dumini

- . Dumini was assistant to Mussolini's press secretary & advisor - Rossi

#### Militia

- . Militia joined with army

5 January 1925

#### Under Ras pressure

- . Mussolini made a speech in parliament taking responsibility for Fascist actions

#### Mussolini takes control

- . Arrests of opponents & controls over the next year by decree (2000+)
- . Political parties banned - councils replaced by Fascists
- . Set up OVRA

30 May 1924

#### Parliament Speech

- . Criticised Fascists for being violent & fixing elections

#### Fascists in Parliament

- . Fascists interrupted him & it took Matteotti 2 hours for his 30 min speech

#### Matteotti

- . As he left parliament he said "now you can prepare for my death."

#### Matteotti kidnapped

- . 11 days later Fascists kidnapped him

#### Matteotti dead

- . Two months after the kidnapping Matteotti was found dead

#### Kidnap car

- . Car owned by Filipelli (Mussolini's friend)

#### Mussolini hit squad

- . The murder linked to Dumini - a leader in Cheka. (Mussolini's private hit squad)

#### Depression

- . Mussolini was depressed & did nothing for a while

9.3

#### Rossi said:

- . Mussolini approved everything

### Mussolini's response

#### Dictatorship

- . Mussolini had taken personal control
- . Many Ras were not pleased as they wanted a Fascist state, not a Mussolini state



# Italy

## . Founding of the Fascist State .



10.1

### The Matteotti Crisis = Dictatorship

#### Before the Matteotti crisis

Mussolini was the Prime Minister in an elected govt.

#### After the Matteotti crisis

Italy became a country controlled by one man

#### Cult of Personality

##### Mussolini

- . came to believe his own image
- . believed he was the new Roman Emperor
- . thought he could do no wrong

#### Gap between reality & myth

. as time went on people started seeing the gap between Mussolini's talk & his actions



Mussolini's own personal standard (flag)

#### One party state

- . Other parties banned

#### Censorship

- . Press very controlled

#### Weak opposition

- . Opposition divided

10.2



#### OVRA

- . Secret police are feared & limits opposition

#### Democracy ended

- . Local councils appointed not elected

#### Mussolini decrees

- . Mussolini issues decrees without Parliament

#### Mussolini the leader

- . Il Duce
- . 'Mussolini was always right'
- . World statesman & leader
- . Love for his people & country
- . Worked up to 20 hours a day
- . Cultured, intellectual, thinker
- . Great lover

#### Mussolini's image

- . Propaganda:
  - Govt: Il Duce, pictures etc
  - Media: newspapers, films, posters
  - Buildings: sculptures, pictures
  - Church: Mussolini heaven sent

10.3



#### Mussolini in history

- . Saviour of Italy
- . Like St Francis & Jesus
- . Follows Caesar & Augustus
- . Sent by God
- . Symbol of the nation

#### Support for Mussolini

- . Propaganda helped Mussolini get support
- . Mussolini separate from actions of the Fascists
- . Mussolini not responsible for



# Italy

## . Mussolini's rule over Italy.



11.1

### Relations with the Catholic church

#### 1923: Seeking Catholic support

- . increased salaries
- . RE in primary schools
- . crucifix back in classrooms

#### 1929: Lateran Treaty Vatican City:

- . made a sovereign state & in return Pope recognised Rome as Italy's capital

#### Finance

- . Church given 750 million lire in govt. bonds for loss of land

#### Concordat

(how the church & state work together)

- . Catholicism official religion
- . State had veto powers over Church appointments
- . RE in secondary schools
- . Church control divorce
- . Allow 'Catholic Action'

#### 1931: Catholic Action

- . Fascists said Catholic Action was being more political than religious
- . Pope criticised Fascism
- . Agreed CA only for religion, education & leisure (not sport)

#### 1938: Anti-semitism

- . Church criticised Fascist policy on Jews

### Newspapers

- . Fascist Squads led boycotts of critical newspapers
- . Fascists bought newspapers
- . 1926: few critical newspapers
- . Fascists Prefects: oversaw censorship
- . Some anti Fascist papers survived

### Rallies

- . Fascists organised mass rallies & parades
- . To show discipline & organisation
- . To impress people (copied from Stalin's parades)

11.2

## Propaganda under Mussolini

### Posters

- . Everywhere, most showing Duce
- . Many Italians not read so images important

### Art

- . As propaganda & to show off Fascists
- . Fascist art = art for everyone
- . Art very diverse under Italian Fascists
  - . Neo classicists = Roman
  - . Modernism = abstract
- . Showed people as working hard etc
- . Govt. tried to control by rewarding artists with prizes, commissions etc
- . All artists had to swear oath to Il Duce
  - . Show off Fascist achievements - grand architecture, roads etc
  - . Less censorship than other areas

