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
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.

Politics in Italy
Constitutional Monarchy

- Monarchy - King had executive powers
  - King appointed Ministers

Parliament

- Senate
- Chamber of Deputies

Propportional Representation

Three main parties:
- Socialists
- Populists (Catholic Party)
- Liberals

Goverments

(when no one party had a majority)

Political spectrum

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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 returned - 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.

2.3 Political problems

**Socialism**
- With the war problems people turned to socialism.
- Socialism = Communism (Soviet Russia)
- Factory owners needed less can use to hire labour & land was a problem.
- Workers took control of factories & farms.
- War changed the individuals & gave them the impetus to take these things.

2.4 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

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**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

3.2 Facists for:

Military
- Party is military style
- Create large armed forces

Leadership
- One strong powerful leader
- Leads a one party state
- United behind leader
- Dictator

Nationalism
- Patriotic to your country
- United behind leader
- United behind everything else
- United behind culture, religion etc. of country

3.3 Facists against:

Internationalism
- Against international organisations

Democracy
- Against multi-parties & democracies
- No elections
- No free speech

Socialism
- Against socialism & communism

3.4 March 1919

Mussolini's Fascists

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

April 26th
- Italy enters the war

March 1919
- National Assembly
- Republic (no royal family)
- No royal titles
- Control of banks, industry etc by govt
- Tax private wealth
- Take private wealth
- Workers share companies profits

November 1919

Elections
- Disaster for Fascists
- Not win any seats in parliament
- Less than 5,000 members of the party
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 Fiume
- Not stop protests

Giolitti govt
1920-22
- Coalition with Catholics & some Socialists

Proportionally Representation

Coalition govt. with Catholic party, but helped only a little as not trust Liberals
- Five govts between 1917-22

Government
- Socialists had 156 out of 508 seats in Parliament
- Some helped Liberal govt. most didn't
- In regional areas Socialists controlled 26 out of 69
- In Emilia region controlled 80% of details

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

Socialists

Socialist Unions had over 1 million members & farming it for themselves
- Socialist set-up co-operative, shops, offering cheap prices & share in profits

Towns
- Socialists encouraged workers' protests in Sept 1920: striking workers took over factories
- 400,000 workers on strike
- Liberal govt. did nothing, factory owners angry
- Strikes finished after a month, made liberal govt look weak

Elites
- Socialists seemed to have gained in support in 1919
- Socialists in parliament split
- Ultras became increasingly angry
- Revolution becoming a number of parties against the idea of revolution

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

Socialist threat?

4.1

4.2

4.3

Mussolini’s opportunity
The fear of Socialist revolution, was a huge opportunity for Mussolini & his Fascists. People turned to the Fascists 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

### 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

### Mussolini
- Mussolini was the dominant personality in the party
- Most Ras stood behind him
- Mussolini convinced the Fascist squads that violence was necessary to stop the Socialists
- Anti-Socialist crusade

### Anti-Socialist
- Mussolini & his Fascists. People turned to the Fascists to stop the threat of the Socialists.

### Rise of the Fascist Party
- Mussolini convinced Giolitti that the Fascists were violent
- Giolitti was persuaded & said the Fascists 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

### Reasons for success
- Charismatic
- Influence through newspaper

### Weak Liberal govt
- Liberals unable to form strong govt.

### Strikes, protests
- Made the Liberal govt look weak

### Fascist Squads
- Anti-socialist crusade
- Fascists looked strong
Italy

Growing support for Fascism & Mussolini.

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

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

Fascists in Parliament
- Government instability
  - Giolitti govt. lasted a month when Catholics stopped supporting
  - Liberals divided themselves
  - 3 govs 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

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

Mussolini:
"We must have a State that represents the Nation as a whole, it includes all, protects all........." Mussolini

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

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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

Conservatives
- Conservatives worried Fascist violence went too 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
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

Mussolini had a choice:
- Fascist Ras wanted a coup (take power)
- Or
- Persuade the Liberals to give the Fascists more power

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

March on Rome

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

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

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

7.1

7.2

7.3
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

St. Germain Treaty
- Mutilated Victory
- anger from Nationalists + ex soldiers etc

Economic problems
- unemployment high
- rising inflation

Why did Mussolini come to power in 1922?

