

### 1: Mussolini loses grip on Italy, archive | World news | The Guardian

*Mussolini was born on 29 July in Dovia di Predappio, a small town in the province of Forlì in www.enganchecubano.com, during the Fascist era, Predappio was dubbed "Duce's town" and Forlì was called "Duce's city", with pilgrims going to Predappio and Forlì to see the birthplace of Mussolini.*

He was handed the Prime Ministership by the King of Italy, Umberto II, and by then he had already dissolved the democratic constitution. He would maintain control of Italy for the next two decades. Il Duce ruled with absolute power using his political authority, media savvy, and his loyal, violent Blackshirt followers to silence any opposition. Benito Mussolini His main aim was to restore Italy to the glory of the Roman Empire, by expanding the Italian territories into Europe, the Balkans and North Africa, which he saw as the birthright of the Italian people. To this end, he declared his support not only for the Nazi Party at the outbreak of World War 2 but also offered arms and aid to Franco during the Spanish civil war. Initially, Italy declared themselves neutral in the conflict, but as Mussolini became convinced that Germany was on the fast track to victory, he joined the Axis in 1940. On October 25, 1940, an alliance was declared between Italy and Germany, which came to be known as the Rome-Berlin Axis. To begin with Italy saw some victories against the Allies but by 1941 the Italian military was in tatters. They were defeated in Africa and the Balkans and, against popular opinion, Mussolini offered troops for the ill-fated attempt to invade Russia. By 1943, anti-Mussolini sentiment had spread all over the country – there were mass strikes and evacuations, and due to the lack of resources, the war effort was almost non-existent. It was the Allied invasion of Sicily and the bombing of Rome in July of that year that finally turned the tide of public opinion against Mussolini. From left to right: His attempts to rouse support within his own party were ignored, and the Fascist Grand Council voted to remove him from power. Mussolini was then arrested and taken to prison. There were no riots and no calls for his release – the Italian people were sick of war, and they were sick of Il Duce. In September 1943, the Italian government signed an armistice agreement with the Allies and declared war on Germany. During the chaos that followed, Mussolini was freed from imprisonment and installed as the leader of the newly formed Italian Social Republic in the North of Italy. Colorized photograph of Mussolini wearing the commander-in-chief uniform. Il Duce did not hide that he was little more than a puppet for the Nazi regime. Mussolini rescued by German troops from his prison in Campo Imperatore on September 12, 1943. Thanks to the decades of propaganda, where his face was broadcast continuously to the nation, he was recognized by the checkpoint guards. On April 28th, on the scenic banks of Lake Como, Mussolini was executed by gunshot along with his mistress and the loyal members of his convoy. Their bodies were taken to Milan where they were dumped in the Piazzale Loreto, a site that in had seen the executions of fifteen members of the resistance under the orders of the German military. The corpses were abused and beaten by an angry mob, then hung feet first from the girders of a local petrol station where the crowds continued to throw stones and taunts at the once powerful leader. The corpse was buried in an unmarked grave but was exhumed and hidden by fascist sympathizers. Read another story from us: The Vanity and Cult of Elena Ceausescu – Hated Wife of the Romanian Dictator The government reclaimed the body and kept it in hiding until 1990, when it was re-interred in the family crypt in Predappio. The tomb has now become a pilgrimage site and his date of death is a day of remembrance for those still loyal to his cause.

## 2: Benito Mussolini: Italian Dictator - Learning History

*Benito Mussolini was an Italian political leader who became the fascist dictator of Italy from to Originally a revolutionary socialist, he forged the paramilitary fascist movement in.*

He was killed in In , he created the Fascist Party, eventually making himself dictator and holding all the power in Italy. His father, Alessandro, was a blacksmith and an impassioned socialist who spent much of his time on politics and much of his money on his mistress. His mother, Rosa Maltoni , was a devout Catholic schoolteacher who provided the family with some stability and income. His father instilled in him a passion for socialist politics and a defiance against authority. Though he was expelled from several schools for bullying and defying school authorities, he eventually obtained a teaching certificate in and, for a brief time, worked as a schoolmaster. While engaging in political demonstrations, he caught the attention of Swiss authorities and was eventually expelled from the country. In , Mussolini returned to Italy and continued promoting a socialist agenda. His change in attitude broke ties with fellow socialists, however, and he was expelled from the organization. He joined the Italian army in and fought on the front lines, reaching the rank of corporal before being wounded and discharged from the military. After the war, Mussolini resumed his political activities, criticizing the Italian government for weakness at the Treaty of Versailles. He organized several right-wing groups into a single force and, in March , formed the Fascist Partyâ€™the movement proclaimed opposition to social class discrimination and supported nationalist sentiments, hoping to raise Italy to levels of its great Roman past. By , as Italy slipped into political chaos, Mussolini declared that only he could restore order and was given the authority. To his credit, Mussolini carried out an extensive public works program and reduced unemployment, making him very popular with the people. Military Exploits In , determined to show the strength of his regime, Benito Mussolini invaded Ethiopia. Mussolini incorporated Ethiopia into the new Italian Empire. In , he sent support to Fascists in Spain during the Spanish Civil War, hoping to expand his influence. In , Italy invaded Greece with some initial success. Greece and North Africa soon fell, and only German military intervention in early saved Mussolini from a military coup. Roosevelt devised a plan to take Italy out of the war and force Germany to move its troops to the Eastern Front against the Soviet Union. Allied forces secured a beachhead in Sicily and began marching up the Italian peninsula. With pressure mounting, Mussolini was forced to resign and arrested; German commandos later rescued him. Mussolini then moved his government to northern Italy, hoping to regain his influence. On June 4, , Rome was liberated by Allied forces, who marched on to take control of Italy. They were executed the following day, on April 28, , in Mezzegra near Dongo , Italy, and their bodies were hung on display in a Milan plaza. Mussolini had promised his people Roman glory, but his megalomania had overcome his common sense, bringing them only war and misery.