### Radio

- . After 1924 govt. controlled
- . Mostly music but 2 hours of official announcements
- . Speakers broadcast into piazzas
- . Public radios common, Fascists held community listening meetings
- . Radios quiet expensive but from 40,000 to 1 million in 10 years
- . Some foreign radio (BBC) could be listened to

### Cinema

- . Fascists slow to realise importance of cinema & film
- . 1924: LUCE Govt. film agency set-up
- . LUCE made news, culture films etc shown before the main feature film usually from Hollywood
- 1930s: made own films, only some were pure propaganda
- Mussolini loved 'Laurel & Hardy'

### Literature, drama & music

- . Literature & theatre for the elite so less censored
- . Encouraged to be more Italian & less foreign
- . As long as not anti Fascist mostly left alone

### Sport

- . Built sports stadiums to impress
- . Encouraged people to do sport
- . National teams to boost morale

### Intellectual ideas

- . Mussolini wanted to create a Fascist Philosophy
- . Few people were interested



# Italy

## . Mussolini's rule over Italy.

12

12.1

Called Battles by Mussolini to stir people into action

### Battle for the Lira

#### Aims:

- . increase value of lira
- . reduce inflation
- . make lira a world currency

#### Successes:

- . lira increase in value
- . made Fascists look good

#### Failures:

- . exports expensive
- . difficult for small businesses
- . 1936: govt. devalued lira

### Battle for Grain

#### Aims:

- . increase grain production
- . reduce imports of grain
- . show Italy as powerful

#### Successes:

- . helped farmers buy machinery (esp. south)
- . cereal production x2
- . wheat imports fell 75%

#### Failures:

- . price of bread increased
- . less farming of animals
- . needed to import more fertilizers

### Battle of the Marshes

#### Aims:

- . increase land for farming
- . create more jobs
- . reduce marshes & malaria

#### Successes:

- . 80,000 hectares reclaimed
- . new towns created
- . jobs created

#### Failures:

- . only 1/20 of target
- . reclaim in North not South

**1920s: Economy did well** - world trade good, rich more confident now that Socialists had been defeated, trade unions weak.  
Mussolini for business, reduced govt. spending,

### Industry

#### Problems:

too many imports, low levels of electricity, low economic growth

#### Successes:

- . 1929-39 industry up 15%
- . 1920-40 electricity up by 500%
- . New industry: chemical, electricity

#### Failures:

- . suffered during world depression
- . not very efficient industry
- . large companies dominant, difficult for small companies
- . iron production low

### Agriculture

#### Problems:

south very poor, migration to the cities, low agricultural production

#### Successes:

- . Improve wheat production by 100% (wheat imports fell by 75%)
- . Spread scientific knowledge
- . Tariffs on imports

#### Failures:

- . Low yields in the south
- . 20% drop in cattle & sheep farming
- . Low prices hit small farmers

12.2

## Mussolini's economic policies

### Trade

- . Imported more than it exported
- . Tried to limit imports with autarky & tariffs, but made little difference
- . Germany important trade partner in 1930s
- . Imports: cotton, coal, wheat, machines
- . Exports: fruit/veg, silk, cheese, cloth

### Transport

- . Roads - 500km autostrada built (but few people owned cars & roads in south still very poor)
- . Railways - 5,000kms built + electrification (meant to show Fascist efficiency)

### Tax

#### 1920s

- . Rich = less taxes
- . Poor = higher taxes

#### 1930s

- . Rich = taxes increased by 60%
- . Poor = still high taxes (some price controls to help poor)

### Self-sufficiency: autarky

- Economic & Military: Why?
- . Make Italy great & not dependent on other countries
  - . League of Nations sanctions of 1935-36 hurt Italy
  - . Ideal - self-sufficiency
  - . Reality - more self-sufficiency
  - . Improved grain production
  - . Tariffs on imports
  - . Rise in prices
  - . Few exports
  - . BUT
  - . NO coal, oil, little iron
  - . 1940: produced only 20% of needs



# Italy

## . Mussolini's rule over Italy.



13.1

**Corporative State**  
was Mussolini's  
**'Third Way'**

**Not socialism**  
or  
**capitalism**  
**but the best of both**

People confused  
as what it was ....

Everyone work for the  
nation, not for own interest.

