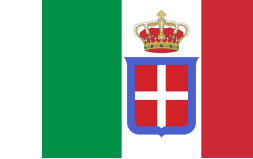




Life in Fascist Italy



3.9 EXAMINE life in one fascist country and one communist country in the twentieth century

Term	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

Summary		
<p>The rise of fascism in Italy under Benito Mussolini marked a significant period in the country's history which saw the establishment of a totalitarian state where the government had complete control over all aspects of society, including the economy, education, culture, and media. Under Mussolini's rule, Italy underwent significant political, social, and economic changes. The government aimed to create a "New Italy" that would be powerful, efficient, and disciplined. To achieve this, the regime pursued policies that suppressed dissent and opposition, restricted civil liberties, and suppressed minority groups such as the Jews. Mussolini's government heavily relied on propaganda and cult of personality to maintain its grip on power. The regime portrayed Mussolini as a strong and charismatic leader who would guide Italy to glory. The government also attempted to create a new Italian identity, which emphasized the country's Roman heritage and glorified the military. While some Italians benefited from the regime's policies, many suffered as a result of the government's authoritarianism and economic policies. The regime's alliance with Nazi Germany also led to Italy's involvement in World War II, which resulted in significant loss of life and devastation. Overall, life in fascist Italy was characterized by repression, propaganda, and control over all aspects of society. The regime's policies of violence and terror, as well as its ambitious foreign policy and expansionism, ultimately led to its downfall and the devastation of the country during World War II.</p>		
Rise of Fascism	Mussolini's Rise to Power	Support of the Catholic Church
<p>Fascism emerged in Italy in the early 20th century as a response to social and political instability. Its founder, Benito Mussolini, began his political career as a socialist but eventually rejected Marxism in favor of nationalist and authoritarian ideology. Mussolini founded the National Fascist Party in 1921 and gradually gained support from a range of groups, including nationalists, veterans, and conservative landowners. The Fascists used violence and intimidation to silence their opponents, and by 1922, Mussolini was able to orchestrate a march on Rome that led to his appointment as Prime Minister. The Fascist regime would ultimately become a totalitarian dictatorship, characterized by repression of political opposition and control of all aspects of society.</p>	<p>After his appointment as Prime Minister in 1922, Mussolini consolidated his power by passing laws that limited civil liberties and suppressed opposition. He established a cult of personality, presenting himself as a strong and charismatic leader who could restore order and greatness to Italy. Mussolini also developed a close relationship with King Victor Emmanuel III, who gave him increased powers and support. Over time, Mussolini became increasingly authoritarian and began to rely more heavily on propaganda and repression to maintain his control.</p>	<p>Despite the Fascist regime's anti-clerical origins, Mussolini was able to win the support of the Catholic Church by making concessions and agreements. In 1929, Mussolini and Pope Pius XI signed the Lateran Treaty, which recognized the Vatican City as an independent state and granted the Church certain privileges. The Church, in turn, pledged loyalty to the Fascist government and urged its followers to support the regime. This support was critical in helping Mussolini maintain his power, particularly in rural areas where the Church had significant influence.</p>
Daily Life in Mussolini's Italy	Economic Politics	Use of Terror and Propaganda
<p>Under Mussolini's rule, daily life in Italy was heavily influenced by the Fascist ideology. The regime controlled the media, education, and public life, promoting a cult of personality around Mussolini and enforcing strict conformity to the regime's values. Mussolini also emphasized the importance of traditional gender roles and family values, and women were encouraged to stay at home and have children. Despite these efforts, many Italians found ways to resist and subvert the regime, through underground political organizations, small acts of rebellion, and by retreating into private life.</p>	<p>Mussolini's economic policy focused on building up the Italian economy through state intervention and promotion of heavy industry. This policy, known as "corporatism," emphasized the importance of strong ties between government, industry, and labor. The regime also pursued aggressive public works projects, including the draining of marshes and reclamation of land for agriculture. These policies had mixed results, leading to some improvements in infrastructure and industry but also exacerbating social and economic inequality.</p>	<p>The Fascist regime relied heavily on propaganda and terror to maintain its power. Mussolini's government controlled the media and used it to spread propaganda and glorify the regime and Mussolini himself. The regime also used terror, violence, and repression to silence political opposition and maintain control over society. The political police, led by figures such as Arturo Bocchini, were responsible for enforcing loyalty to the regime and suppressing dissent.</p>
Foreign Policy	Education	Women's Lives
<p>Mussolini's foreign policy was characterized by aggressive expansionism and territorial ambitions. He sought to build an Italian empire that would rival those of other European powers, and his government pursued territorial gains in Ethiopia and Albania. Mussolini also formed an alliance with Nazi Germany and supported the fascist regimes in Spain and Portugal. Mussolini's alliance with Nazi Germany led to Italy's involvement in World War II, which proved disastrous for the country. Italian forces suffered heavy losses in North Africa and the Balkans, and the regime's policies of collaboration with the Nazis led to widespread resistance and partisan activity within the country. By the end of the war, Italy was in ruins, and Mussolini's regime had been overthrown.</p>	<p>Under Mussolini, education was closely controlled by the state, which sought to indoctrinate young Italians with fascist ideology. The regime emphasized physical fitness, military training, and loyalty to the state, and textbooks were rewritten to reflect fascist views of history and culture. The education system also placed a strong emphasis on vocational training, reflecting the regime's emphasis on industry and production.</p>	<p>Mussolini's regime placed a strong emphasis on traditional gender roles and family values, and women were expected to play a subservient role in society. Women were encouraged to have large families and to devote themselves to domestic duties, and employment opportunities for women were limited. Despite these restrictions, some women found ways to resist the regime and pursue careers or political activism. The regime also attempted to promote a cult of motherhood, using propaganda and social pressure to encourage women to bear more children.</p>

Leaders in Fascist Italy	
<p>Benito Mussolini (1883-1945)</p> <p>Mussolini was an Italian politician and journalist who founded the National Fascist Party and became Prime Minister of Italy in 1922. Mussolini established a totalitarian regime, heavily relying on propaganda and cult of personality, and aligned Italy with Nazi Germany during World War II.</p>	