### 3: Benito Mussolini - HISTORY

*Benito Mussolini was born in Predappio, a hamlet above Verano di Costa in northern Italy. Mussolini's father, Alessandro, was a blacksmith and an ardent socialist who scorned religion. His mother, Rosa Maltoni, was an elementary school teacher and a very pious, devout Catholic.*

Visit Website In , Mussolini became the editor for another socialist newspaper, but soon spent six months in jail for inciting violence. During his incarceration, he began to write his autobiography "while still in his twenties" detailing his troubled school years and his many romantic conquests. Visit Website Mussolini split from the Socialist Party in Starting his own newspaper, he encouraged violence from his supporters as unrest spread across the country. Pressure from Mussolini and his followers forced the government to order the internment of foreigners they considered enemies. After the Treaty of Versailles in "and his dissatisfaction with it" Mussolini gathered the various fascist groups into a national organization called Fasci Italiani di Combattimento. The Italian Fascists courted war veterans and encouraged violence against socialists. Mussolini stockpiled weapons and explosives in his newspaper offices. Two days later, Mussolini was arrested for allegedly collecting arms to overthrow the government, but was released without charges the next day. Elections brought a huge win for the Fascists, with Mussolini taking a seat as a deputy in Parliament. The party changed its name to Partito Nazionale Fascista. All party members were considered squad members. Soon after, several Italian cities were seized by Fascist squads, who also burned down Communist and Socialist offices. In October , Mussolini threatened to march on Rome to take control of the government through violent force if it was not handed over. The government was slow to act, eventually dispatching troops, though Fascists had already seized control of some local governments. He dissolved the government and asked Mussolini to form a new one. Soon after, the Italian parliament made suspicion of being anti-Fascist punishable by imprisonment without trial. The next year police rounded-up Socialists, and the government restricted their publishing activities. A Socialist deputy plotted to assassinate Mussolini, but the betrayal of a friend led to his arrest just before the attempt. Several other assassination attempts followed. In , Fascists created a youth group called the Opera Nazionale Balilla, pressuring children to join. The Catholic Boy Scouts were dissolved and the formation of other youth groups became illegal. The same year, all Communist members of Parliament were arrested, and all Socialist members expelled. Anyone who could not be prosecuted for a crime was detained for up to five years and placed in island internment camps. Cinemas were required to screen government propaganda in the form of newsreels. Fascists owned 66 percent of the newspapers and controlled reporting, issuing daily editorial guidelines and threatening editors with arrest. The Order of Journalists was created and membership was mandatory. Newspapers were allowed to criticize the government as long as they generally expressed support. In , Italy left the League of Nations in solidarity with Germany. By October, the two countries had officially joined together as the Rome-Berlin Axis. Mussolini wrote an article in that aligned Italians with the German concept of the Aryan race. When anti-Jewish laws began to appear in Italy, Germany felt they were weak, but Mussolini was prepared to increase their severity as needed. Soon after, Mussolini called for the expulsion of foreign Jews from Italy. Soon Holland and Belgium also fell to Hitler. While making a round of visits, Mussolini was detained and informed that the King had appointed a new prime minister. Mussolini was arrested and sent to the island of La Maddalena. When Italy accepted the terms of secret peace talks with the Allies, Hitler ordered German forces into Italy, which resulted in two Italian nations, one occupied by Germans. Allied forces barreled through Italy in June Mussolini attempted to flee to Spain with his lover, Claretta Petacci, but was discovered and arrested by partisans searching troop transport trucks. There are conflicting stories about how Mussolini died , but autopsy reports state the dictator was shot by soldiers firing several bullets "with four of them near the heart" causing immediate death. The bodies of both Mussolini and Petacci were hung upside down at the Piazzale Loreto in Milan and displayed for crowds kick and spit on. One day later, Hitler committed suicide and the following week, Germany surrendered. The government recovered it and interred it in a monastery near Milan. The American diplomat who handed it to her claimed that the Americans had taken the brain in order to study

what makes a dictator. She had the relic placed in his tomb, which receives , visitors a year.

## 4: Fascism in Italy - The Rise and Fall of Mussolini

*Benito Mussolini rose to power on a wave of populism and well-timed propaganda. He was handed the Prime Ministership by the King of Italy, Umberto Emmeline II, in , and by he had all but dissolved the democratic constitution. He named himself "Il Duce" (The Leader) and formed the first.*