Corporations both owners  
& workers, together

**BUT**

**Corporativism**  
**a myth**

**Grand sounding**

- chance to make the  
workers work harder

- typical Mussolini, grand  
sounding but not effective

“ Fascism should more  
appropriately be called  
corporatism because it is a  
merger of corporate and state  
power.....  
**Mussolini**

### Ministry of Corporations

. Ministry approve syndicates & employers

#### Co-operation

. idea from medieval times  
. workers & owners together

#### Grand idea

. Mussolini wanted to create  
his own way - 'Third Way'  
. Gain international respect

13.2

### Corporativism

#### Syndicalism

. Syndicates (represent the  
workers) organise factories  
etc. to improve production

#### Nationalism

. Include the idea of putting  
the nation first - before  
individual needs

#### Price controls

#### Tariffs & subsidies

13.3

#### Trade unions banned

#### Autarky

### Fascist involvement in the economy

#### Wage cuts

#### "Battles"

#### Public works

#### Industrial Hospital Services

#### Fixed the lira

#### Bank controls

#### Corporations

Companies had some govt. controls but Mussolini did not want to upset the  
industrial elite who owned the businesses

In the 1930s more control through 'Industrial Hospital Services' which helped  
companies that were in trouble from the world depression

After 1935, Italy was on a war footing, when govt. controlled industry making  
military equipment - but had to borrow to pay for it,  
owing 2 billion lira (1934) and then 28 billion (1939)

# Italy

## . Mussolini's rule over Italy.

14

14.1

### Govt. intervention

- . companies helped by the govt. without being completely taken over (nationalised)
- . after WWII these companies wherein a good position to develop Italy into the 1950s ...

### Public works



Land reclamation

### Pontine Marshes

- . one of Mussolini's success stories
- . marshes partly drained by Romans completed by Mussolini
- . wheat & cotton grown
- . included building of several towns
- . damaged by Germans during WWII

14.2

## Great Depression

### Wall Street Crash 1929

- . Loans from USA stopped

### GNP

- . -5.4% (Europe av. -7%)

### Agriculture

- . fall in prices hit grain farmers hard

### Wage cuts

- . Wages fell for workers

### Industry

- . demand fell

### Unemployment

- . rose to 2 million

### Govt. intervention

- . govt. intervened in several ways

### Industrial Finance Institute (IMI)

- . helped many banks

14.3

## Response to the depression

### Inst. Reconstruction Industry

- . 1933: helped industry by taking shares of companies in trouble
- . reorganised companies
- . by 1939: controlled 75% iron, 45% steel ind, 90% shipbuilding = 20% Italian industry

### Price fixing

- . govt. help industry by encouraging big companies to fix their prices & cut wages

### Public works

- . govt. sent money on public works programme
- roads, housing, land reclamation (Pontine marshes), electrification

### Welfare & work hours

- . govt. increased some welfare payments
- . some workers had hours reduced to enable more people to be employed



Italy did manage to avoid the worst of the Great Depression, compared to other countries around the world.

Govt. action helped make sure there was no political unrest which there was in many other countries.

Mussolini was not forced out of office unlikely many leaders across Europe



# Italy

## . Mussolini's rule over Italy.

15

15.1

### Effectiveness of Education & Youth Movements

#### Aims:

- . make young good Fascists
- . teachers servants of state
- . cult of Mussolini
- . prepare for war

#### Membership

In north 60% of young people joined, less in the south.

Many young in the south left school by 14 to work on the farms

#### Effectiveness

- . difficult to be sure
- . some joined enthusiastically others just took part
- . by end of the 1930s police spoke about youths being disaffected
- . for most young people who had gone through the entire school & youth group system they believed in the state, even if they were not totally Fascist.

#### Illiteracy:

1921: 27% - 1936: 17%

#### University numbers:

1921: 54,000 1934: 165,000

### Catholic Church groups

- . govt eventually controlled them after 1928
- . Catholic groups still had great influence over young people

### Cult of Mussolini

- . Picture of Mussolini in every class
- . Notebooks with Mussolini on front
- . Songs about Mussolini

15.2

### Education

#### Govt. books

- . Govt. provided all text books inc. Fascist culture

#### Universities

- . left alone as long as not anti-Fascist
- . by university time young people mostly pro Fascist

15.3

### Balilla - Fascist Youth Movements

#### Groups for 18-21 years

- . GUF for university students
- annual contests inc. art & politics (chance to show some dissent)
- . group for non students

1937: GIL replaced ONB & run by Fascist Party

### Religion

- . Religion studied

### History

- . Over 100 books banned

### Military

- . 1935: military education inc. history, weapons training & tactics

### Anti-semitism

- . anti-semitism taught
- . 1938: Jewish students expelled

### Teachers

- . 1929: teachers take oath of loyalty
- . all teachers had to be part of Fascist Association
- . 1933: new teachers/lecturers had to be members of Fascist Party
- . 1938: Jewish teachers sacked

### Opera Nazionale Balilla

- Run by Ministry of Education
- . groups for different ages 6-18 years

Organised activities for boys included:

- . sports - skiing, fitness, military drill
- . propaganda lessons
- . parades inc. Saturday rallies (3:30-6:00pm)
- . summer camps

Girls - less joined

- Organised activities included:
- . exercise . music . domestic skills .
- . child care . hygiene . handicrafts .

