

Life in Fascist Italy

Headings	Notes
FASCISM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fascism is a form of government that involves a one-party dictatorship, is anti-democracy and is nationalistic (believes that its nation is superior). It is centre around a single leader and tends to use propaganda and fear to control the state (totalitarian).
FASCISM IN ITALY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Italy lost 600,000 soldiers in World War I and did not receive the land that it had been promised at the Paris Peace Conference of 1919. • The country was deep in debt. Unemployment was high, as was public anger. • Five different governments briefly held power between 1918 and 1922. Democratic parties were not successful, and another political ideal became popular in Italy – fascism. • In 1919, Benito Mussolini founded the Fascist Party. He believed in dictatorship and a one-party state and was prepared to use violence to achieve what he wanted. • On the 28th October 1922, the King of Italy made Mussolini Prime Minister of Italy. • In 1923, the Acerbo Law was passed: the party with the most votes would get two-thirds of the seats in government. • From 1923 onwards, Mussolini started to rule by decree – he could make laws without going through parliament. He became known as Il Duce ('<i>The Leader</i>'). • Mussolini stayed in control of Italy until he was overthrown and later killed during World War II.
SUPPORT OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Vatican had lost land in the Unification of Italy in 1870. • Mussolini won the support of the 98% Catholic Italians by compensating (paying off the Pope) the Church for this loss. • The Lateran Treaty of Concordat was agreed with Pope Pius XI.
ECONOMIC POLICY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate State system was established; 22 corporations (like government departments) set up to manage the country while government officials, employers and workers had a say in the running of each corporation. • Independent trade unions and strikes were made illegal and banned.
Keywords	Summary
Fascism	Il Duce
Nationalistic	Vatican
Propaganda	Lateran Treaty of Concordat
Totalitarian	Corporate State
Unemployment	Mussolini
Mussolini	The Fascist Party
The Fascist Party	Acerbo Law
Acerbo Law	Trade Unions
Rule By Decree	Strikes

Life in Fascist Italy

Headings	Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unemployment was solved through public works such as:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Battle for Grain grew more wheat for making bread and pasta widely available.• The Autostrada (motorways) was built throughout the country.• Pontine Marshes outside Rome were drained and made suitable for farming.• Hydro Electric Power Stations were built.• Electric trains were built.• Propaganda was used to spread the positive side of Fascism while censorship left out any negative publicity.
FOREIGN POLICY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mussolini promised Italians a new Roman Empire, like that of old.• He forced Yugoslavia to give him the city of Fiume (Rijeka) before later invading Abyssinia• (Ethiopia) in Africa. His actions were condemned by the League of Nations but they had no army to enforce their beliefs.• He created alliances with Francisco Franco in Spain and Adolf Hitler in Germany.• The Rome-Berlin Axis brought Italy and Germany together as allies which would bring Italy into World War II on the side of Hitler's Germany.

Keywords	Summary
Public Works	Abyssinia
Battle for Grain	League of Nations
Autostrada	
Pontine Marshes	
Hydro Electric Power Stations	
Electric Trains	Francisco Franco
Propaganda	
Censorship	Rome-Berlin Axis
Yugoslavia	

Life in Fascist Italy

Headings	Notes
A FASCIST LEADER: BENITO MUSSOLINI (1883-1945)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benito Mussolini was born in 1883 in Romagna, Italy to a blacksmith (father) and teacher (mother). Mussolini was violent in his youth and was expelled for stabbing another student.
EARLY LIFE AND CAREER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1901, he qualified as a teacher but due to poor employment prospects in the area, Mussolini moved to Switzerland in 1902 where he became involved in socialist politics. • He returned to Italy in 1904, working as a journalist in the socialist newspaper, Avanti, but later split from socialism due to his support for Italy's entry into World War I. He was later drafted into the Italian army in September 1915.
THE FASCIST PARTY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the end of the war, Mussolini founded the Fascist Party in March 1919. He used the anger of the unemployed war veterans and nationalists who had felt betrayed by the Paris Peace Conference and the Treaty of Versailles to gain support. • Mussolini organised his supporters into armed squads known as Black Shirts who terrorised political opponents. • In 1921, the Fascist Party was invited to join the coalition government.
RISE TO POWER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By October 1922, Italy was slipping into political chaos. Mussolini and the Black Shirts marched on Rome, with Mussolini presenting himself as the only man capable of restoring order. • King Victor Emmanuel invited Mussolini to form a government, making him as Prime Minister. • Mussolini gradually dismantled the institutions of Italy's democratic government and solidified his power through the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acerbo Law (1923): the party with the most votes would get 2/3 of the seats in government. • Opposition and socialist leader, Giacomo Matteotti, spoke out against Mussolini. As a result he was kidnapped and brutally murdered in 1924. • The removal of the King's right to appoint or dismiss minister, the ban on opposition parties and 'rule by decree' (parliament no longer required to pass laws) in 1925. • The prison on Lipari Islands was re-established as an exile prison for political enemies (1926). • The OVRA was the secret police set up to silence opposition (1927)