His siblings Arnaldo and Edvige followed. As a compromise with his mother, Mussolini was sent to a boarding school run by Salesian monks. After joining a new school, Mussolini achieved good grades, and qualified as an elementary schoolmaster in . During this time he studied the ideas of the philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche , the sociologist Vilfredo Pareto , and the syndicalist Georges Sorel. Mussolini thought of himself as an intellectual and was considered to be well-read. A portrait of Mussolini in the early s During this time, he published *Il Trentino veduto da un Socialista Trentino* as seen by a Socialist in the radical periodical *La Voce*. This novel he co-wrote with Santi Corvaja, and was published as a serial book in the Trento newspaper *Il Popolo*. It was released in installments from 20 January to 11 May . In September , Mussolini participated in a riot, led by socialists, against the Italian war in Libya. As a result, he was rewarded the editorship of the Socialist Party newspaper *Avanti!* Under his leadership, its circulation soon rose from 20, to , During this socialist period of his life, Mussolini sometimes used the pen name "Vero Eretico" "sincere heretic". A number of socialist parties initially supported World War I at the time it began in August . Mussolini further justified his position by denouncing the Central Powers for being reactionary powers; for pursuing imperialist designs against Belgium and Serbia as well as historically against Denmark, France, and against Italians, since hundreds of thousands of Italians were under Habsburg rule. He attacked the opponents of the war and claimed that those proletarians who supported pacifism were out of step with the proletarians who had joined the rising interventionist vanguard that was preparing Italy for a revolutionary war. Gasti, that describe his background and his position on the First World War that resulted in his ousting from the Italian Socialist Party. The Inspector General wrote: For this reason he was accused of moral and political unworthiness and the party thereupon decided to expel him He was the ideal editor of *Avanti!* In that line of work he was greatly esteemed and beloved. Some of his former comrades and admirers still confess that there was no one who understood better how to interpret the spirit of the proletariat and there was no one who did not observe his apostasy with sorrow. This came about not for reasons of self-interest or money. This was his initial line. It is difficult to say to what extent his socialist convictions which he never either openly or privately abjure may have been sacrificed in the course of the indispensable financial deals which were necessary for the continuation of the struggle in which he was engaged But assuming these modifications did take place The nation has not disappeared. We used to believe that the concept was totally without substance. Instead we see the nation arise as a palpitating reality before us! Class cannot destroy the nation. Class reveals itself as a collection of interestsâ€”but the nation is a history of sentiments, traditions, language, culture, and race. Class can become an integral part of the nation, but the one cannot eclipse the other. In such circumstances the class movement finds itself impaired by an inauspicious historic climate. He no longer advocated a proletarian vanguard, but instead a vanguard led by dynamic and revolutionary people of any social class. He was promoted to the rank of corporal "for merit in war". The promotion was recommended because of his exemplary conduct and fighting quality, his mental calmness and lack of concern for discomfort, his zeal and regularity in carrying out his assignments, where he was always first in every task involving labor and fortitude. Overall, he totaled about nine months of active, front-line trench warfare. During this time, he contracted paratyphoid fever. He was left with at least 40 shards of metal in his body. He wrote there positive articles about Czechoslovak Legions in Italy. In , he had a son with Ida Dalsler , a woman born in Sopramonte, a village near Trento. Rise to power Main articles: Indeed, he was now convinced that socialism as a doctrine had largely been a failure. This help was authorized by Sir Samuel Hoare. Nice, Ticino, and Dalmatia; red: The ideological basis for fascism came from a number of sources. Mussolini utilized works of Plato , Georges Sorel , Nietzsche , and the economic ideas of Vilfredo Pareto , to develop fascism. Also unlike fascism, it promoted very communist-like views on property. Plato was an idealist, focused on achieving justice and

morality, while Mussolini and fascism were realist, focused on achieving political goals. The right to colonize the neighboring Slovene ethnic areas and the Mediterranean, being inhabited by what were alleged to be less developed peoples, was justified on the grounds that Italy was allegedly suffering from overpopulation. Mussolini asserted there was a "natural law" for stronger peoples to subject and dominate "inferior" peoples such as the "barbaric" Slavic peoples of Yugoslavia. He stated in a September speech: We should not be afraid of new victims I would say we can easily sacrifice , barbaric Slavs for 50, Italians Mussolini, circa In the same way, Mussolini argued that Italy was right to follow an imperialist policy in Africa because he saw all black people as "inferior" to whites. The blackshirts clashed with communists, socialists, and anarchists at parades and demonstrations; all of these factions were also involved in clashes against each other. The Fascisti grew rapidly; within two years they transformed themselves into the National Fascist Party at a congress in Rome. In , Mussolini won election to the Chamber of Deputies for the first time. The King then handed over power to Mussolini who stayed in his headquarters in Milan during the talks by asking him to form a new government.

### 5: Hitler and Mussolini

*Benito Mussolini was born to a poor family in Predappio, a town in northeastern Italy. His father was a blacksmith who wrote part-time as a socialist journalist, and his mother was a staunchly Catholic schoolteacher.*

Share Tweet Subscribe He was the father of Fascism, the iron fisted dictator who ruled Italy for more than two decades. During that time, he plunged his country to disaster, forming an alliance with Adolf Hitler and bringing the wrath of the world – and his own people – upon him. In the end, his own citizens expressed their own ruthless verdict on the man who called himself Il Duce. In this weeks, Biographics we track the life and death of Benito Mussolini. Beginnings Benito Amilcare Andrea Mussolini was born on the 29th of July, in a small village near the northern Italian town of Predappio in the province of Forli. His father, Allesandro, was a blacksmith and an atheist who was heavily involved in Socialist politics, while his mother, Rosa, was a devout Roman Catholic schoolteacher. His mother took him to mass several times a week, while his father dragged him to the pub to learn from his Socialist friends. From the start, Benito proved to be an aggressive, rebellious child. In later life reflected. I was not a good boy. I was, I believe, unruly. By the time he was eight, Benito was spending long hours helping his father in the furnace. He feared displeasing her, yet, this did not curb his wayward tendencies. By the time he was nine, Rosa had become so exasperated with Benito that she sent him to a school run by Roman Catholic monks in order to instill some much-needed discipline. But the defiant Benito chafed at the strict discipline and his behavior became even worse. He got into a number of fights and was eventually expelled when he took on one of the monks. Birthplace of Benito Mussolini in Predappio – the building is now used as a museum Rosa now sent her wayward son to a less strict school closer to home. This did nothing to improve his behaviour and before long he was again expelled, this time for threatening another student with a knife. His exasperated mother managed to find a third school, where he managed to see out his schooling. At the age of seventeen, Benito completed his ten years of compulsory schooling. His main accomplishments over that period were the ability to play the trombone and to speak in public. However, despite his poor academic record, in , he qualified as a school teacher. But, he soon discovered that teaching did not suit him. He was far more interested in the two passions that he had inherited from his father – socialism and womanizing. The eighteen-year old Benito was a strong, handsome young man with a forceful personality and a certain charisma. He easily drew the attention of young women, often the wives of other men. This often resulted in fist fights with outraged husbands. Rabble Rouser After less than a year, Mussolini had lost his teaching job after getting into a violent argument. With no money and very little prospects, he moved to Switzerland. He worked in a succession of manual jobs to support himself. Within a short time, he had attached himself to a group of Marxists. He also joined a trade union and began attending rival political rallies, where he would heckle the speaker and start fights with those in the crowd. As a result of these political agitations, Benito was arrested and deported back to Italy several times. But each time he returned, more determined than ever to keep stirring the political pot. Mussolini struggled to make ends meet in Switzerland. On one occasion he accosted two elderly women on the street and stole food from them. In his autobiography, he related that if the women had struggled he would have strangled them. In , he returned to Italy and joined the Italian army. He served out the compulsory eighteen months. A distraught Benito later called this the greatest sorrow of his life. He was discharged from the army in September, Fervent Socialist He managed to gain employment as a teacher again with a succession of temporary contracts. He wrote for and edited several socialist newspapers, railing against the government, the democratic system, the middle classes and the church. His outspoken opposition led to his arrest and a five-month imprisonment. The young Benito Mussolini was viewed by them as a rising star of the left. It was a natural fit and within six months, his firebrand style of journalism had increased the papers readership five-fold. He now had a national forum with which to air his views. He saw war as anti-socialist as it pitted the working classes of one nation against those of another. Within months, though, he had changed his view. He now saw war as an opportunity to foment revolution. He now used his voice through the pages of Avanti to call on the young men of Italy to join the army. In his first editorial he proclaimed the famous line. Blood alone moves the wheels of history.

