

Designed for
Cambridge O level

Cambridge

O level

Western Europe

Italy

1918-1939

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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



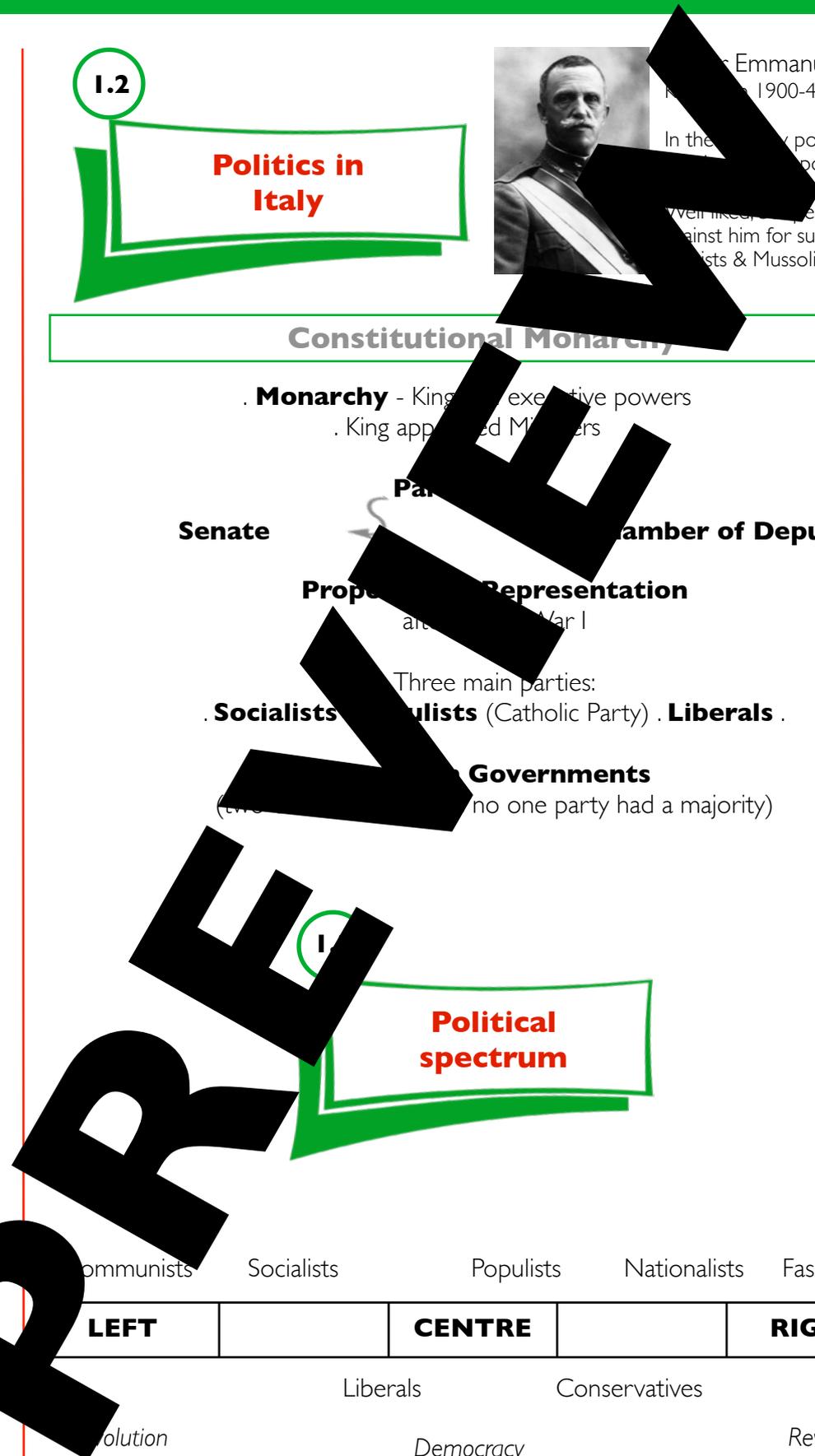
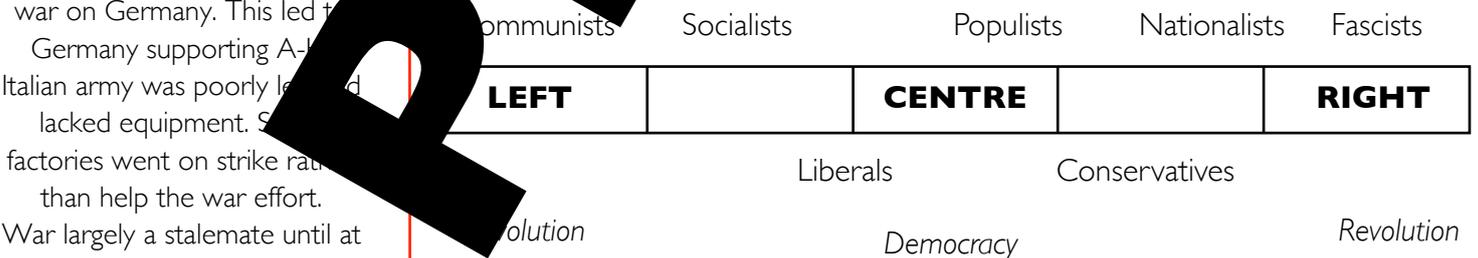
King Emmanuel III
1900-46
In the early 1900s, he was very powerful, but lost support of the people. When he tried to force people to support him, they turned against him for supporting the Socialists & Mussolini

Constitutional Monarchy

- . **Monarchy** - King held executive powers
- . King appointed Ministers
- . **Senate** - Upper Chamber of Deputies
- . **Proposed Representation** - after WWI
- . **Socialists** - **Populists** (Catholic Party) . **Liberals** .
- . **Coalition Governments** (two) - 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



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 economic problems people turned to socialism. **socialism** = (like the Russian Revolution) - workers business & land ownership
. Workers demanded more things
Election 1919:
Socialists = 32% vote
Largest party (156 seats)
Peasants complained about high 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

Elections

- . Socialists seemed to have gained support in 1919
- . Socialists in parliament split
- . Fascians became increasingly popular
- . Bolshevik revolution
- . number of parties
- . against the idea of revolution

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

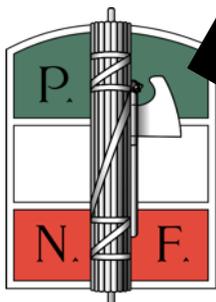
1921

- . 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 1920
- . worked 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

Fear of revolution

- . Different groups feared Bolshevik revolution
- . Turned against Socialists

Occupations

- . Takeover of land & factories scared many people

Support of Giolitti

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

Strikes, protests

- . Made the Liberal govt look weak

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 Sate 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

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

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

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

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

31 October

Mussolini parades in Rome

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

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

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)

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

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.

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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.



15.1

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.

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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