Keywords	Summary
Benito Mussolini	
Avanti	Lipari Islands
Fascist Party	OVRA
Paris Peace Conference	
Black Shirts	
March on Rome	
Acerbo Law	
Giacomo Matteotti	
Rule by Decree	

Life in Fascist Italy

Headings	Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mussolini was now a dictator, known by the title 'Il Duce' who wanted to re-establish Italy as a great European power like the Ancient Roman Empire. His new regime was held together by strong state control and Mussolini's cult of personality.
HEADING TOWARDS WAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In 1935, Mussolini invaded Abyssinia (Ethiopia) which became part of his new Italian Empire.He provided military support to Franco in the Spanish Civil War while making alliances with Adolf Hitler through the Rome-Berlin Axis (1936) and the Pact of Steel (1939).Hitler encouraged Mussolini to introduce anti-Semitic legislation in Italy.His declaration of war on Britain and France in June 1940 exposed Italian military weakness. They suffered a series of defeats in North and East Africa along with the Balkans which required Hitler sending German troops to prevent the loss of these areas.
WORLD WAR II	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In July 1943, Allied troops landed in Sicily; Mussolini was overthrown and imprisoned by former colleagues in the Fascist government.By September, Italy signed an armistice with the Allies. The German army began the occupation of Italy while Mussolini was rescued by German commandos who proceeded to install him as the leader of a new government although he had little power.As the Allies advanced northwards through Italy, Mussolini fled towards Switzerland with his mistress but they were captured by Italian partisans by the border. They were brutally executed on the 28th April 1945 before their bodies were transported to Milan where they were subsequently hung by their feet to prevent further disfiguration by angry civilians.
Keywords	Summary
Dictator	Switzerland
Il Duce	Italian partisans
Abyssinia	
Franco	
Spanish Civil War	
Rome-Berlin Axis	
Pact of Steel	
Sicily	
Occupation of Italy	

Life in Fascist Italy

Keywords	Definition
Acerbo	Party who receives most votes gets 2/3s of seats in Parliament
Autostrada	Motorways built throughout Italy
Battle for Grain	Grew more wheat for making bread and pasta widely available
Benito Mussolini	Leader of the Fascist Party in Italy
Blackshirts	Nickname for the Italian Fascists
Censorship	Removed any negative publicity
Communism	a system of government where the state controls all aspects of the economy (property, business and jobs) and of society, with limited rights for Individuals
Corporate State	22 Government departments set up to manage the country
Coup D'état	Action to overthrow the government in power
Falange	Right Wing Fascist Nationalists
Fasces	An axe with a bundle of sticks wrapped around it. The symbol of power in the Ancient Roman army. Symbol of Fascism.
Fascism	Political belief that was anti-democratic, anti-communist - held by Mussolini (Italy), Hitler (Germany), and Franco (Spain).
Fascism	A form of government that is a one-party dictatorship with anti-democratic ideas and very nationalist
General Francisco Franco	Leader of the Falange
Hydro Electric Power Station	Using water to power electricity to power the country
Il Duce	Nickname for Mussolini
Lateran Treaty of Concordat	Treaty in which Mussolini compensated the Catholic Church for its loss of land during the 1870 Reunification of Italy
March on Rome	30,000 Blackshirts march on Rome and King Victor Emmanuel made Mussolini Prime Minister of Italy
New Roman Empire	Promise by Mussolini to the people of Italy
OVRA	Mussolini's secret police set up to silence opposition
Pontine Marshes	Swamp land outside Rome which were drained and made suitable for farming
Popular Front	Left Wing Communist Republicans
Propaganda	information that has been designed to influence the attitudes of the general public. It is generally biased, often appeals to the emotions (fear, anger, loyalty) and may even be made up
Rome-Berlin Axis	Alliance made between Hitler and Mussolini who joined Italy and Germany together
Rule by decree	He could make laws without going through parliament
Unions and strikes	Banned; loyalty to the state was important