Around this same time, Mussolini founded his first political party – the Fasci of Revolutionary Action. This was soon simply known as the Fascist Party. The main Allied Powers, Britain and France, supported Mussolini, seeing him as a key to getting Italy more involved in the war effort. They provided much needed financial support to the new party. The British Secret Service even paid Mussolini a wage of one hundred pounds per week. It was plagued by poorly trained and inexperienced officers and unwilling, belligerent conscripts. They became bogged down in a battle of attrition against Austria-Hungary. By the time it was all over more than , Italians were dead, half a million were missing and nearly a million were wounded. Mussolini himself re-joined the army in September. He attained the rank of corporal, winning acclaim for his bravery and devotion to his men. He was badly wounded, requiring numerous operations over the course of the next month and then being sent home to recuperate. Rise of the Fascists During the post war talks in Paris, Italy was treated dismissively by the major powers. The territories that she had been promised during the treaty of London were not handed over. Orlando bore the brunt of public discontent and was soon removed from office. His political rivals made fun of this, staging a mock funeral for the party. Chief among his adversaries were the Socialists, who had won a third of the seats in parliament and who Mussolini was now firmly opposed to. Over the next three years, the political situation in Italy was extremely unstable, with four prime ministers and coalition governments, none of which was able to yield any real power. The country was in a state of near anarchy, with rampant inflation and unemployment driving people to despair. On May 15, national elections were held. This time, the Fascists joined a coalition of right-wing parties, the National Block, and won 35 seats out of the total of in the House of Parliament. Mussolini himself gained a seat in the chamber of deputies. He was now an official member of the Italian government. Realizing that he now needed to broaden his base, Mussolini did an about face on a couple of his underpinning principals. He became both pro-monarchy and pro-church. But his hatred of socialism remained. Mussolini renamed the party, now calling it the National Fascist Party. His reputation began to grow and he became known as a man with the ability to rule with a firm hand and restore order amid the chaos that Italy had fallen into. Public opinion was beginning to turn in his favor. At a rally shortly thereafter, Mussolini declared in a speech that either the government would hand over power to him or he would seize it for himself. This was no idle bluster. With no sign of capitulation by the government, Mussolini decided to stage a coup by marching on Rome. His forces were no match for the Italian army but still the Prime Minister, Luigi Facta, offered Mussolini a position in his government in order to avoid conflict. The offer was roundly rejected and the fascists marched on the capital. Mussolini and the Quadrumviri during the March on Rome in The king agreed but quickly changed his mind, fearing civil war. This enraged the Prime Minister who resigned his office. The twenty thousand Fascists marching on the capital stopped twenty miles north of the city. There, half of them left off and returned home. The rest carried on, with Mussolini himself joining them at various points to have his photo taken at the front of the line. But with the rain pouring down he was content to leave the heavy marching to others and took an express train into Rome. The king, who secretly admired Mussolini, now tried to placate him by offering him a governmental role. Mussolini would consider nothing but the prime minister-ship. Eventually, the king offered this position to him. At age 39, Mussolini had become Prime Minister, not through violent revolution, but through threat, bluster and unequivocal demand. In the wake of his victory, ecstatic Fascist roamed the streets in search of down heartened Socialists that they could terrorize. But his government was very much a minority in the House of Parliament.

*Mussolini restructured schools across the country, making fascist indoctrination and obedience to authority the center of Italian education. Teachers were forced to use textbooks created by the Fascist Party and to swear an oath of loyalty to Mussolini.*

