

# Life in Fascist Italy

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

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unemployment was solved through <b>public works</b> such as:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Battle for Grain</b> grew more wheat for making bread and pasta widely available.</li> <li>• The <b>Autostrada</b> (motorways) was built throughout the country.</li> <li>• <b>Pontine Marshes</b> outside Rome were drained and made suitable for farming.</li> <li>• <b>Hydro Electric Power Stations</b> were built.</li> <li>• <b>Electric trains</b> were built.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Propaganda</b> was used to spread the positive side of Fascism while <b>censorship</b> left out any negative publicity.</li> </ul>
<b>FOREIGN POLICY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mussolini promised Italians a <b>new Roman Empire</b>, like that of old.</li> <li>• He forced <b>Yugoslavia</b> to give him the city of <b>Fiume (Rijeka)</b> before later invading <b>Abyssinia (Ethiopia)</b> in Africa. His actions were <b>condemned</b> by the <b>League of Nations</b> but they had no army to enforce their beliefs.</li> <li>• He created alliances with <b>Francisco Franco</b> in <b>Spain</b> and <b>Adolf Hitler</b> in <b>Germany</b>.</li> <li>• The <b>Rome-Berlin Axis</b> brought Italy and Germany together as allies which would bring Italy into World War II on the side of Hitler's Germany.</li> </ul>
<b>A FASCIST LEADER: BENITO MUSSOLINI (1883-1945)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Benito Mussolini</b> was born in 1883 in <b>Romagna, Italy</b> to a blacksmith (father) and teacher (mother). Mussolini was violent in his youth and was expelled for stabbing another student.</li> </ul>
<b>EARLY LIFE AND CAREER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 1901, he qualified as a teacher but due to poor employment prospects in the area, Mussolini moved to <b>Switzerland</b> in 1902 where he became involved in socialist politics.</li> <li>• He returned to Italy in 1904, working as a journalist in the socialist newspaper, <b>Avanti</b>, 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.</li> </ul>
<b>THE FASCIST PARTY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following the end of the war, <b>Mussolini</b> founded the <b>Fascist Party</b> in March 1919. He used the anger of the unemployed war veterans and nationalists who had felt betrayed by the <b>Paris Peace Conference</b> and the Treaty of Versailles to gain support.</li> </ul>

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

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<p><b>THE FASCIST PARTY</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mussolini organised his supporters into armed squads known as <b>Black Shirts</b> who terrorised political opponents.</li> <li>In 1921, the Fascist Party was invited to join the coalition government.</li> </ul>
<p><b>RISE TO POWER</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By <b>October 1922</b>, Italy was slipping into political chaos. Mussolini and the Black Shirts <b>marched on Rome</b>, with Mussolini presenting himself as the only man capable of restoring order.</li> <li>King Victor Emmanuel invited Mussolini to form a government, making him as Prime Minister.</li> <li>Mussolini gradually dismantled the institutions of Italy's democratic government and solidified his power through the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Acerbo Law (1923)</b>: the party with the most votes would get 2/3 of the seats in government.</li> <li>Opposition and socialist leader, <b>Giacomo Matteotti</b>, spoke out against Mussolini. As a result he was kidnapped and brutally murdered in <b>1924</b>.</li> <li>The removal of the King's right to appoint or dismiss minister, the ban on opposition parties and '<b>rule by decree</b>' (parliament no longer required to pass laws) in <b>1925</b>.</li> <li>The prison on <b>Lipari Islands</b> was re-established as an exile prison for political enemies (<b>1926</b>).</li> <li>The <b>OVRA</b> was the secret police set up to silence opposition (<b>1927</b>)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Mussolini was now a <b>dictator</b>, known by the title '<b>Il Duce</b>' who wanted to re-establish Italy as a great European power like the <b>Ancient Roman Empire</b>. His new regime was held together by strong state control and Mussolini's cult of personality.</li> </ul>
<p><b>HEADING TOWARDS WAR</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 1935, Mussolini invaded <b>Abyssinia (Ethiopia)</b> which became part of his new Italian Empire.</li> <li>He provided military support to <b>Franco</b> in the <b>Spanish Civil War</b> while making alliances with Adolf Hitler through the <b>Rome-Berlin Axis (1936)</b> and the <b>Pact of Steel (1939)</b>.</li> <li>Hitler encouraged Mussolini to introduce anti-Semitic legislation in Italy.</li> <li>His declaration of war on Britain and France in <b>June 1940</b> 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.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Keywords</b></p> <p>Benito Mussolini</p> <p>Avanti      Lipari Islands</p> <p>Fascist Party      OVRA</p> <p>Paris Peace Conference</p> <p>Black Shirts</p> <p>March on Rome</p> <p>Acerbo Law</p> <p>Giacomo Matteotti</p> <p>Rule by Decree</p>	<p><b>Summary</b></p>

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<b>WORLD WAR II</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In July 1943, Allied troops landed in <b>Sicily</b>; Mussolini was overthrown and imprisoned by former colleagues in the Fascist government.</li><li>• By September, Italy signed an armistice with the Allies. The German army began the <b>occupation of Italy</b> while Mussolini was rescued by German commandos who proceeded to install him as the leader of a new government although he had little power.</li><li>• As the Allies advanced northwards through Italy, Mussolini fled towards <b>Switzerland</b> with his mistress but they were captured by <b>Italian partisans</b> by the border. They were brutally executed on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 1945 before their bodies were transported to Milan where they were subsequently hung by their feet to prevent further disfiguration by angry civilians.</li></ul>
Keywords	Summary
Dictator Il Duce Abyssinia Franco Spanish Civil War Rome-Berlin Axis Pact of Steel Sicily Occupation of Italy	

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