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

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

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

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

Role of the King
- refused Martial Law
- approved Mussolini as PM

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

March on Rome
- Arrival of Mussolini & Fascists to Rome
- Mussolini becomes Prime Minister

Cambridge O level: Section B - Western Europe: 2. Italy 1918-39
Problems facing Mussolini in Nov 1922

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 govt. united Italy

Corfu & Fiume
- Gets money from Greece after Italy invaded Corfu
- Italy takes Fiume from Yugoslavia

Consolidation of Mussolini’s government 1922-24

Fascist National Party
- Created Fascist Grand Council - similar to Govt 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

Mussolini
- No experience in govt.
- Had to keep his own Fascists happy, some ‘radicals’ wanted to take power, ‘moderates’ wanted to take things more slowly.

Fascists
- No policies & divided over what to do

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

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

Govt. cabinet
- Only 3 Fascists in the cabinet

Parliament
- Fascists 35 out of 535 seats

Popularity
- Fascists had only 7% of the vote

Weak govts
- Govts lasted less than 2 years
**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

**Matteotti Crisis**

**Giacomo Matteotti**
- Leader of Socialists

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

**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

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

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

**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

**Rossi said:**
- Mussolini approved everything

**Mussolini’s response**

**Cambridge O level: Section B - Western Europe: 2. Italy 1918-39**
Italy

10.1 Founding of the Fascist State

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

One party state
- Other parties banned

Weak opposition
- Opposition divided

OVRA
- Secret police are feared & limits opposition

Mussolini Dictatorship

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

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

Censorship
- Press very controlled

Weak opposition
- Opposition divided

Democracy ended
- Local councils appointed not elected

Mussolini decrees
- Mussolini issues decrees without Parliament

OVRA
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Mussolini’s own personal standard (flag)
**Italy**

. Mussolini’s rule over Italy.

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### 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)

### 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, Facists 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
12
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

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12.1
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

**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
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

Cooperatives

Grand idea

. Mussolini wanted to create his own way - ‘Third Way’

. Gain international respect

Corporate State was Mussolini’s ‘Third Way’

Not socialism or capitalism but the best of both

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13.2

Corporativism

Syndicalism

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

Price controls

Tariffs & subsidies

Trade unions banned

Wage cuts

Public works

Industrial Hospital Services

Fixed the lira

Bank controls

Corporations

Fascist involvement in the economy

"Battles"

Autarky

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

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.

14.1

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
- 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

14.3

Response to the depression
- Govt. intervention
  - govt. intervened in several ways
- 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
- Public works
  - govt. sent money on public works programme
    - roads, housing, land reclamation (Pontine marshes), electrification

Industrial Finance Institute (IMI)
- helped many banks

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

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

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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.

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

### 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

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**Effectiveness of Education & Youth Movements**

**Aims:**
- make young good Facists
- 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

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**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

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**15.2**

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**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
Italy
. Mussolini’s rule over Italy.

Factors influencing position of women

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!

Women in Fascist Italy

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

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

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

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

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.
Italy
Mussolini’s rule over Italy.

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

Catholic Church
- Lateran Treaty
- Catholic Action

Education
- refused Martial Law
- approved Mussolini as PM

Corporativism
- Mussolini’s ‘third way’ - not socialism or capitalism
- workers syndicates, nationalism & cooperation

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

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

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

Battles
- Battler for the Lura, Battle for Grain
- Battle of the Marshes

Great Depression 1930s
- US loans stopped, unemployment to 2 m
- industrial prod. & wages fell

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

Young people
- refused Martial Law
- approved Mussolini as PM

Life in Mussolini’s Italy

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

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

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

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

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