Nationalism[ edit ] Benito Mussolini and Fascist Blackshirt youth in Italian Fascism is based upon Italian nationalism and in particular seeks to complete what it considers as the incomplete project of Risorgimento by incorporating Italia Irredenta "unredeemed Italy" into the state of Italy. It follows a policy based on three principles: The Fascist state is a will to power and empire. The Roman tradition is here a powerful force. According to the Doctrine of Fascism, an empire is not only a territorial or military or mercantile concept, but a spiritual and moral one. One can think of an empire, that is, a nation, which directly or indirectly guides other nations, without the need to conquer a single square kilometre of territory. Irredentism and expansionism[ edit ] Further information: Spazio vitale , Italia irredenta , Mare Nostrum , Italian Empire , and Italianization Fascism emphasized the need for the restoration of the Mazzinian Risorgimento tradition that pursued the unification of Italy, that the Fascists claimed had been left incomplete and abandoned in the Giolittian -era Italy. To the east of Italy, the Fascists claimed that Dalmatia was a land of Italian culture whose Italians, including those of Italianized South Slavic descent, had been driven out of Dalmatia and into exile in Italy, and supported the return of Italians of Dalmatian heritage. Indian independence movement leader Mahatma Gandhi visited Italy in and was invited by Mussolini for a personal visit, providing Gandhi full diplomatic courtesy. Due to the darker complexion of Mediterranean peoples, Hitler regarded them as having traces of Negroid blood and therefore were not pure Aryans and inferior to those without such heritage. Nordic, Mediterranean, Dinaric , Alpine and East Baltic while asserting that the Nordics were the highest in a racial hierarchy of the five types. In , Mussolini decided to launch a racial programme in Italy and was interested in the racial studies being conducted by Giulio Cogni. In June in a meeting with PNF members, Mussolini identified himself as Nordic and declared that previous policy of focus on Mediterraneanism was to be replaced by a focus on Aryanism. The question of racism in Italy must be treated from a purely biological point of view, without any philosophical or religious implications. The conception of racism in Italy must be essentially Italian and along Aryan-Nordic lines. This does not mean however that German racial theories are being accepted word for word in Italy and that Italians and Scandinavians are the same. It merely wishes to indicate to the Italian people a physical model and even more importantly a psychological model of human race that on account of its purely European characteristics is completely distinct from all extra-European races. This means to elevate the Italian to an ideal of superior consciousness of himself and to a greater sense of responsibility. Manifesto of Race and Italian Racial Laws In his early years as Fascist leader, while Mussolini harboured negative stereotypes of Jews he did not hold a firm stance on Jews and his official stances oscillated and shifted to meet the political demands of the various factions of the Fascist movement, rather than having any concrete stance. These bankers are bound by ties of blood to those Jews who in Moscow as in Budapest are taking their revenge on the Aryan race that has condemned them to dispersion for so many centuries. Might it not be that bolshevism is the vendetta of Judaism against Christianity?? It is certainly worth pondering. It is entirely possible that bolshevism will drown in the blood of a pogrom of catastrophic proportions. World finance is in the hands of the Jews. Whoever owns the strongboxes of the peoples is in control of their political systems. Behind the puppets making peace in Paris, there are the Rothschilds , the Warburgs , the Schiffs, the Guggenheims who are of the same blood who are conquering Petrograd and Budapest. Race does not betray race Bolshevism is a defense of the international plutocracy. This is the basic truth of the matter. The international plutocracy dominated and controlled by Jews has a supreme interest in all of Russian life accelerating its process of disintegration to the point of paroxysm. A Russia that is paralyzed, disorganized, starved, will be a place where tomorrow the bourgeoisie, yes the bourgeoisie, o proletarians will celebrate its spectacular feast of plenty. It is better to leave them alone. Zionist and anti-Zionist Jews responded, the anti-Zionist Jews professed they were religious Jews as part of the Italian nation, while Zionist

Jews declared that there was no dispute between Zionism and said that all Italian Jews held patriotic respect for Italy. My intention was to seek a clarification among Italian Jews and to open the eyes of Christian Italians. The problem exists, and it is no longer confined to that "shadowy sphere" where it had been constituted astutely by the former, ingeniously by the latter.

### 7: Benito Mussolini Biography: Italian Dictator & leader of the National Fascist Party

*Benito Mussolini was the fascist leader of Italy, appointed as prime minister after his 'march on Rome' in 1922. Italian fascism was a right-wing nationalist ideology that many, including Hitler, considered the 'big brother' of Nazism.*

The political crisis of the postwar years provided an opportunity for militant, patriotic movements, including those of ex-servicemen and former assault troops, students, ex-syndicalists, and former pro-war agitators. He was a bully at school and moody at home. Because the teachers at the village school could not control him, he was sent to board with the strict Salesian order at Faenza, where he proved himself more troublesome than ever, stabbing a fellow pupil with a penknife and attacking one of the Salesians who had attempted to beat him. He was also intelligent, and he passed his final examinations without difficulty. He obtained a teaching diploma and for a time worked as a schoolmaster but soon realized that he was totally unsuited for such work. At the age of 19, a short, pale young man with a powerful jaw and enormous, dark, piercing eyes, he left Italy for Switzerland with a nickel medallion of Karl Marx in his otherwise empty pockets. For the next few months, according to his own account, he lived from day to day, jumping from job to job. At the same time, however, he was gaining a reputation as a young man of strange magnetism and remarkable rhetorical talents. He read widely and voraciously, if not deeply, plunging into the philosophers and theorists Immanuel Kant, Benedict de Spinoza, Peter Kropotkin, Friedrich Nietzsche, G. Hegel, Karl Kautsky, and Georges Sorel, picking out what appealed to him and discarding the rest, forming no coherent political philosophy of his own yet impressing his companions as a potential revolutionary of uncommon personality and striking presence. While earning a reputation as a political journalist and public speaker, he produced propaganda for a trade union, proposing a strike and advocating violence as a means of enforcing demands. Repeatedly, he called for a day of vengeance. More than once he was arrested and imprisoned. When he returned to Italy in 1919, even the Roman newspapers had started to mention his name. For some time after his return little was heard of him. So successful was this paper that in 1920 he was appointed editor of the official Socialist newspaper, *Avanti!* Soon, however, he changed his mind about intervention. He resigned from *Avanti!* Mussolini went to fight in the war. Rise to power Wounded while serving with the bersaglieri a corps of sharpshooters, he returned home a convinced antisocialist and a man with a sense of destiny. Three months later, in a widely reported speech in Bologna, he hinted that he himself might prove to be such a man. The following year the nucleus of a party prepared to support his ambitious idea was formed in Milan. In an office in Piazza San Sepolcro, about assorted republicans, anarchists, syndicalists, discontented socialists, restless revolutionaries, and discharged soldiers met to discuss the establishment of a new force in Italian politics. So fascism was created and its symbol devised. At rallies "surrounded by supporters wearing black shirts" Mussolini caught the imagination of the crowds. His physique was impressive, and his style of oratory, staccato and repetitive, was superb. His attitudes were highly theatrical, his opinions were contradictory, his facts were often wrong, and his attacks were frequently malicious and misdirected; but his words were so dramatic, his metaphors so apt and striking, his vigorous, repetitive gestures so extraordinarily effective, that he rarely failed to impose his mood. Fascist squads, militias inspired by Mussolini but often created by local leaders, swept through the countryside of the Po Valley and the Puglian plains, rounded up Socialists, burned down union and party offices, and terrorized the local population. Hundreds of radicals were humiliated, beaten, or killed. In late 1920, the Blackshirt squads, often with the direct help of landowners, began to attack local government institutions and prevent left-wing administrations from taking power. Mussolini encouraged the squads "although he soon tried to control them" and organized similar raids in and around Milan. By late 1922, the Fascists controlled large parts of Italy, and the left, in part because of its failures during the postwar years, had all but collapsed. The government, dominated by middle-class Liberals, did little to combat this lawlessness, both through weak political will and a desire to see the mainly working-class left defeated. As the Fascist movement built a broad base of support around the powerful ideas of nationalism and anti-Bolshevism, Mussolini began planning to seize power at the national level. The remnants of the trade-union movement called a general strike. Mussolini declared that unless the government prevented the strike, the Fascists would. Fascist volunteers, in fact, helped