- . 1935: compulsory for all run by Fascist Party

# Italy

## . Mussolini's rule over Italy.

16

16.1

### Mussolini's women

He had a series of Mistresses throughout his life .... being a 'great lover' was part of his imagine.

### Rachele Mussolini

. Lived with Mussolini from 1910, married him in 1915.

From a peasant family, she had 5 children & was shown to the country as the perfect model Fascist housewife & mother

### Margherita Sarfatti

Came from a rich Jewish family. Was a radical Socialist with Mussolini, then a Fascist. Worked on newspapers with Mussolini & wrote his biography. Influenced the cultural & foreign policy.

By 1935 her influence was over as anti-semitic laws came in. She left Italy in 1938 returning after 1945.

### Clara Petacci

From a rich family, became his mistress in 1936. Mainly a secret relationship. Not intellectual like Sarfatti, she was very pro Nazi & stayed with him until the end.

She asked to be shot with Mussolini when they were captured together.

## Factors influencing position of women

. Fascist ideas . Mussolini . Traditions . Catholic church . Depression . New ideas .

### Personal life

- . Fascists believed women:
  - . well rounded (not thin) . simply dressed (no cosmetics)
  - . main role: child birth & mothers
- . limited sport as Mussolini thought it made women infertile!

16.2

## Women in Fascist Italy

### Economy

- . Main role: produce babies
- . Farming better than factories for women

### Education

- . Education better than work for women
- . Number of women at university increased

### Politics

- . 1925: could vote in local elections
- . 1926: local elections abolished
- Women:
  - . no vote
  - . no role in politics
- . Some women set-up Female Fascist Groups - these stressed the importance of women in the home
- . During League of Nations sanctions (1935), women were encouraged to exchange their gold rings for tin
- . Women were encouraged to attend political rallies

16.3

## Battle of Births

### Aims:

- . increase Italy's population from 37 million (1920) to 60 million (1950)
- . to provide soldiers & people for the empire & to make Italy great

### Action:

- . propaganda campaigns . better health care
- . marriage loans (cancelled if have 4+ children)
  - . tax relief - no income tax if 10+ children
  - . ceremonies & prizes
- . bachelors taxed more . divorce not allowed
  - . fathers promoted in govt.

### Success/Failure

- . birth rate continued to decline
- . population increase to 48 million
- . people married later; marriage rate fell



# Italy

## . Mussolini's rule over Italy.



### Propaganda

- . newspapers, radio, cinema, arts etc
- . Fascist rallies

### Catholic Church

- . Latreran Treaty
- . Catholic Action

### Education

- . refused Martial Law
- . approved Mussolini as PM

### Corporativism

- . Mussolini's 'third way' - not socialism or capitalism
- . workers syndicates, nationalism & co=operation

### Young people

- . refused Martial Law
- . approved Mussolini as PM

### Self-sufficiency: autarky

- . Economic & military self-sufficiency
- . BUT few raw materials
- . by 1940 only met 20% of needs

## Life in Mussolini's Italy

### Industry

- . industrial production up 15%
- . electricity up 500%
- . inefficient industry

### Trade

- . imported more than exported
- . Germany key trade partner
- . tariffs on imports

### Farming

- . low production
- . improved wheat up 100%
- . 20% drop in animal + plus low prices

### Tax

- . 1920s Rich = less taxes Poor = higher taxes
- . 1930s. Rich = up by 60%. Poor = still high taxes

### Battles

- . Battler for the Lura. Battle for Grain
- . Battle of the Marshes

### Women

- . Fascists believed in traditional role of mother
- . Limited role in politics but encouraged in education (better than work)

### Great Depression 1930s

- . US loans stopped, unemployment to 2 m
- . industrial prod. & wages fell

### Battle of births

- . aim: to increase population
- . propaganda, marriage loans, tax relief, prizes etc
- . birth rate continued to decline

### Response to Depression

- . Govt. intervention: public works; less working hours; cut wages
- . helped banks & industry by taking shares in them
- . did better than most countries in Europe during depression