to defeat the strike and thus advanced the Fascist claim to power. Later that day, Mussolini and other leading Fascists decided that four days later the Fascist militia would advance on Rome in converging columns led by four leading party members later to be known as the Quadrumviri. Mussolini himself was not one of the four. He was still hoping for a political compromise, and he refused to move before King Victor Emmanuel III summoned him in writing. Meanwhile, all over Italy the Fascists prepared for action, and the March on Rome began. Although it was far less orderly than Fascist propaganda later suggested, it was sufficiently threatening to bring down the government. And the king, prepared to accept the Fascist alternative, dispatched the telegram for which Mussolini had been waiting. He had certainly been aided by a favourable combination of circumstances, both political and economic; but his remarkable and sudden success also owed something to his own personality, to native instinct and shrewd calculation, to astute opportunism, and to his unique gifts as an agitator. Anxious to demonstrate that he was not merely the leader of fascism but also the head of a united Italy, he presented to the king a list of ministers, a majority of whom were not members of his party. He made it clear, however, that he intended to govern authoritatively. He obtained full dictatorial powers for a year; and in that year he pushed through a law that enabled the Fascists to cement a majority in the parliament. The elections in 1928, though undoubtedly fraudulent, secured his personal power. Many Italians, especially among the middle class, welcomed his authority. They were tired of strikes and riots, responsive to the flamboyant techniques and medieval trappings of fascism, and ready to submit to dictatorship, provided the national economy was stabilized and their country restored to its dignity. Mussolini seemed to them the one man capable of bringing order out of chaos. Soon a kind of order had been restored, and the Fascists inaugurated ambitious programs of public works. The costs of this order were, however, enormous. Opposition parties, trade unions, and the free press were outlawed. Free speech was crushed. A network of spies and secret policemen watched over the population. This repression hit moderate Liberals and Catholics as well as Socialists. The Matteotti crisis shook Mussolini, but he managed to maintain his hold on power. Mussolini was hailed as a genius and a superman by public figures worldwide. His achievements were considered little less than miraculous. He had transformed and reinvigorated his divided and demoralized country; he had carried out his social reforms and public works without losing the support of the industrialists and landowners; he had even succeeded in coming to terms with the papacy. The reality, however, was far less rosy than the propaganda made it appear. Social divisions remained enormous, and little was done to address the deep-rooted structural problems of the Italian state and economy. His eye rested first upon Ethiopia, which, after 10 months of preparations, rumours, threats, and hesitations, Italy invaded in October 1935. A brutal campaign of colonial conquest followed, in which the Italians dropped tons of gas bombs upon the Ethiopian people. Europe expressed its horror; but, having done so, did no more. The League of Nations imposed sanctions but ensured that the list of prohibited exports did not include any, such as oil, that might provoke a European war. If the League had imposed oil sanctions, Mussolini said, he would have had to withdraw from Ethiopia within a week. Italy had its empire. This moment probably marked the peak of public support for the regime. Italy had also found a new ally. The way was now open for the Pact of Steel—a Rome-Berlin Axis and a brutal alliance between Hitler and Mussolini that was to ruin them both. When Germany advanced westward, however, and France seemed on the verge of collapse, Mussolini felt he could delay no longer. So, on June 10, 1940, the fateful declaration of war was made. The Germans kept the details of most of their military plans concealed, presenting their allies with a *fait accompli* for fear that prior discussion would destroy surprise. And thus the Germans made such moves as the occupation of Romania and the later invasion of the Soviet Union without any advance notice to Mussolini. The result was an extensive and ignominious defeat, and the Germans were forced unwillingly to extricate him from its consequences. The campaign to support the German invasion of the Soviet Union also failed disastrously and condemned thousands of ill-equipped Italian troops to a nightmarish winter retreat. After the Italian surrender in North Africa in 1943, the Germans began to take precautions against a likely Italian collapse. Mussolini had grossly exaggerated the extent of public support for his regime and for the war. When the Western Allies successfully invaded Sicily in July 1943, it was obvious that collapse was imminent. On July 24, at a meeting of the Fascist Grand Council—the supreme constitutional authority of the state, which had not met once since the war began—an overwhelming majority

passed a resolution that in effect dismissed Mussolini from office. Disregarding the vote as a matter of little concern and refusing to admit that his minions could harm him, Mussolini appeared at his office the next morning as though nothing had happened. That afternoon, however, he was arrested by royal command on the steps of the Villa Savoia after an audience with the king. Nevertheless, by crash-landing gliders on the slopes behind the hotel, German commandos on September 12, , effected his escape by air to Munich. Meanwhile, Italian Fascists maintained their alliance with the Germans and participated in deportations, the torture of suspected partisans, and the war against the Allies. As German defenses in Italy collapsed and the Allies advanced rapidly northward, the Italian Communists of the partisan leadership decided to execute Mussolini. Rejecting the advice of various advisers, including the elder of his two surviving sons—his second son had been killed in the war—Mussolini refused to consider flying out of the country, and he made for the Valtellina, intending perhaps to make a final stand in the mountains; but only a handful of men could be found to follow him. He tried to cross the frontier disguised as a German soldier in a convoy of trucks retreating toward Innsbruck, in Austria. But he was recognized and, together with his mistress, Claretta Petacci, who had insisted on remaining with him to the end, he was shot and killed on April 28, . Their bodies were hung, head downward, in the Piazza Loreto in Milan. Huge jubilant crowds celebrated the fall of the dictator and the end of the war. He had lived beyond his time and had dragged his country into a disastrous war, which it was unwilling and unready to fight.

### 8: The Aftermath of WWI: The Rise of Fascism in Germany and Italy | Guided History

*Benito Mussolini's father, Alessandro, was a blacksmith and an impassioned socialist who spent much of his time on politics and much of his money on his mistress.*

Benito Mussolini The Italian dictator Benito Mussolini was head of the Italian government from to A Fascist dictator, he led Italy into three successive wars, the last of which overturned his regime. His father was a blacksmith and an ardent Socialist; his mother taught elementary school. His family belonged to the impoverished middle classes. Benito, with a sharp and lively intelligence, early demonstrated a powerful ego. Violent and undisciplined, he learned little at school. In , at the age of 18, he took his diploma di maestro and then taught secondary school briefly. Not surprisingly, Mussolini based it on Friedrich Nietzsche, Georges Sorel , and Max Stirner , on the advocates of force, will, and the superego. Culturally armed, Mussolini returned to Italy in , rendered military service, and engaged in politics full time thereafter. Early Career and Politics Mussolini became a member of the Socialist party in , and his politics, like his culture, were exquisitely bohemian. In Socialist circles, nonetheless, he first attracted attention, then applause, and soon widespread admiration. He "specialized" in attacking clericalism, militarism, and reformism. Mussolini urged revolution at any cost. In each attack he was extremist and violent. But he was also eloquent and forceful. Mussolini occupied several provincial posts as editor and labor leader until he suddenly emerged in the Socialist Party Congress. His editorial tenure during abundantly confirmed his promise. He wrote a new journalism, pungent and polemical, hammered his readership, and injected a new excitement into Socialist ranks. On the Socialist platform, he spoke sharply and well, deft in phrase and savage in irony. The young Mussolini proved a formidable opponent. In a party long inert, bureaucratic, and burdened with mediocrity, he capitalized on his youth, offered modernity with dynamism, and decried the need for revolution in a moment when revolutionary ferment was sweeping the country. An opportunist to his bones, Mussolini early mastered the direction of the winds and learned quickly to turn full sail into them. From Socialist to Fascist This much-envied talent led Mussolini to desert the Socialist party in and to cross over to the enemy camp, the Italian bourgeoisie. He rightly understood that World War I would bury the old Europe. Upheaval would follow its wake. He determined to prepare for "the unknown. He drew close to the new forces in Italian politics, the radicalized middle-class youth, and made himself their national spokesman. Mussolini developed a new program, substituting nationalism for internationalism, militarism for antimilitarism, and the aggressive restoration of the bourgeois state instead of its revolutionary destruction. He had thus completely reversed himself. The Italian working classes called him "Judas" and "traitor. His newspaper, which he now reinforced with a second political movement Revolutionary Fascists , was his main card; his talents and his reputation guaranteed him a hand in the game. He organized his third movement Constituent Fascists in , but it was stillborn. Mussolini ran for office in the parliamentary elections but was defeated. Head of the Government In March Mussolini founded another movement Fighting Fascists , courted the militant Italian youth, and waited for events to favor him. The tide turned in The elections that year sent him victoriously to Parliament at the head of 35 Fascist deputies; the third assembly of his fledgling movement gave birth to a national party, the National Fascist party PNF , with more than , followers and Mussolini as its uncontested leader, its duce. The following year, in October , Mussolini successfully "marched" on Rome. But, in fact, the back door to power had been opened by key ruling groups industry try and agriculture, military, monarchy, and Church , whose support Mussolini now enjoyed. Without scruple or remorse, Mussolini now showed the extent to which ambition, opportunism, and utter amorality constituted his very core. He was in fact eminently a product of a particular crisis, World War I , and a special social class, the petty bourgeoisie. Fascist State Once in power, Mussolini attacked the problem of survival. With accomplished tact, he set general elections, violated their constitutional norms freely, and concluded them in with an absolute majority in Parliament. But the assassination immediately thereafter of the Socialist leader Giacomo Matteotti , a noted opponent, by Fascist hirelings suddenly reversed his fortunes, threw his regime into crisis, and nearly toppled him. Mussolini, however, recouped and with his pivotal speech of Jan. He suppressed civil liberties, annihilated the opposition,

and imposed open dictatorship. Between and Mussolini moved to consolidate his regime through the enactment of "the most Fascist laws" le leggi fascistissime. He concluded the decade on a high note: Awed by a generosity that multiplied his annual income fourfold, Pope Pius XI confirmed to the world that Mussolini had been sent "by Divine Providence. Italy, he announced, had commenced the epoch of the " Third Rome. The regime called itself the "Corporate State" and offered Italy a bewildering brood of institutions, all splendidly titled but sparsely endowed. For if the rhetoric impressed, the reality denied. The strongest economic groups remained entrenched. They had put Mussolini into power, and they now reaped their fruits. The face of the state he indeed refashioned; its substance he left intact. The "new order" was coating only. Il Duce ruled from the top of this hollow pyramid. A consummate poseur, he approached government as a drama to be enacted, every scene an opportunity to display ample but superficial talents. Cynical and arrogant, he despised men in the same measure that he manipulated them. Without inspired or noble sentiments himself, he instinctively sought the defects in others, their weaknesses, and mastered the craft of corrupting them. He surrounded himself with ambitious opportunists and allowed full rein to their greed and to their other, unnameable vices while his secret agents compiled incriminating dossiers. The middle classes succumbed to discontent; the working people suffered aggravated misery. Mussolini initially reacted with a public works program but soon shifted to foreign adventure. The Ethiopian War, a classic diversionary exercise, was planned to direct attention away from internal discontent and to the myth of imperial grandeur. It pushed his star to new heights. But it also exacted its price. The man of destiny lost his balance, and with it that elementary talent that measures real against acclaimed success. No ruler confuses the two and remains in power long. Mussolini thus began his precipitous slide. The Spanish intervention, in which Mussolini aided Francisco Franco in the Civil War , followed hard on Ethiopia but returned none of its anticipated gains. Having declared earlier that the racial problem did not exist for Italy, Mussolini in unleashed his own anti-Semitic blows against Italian Jewry. As the s closed, Mussolini had nearly exhausted all toleration for himself and his regime within Italy. Impelled by the prospect of easy victory, Mussolini determined "to make war at any cost. Mussolini unfortunately lacked all of these. He thus ignored the only meaningful lesson of World War I: Italy lost its war in ; Mussolini collapsed 6 months later. The end approached, but Mussolini struggled vainly to survive, unwilling to pay the price for folly. The debt was discharged by a partisan firing squad on April 28, , at Dongo in Como province. In the end Mussolini failed where he had believed himself most successful: His politics and culture had been formed before World War I, and they had remained rooted there. After that war, though land empire had become ossified and increasingly superfluous, Mussolini had embarked on territorial expansion in the grand manner. In a moment when the European nation-state had passed its apogee and entered decline the economic depression had underscored it , Mussolini had pursued ultranationalism abroad and an iron state within. He had never grasped the lines of the new world already emerging. He had gone to war for more territory and greater influence when he needed new markets and more capital. Tied to a decaying world about to disappear forever, Mussolini was anachronistic, a man of the past, not the future. His Fascist slogan served as his own epitaph: Non si torna indietro There is no turning back. A 19th-century statesman could not survive long in the 20th-century world, and history swept him brutally but rightly aside. Further Reading Mussolini wrote *My Autobiography* ; rev. *His Own Story*, edited with a preface by Max Ascoli trans. Most of the studies of Mussolini in English are either archaic and sterile or anecdotal and useless. A comprehensive, objective, and well-written biography is Ivone Kirkpatrick, *Mussolini: A Study in Power* Deakin, *The Brutal Friendship* ; rev. *Its Development and Influence* Ernst Nolte, *Three Faces of Fascism* ; trans. For pertinent documents of the Fascist era in Italy and a brief study of the period see S. William Halperin, *Mussolini and Italian Fascism* For general background see Denis Mack Smith, *Italy: A Modern History*

### 9: Italian Fascism - Wikipedia

*Italian Fascism (Italian: fascismo italiano), also known as Classical Fascism or simply Fascism, is the original fascist ideology as developed in www.enganchecubano.com ideology is associated with a series of three political parties led by Benito Mussolini: the Fascist Revolutionary Party (PFR) founded in , the succeeding National Fascist Party (PNF) which was renamed at the Third Fascist Congress on 7.*

The Fascist era The rise of Mussolini The political crisis of the postwar years provided an opportunity for militant, patriotic movements, including those of ex-servicemen and former assault troops, students, ex-syndicalists, and former pro-war agitators. Proposals included the confiscation of war profits, the eight-hour day, and the vote for women. Four people were killed, and the paper shut down for several days. This was the first demonstration of the ability of the Fascists to attack Socialist institutions. Organized militias began to attract support across Italy in an anti-Bolshevik crusade that united various social and political sectors and organizations. Fascist squads, dressed in black-shirted uniforms and often financed by landowners or industrialists, used systematic violence to destroy these organizations. Thousands of people were beaten, killed, or forced to drink castor oil and run out of town. Hundreds of union offices, employment centres, and party newspapers were looted or burnt down. In October , after the election of a left administration in Bologna , Fascists invaded the council chamber, causing mayhem and nine deaths. The council was suspended by the government. Later, Socialist and Catholic deputies were run out of parliament or had their houses destroyed. Union organizations were crushed. The Federterra shrank from some one million members to fewer than 6, in less than five years. Unable to defend basic democratic rights or to prevent the criminal activities of a private militia that operated openly and nationwide, the state had lost all credibility. Within a few months, paramilitary Fascist squad leaders controlled many rural areas of central Italy. Local bosses built power bases in various areas. The Fascists had become a major political force, backed not only by landowners but also by many members of the urban middle class, including students, shopkeepers, and clerical workers. In May , when Prime Minister Giolitti called new elections, 35 Fascists were elected to parliament as part of a government bloc of deputies. In October Mussolini abandoned republicanism, and in November he formed his movement into a proper political party , the National Fascist Party Partito Nazionale Fascista; PNF , which by this time was well-financed if ill-disciplined and extremely disparate. Local bosses remained paramount in their areas. These unions never managed to penetrate the organized working class but did have some support among the lower middle class and small landowners. Mussolini manipulated this volatile situation in the next few months to his advantage, and the Liberal political establishment sought to conciliate him and the Fascist thugs. The police, the army, and much of the middle class sympathized with Fascist destruction of Socialist unions. Mussolini, as duce leader of fascism, gradually made himself indispensable in Rome, and the squads took over more cities in the provinces. Attempts by the left to organize defense squads against the Fascists were, in general, a failure. Fascist squads, numbering about 25, men altogether, began to converge on the capital from all over Italy on October 26, occupying railway stations and government offices. Prime Minister Facta asked the king to declare martial law , but Victor Emmanuel III eventually refused in order to avoid possible army disloyalty or even a possible civil war. Instead, he asked Mussolini to form a government on October 29, hoping to tame him by constitutional means. Mussolini became prime minister , therefore, in a more or less constitutional manner, but only after three years of near civil war in the country and an armed invasion of Rome. He was appointed by the king, and he headed a coalition government that included nationalists, two Fascist ministers, Liberals, and even until April two Catholic ministers from the Popular Party. Ordinary middle-class job seekers flooded into the Fascist Party, making it more respectable and amenable; the nationalists also merged their organization into it, bringing with them much respectable backing in the south. In the electoral law was changed once more, so that a group of parties with the largest vote—even if only 25 percent of the total—would receive an absolute majority of the seats. In a climate of violence and threats, the Fascist-dominated bloc won 64 percent of the votes and seats, doing particularly well in the south. The opposition parties—by now including the Popular Party—remained divided but won a

majority of the votes in northern Italy. The Socialists, indeed, had by this time split again, and the left now consisted of three rival parties, which spent much time criticizing one another:

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