

# PATH TO GLOBAL WAR ITALIAN

## unification

- (1820s) after the Napoleonic era and French Revolution, the Carbonari ("coal men"), a group of Italian nationalists with a base of support from workers, comes to prominence

## leaders of unification

1. Count Cavour
2. General Giuseppe Garibaldi
3. Giuseppe Mazzini
4. King Victor Emanuel III (1st king of united Italy)

## risorgimento ("resurgence")

- (1861) first form of a united Italian state
- (1870) French troops leave Rome to fight in the Franco-Prussian War
- Rome is taken over by the Italians and the Pope refers to himself as a "prisoner in the Vatican"
- (1871) Italy becomes the kingdom of Italy with Rome as its capital

## unresolved challenges

### 1. national identity

- "Italy has been made. Now it remains to make Italians." - Massimo d'Azeglio, on the need for a national identity in the new kingdom of Italy

### 2. corruption

- organized crime and the Italian Mafia become a significant issue in regards to creating a functional government
- Italian government can't free itself from the influence of crime through the 1900s

### 3. questione meridionale

- northern Italy was thriving economically
- southern Italy, Mezzogiorno, was agricultural, impoverished, and its economy had just collapsed
- questione meridionale refers to the struggle of creating a unified, functioning economy

### 4. Italia irredenta

- nationalists believed Italian unification was incomplete
- Italia irredenta ("unredeemed Italy") refers to the Mediterranean lands, especially on the Adriatic, with high Italian populations which some Italian nationalists wanted to reclaim

## economic causes

1. "mutilated victory"
2. May 1915 Treaty of London
3. high inflation and unemployment 1919

#### 4. Biennio Rosso ("2 Red Years")

#### 5. Oct. 1922 "March on Rome"

#### 6. "achieving autarky"

"mutilated victory"

- WWI had a significant impact on Italy
  - 600,000 killed, hundreds of thousands wounded, 39.1% casualty rate in the military
- Italians refers to WWI as a "mutilated victory"

#### May 1915 Treaty of London

- (May 1915) Italy enters WWI on the side of the Allies because of the Treaty of London
- Italy promised Austrian territorial concessions (Brenner frontier, Istria, and half of the Dalmatian coastline), and territories in Africa and the Middle East
- at the Paris Peace Talks, Italian prime minister Vittorio Orlando wanted to make sure the terms of the Treaty of London were upheld and wanted to add the Port of Fiume to territorial demands
- mostly due to US intervention, Italy did not get what it wanted
- (1921) Italian Fascist Party (PNF) is founded from post-WWI frustration
- PNF focuses on nationalism, expansion, and Italia irredenta

#### high inflation and unemployment of 1919

- economic boom of WWI crashes and inflation rises (prices quadrupled in 2 years)
- lower and middle classes were hit particularly hard
- 2 million unemployed
  - Italy had borrowed 148 million lire to fund their war effort (twice the amount of government expenditures from 1861-1914, or the entire history of unified Italy)
  - US immigration policies on Southern and Eastern Europeans became more restrictive

#### Biennio Rosso ("Two Red Years")

- economic crisis in Italy corresponds to the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia
- fear of communism spreads through Europe
- (1919-1920) referred to as the "Two Red Years" because of increased worker unrest
- communism does not succeed in Italy because:
- South was not industrialized
  - Northern industrialization was controlled by a few wealthy capitalists
  - fascism seems like a better option because:
    - it will help put down worker unrest (appeals to wealthy capitalist controllers)
    - Catholic Church favors fascism because it opposes liberalism and the godless communism
  - in fascism, "empire is not only a territorial or military or mercantile concept, but a spiritual and moral one." - Benito Mussolini's 1932 Doctrine of Fascism (ghostwritten by Giovanni Gentile)
  - played into 1800s notion of risorgimento and promised a better future for Italy, especially in international affairs

#### October 1922 "March on Rome"

- (1919) Benito Mussolini, a left-wing newspaper man, starts the fascist movement in opposition to socialists and communists
- initially, it is anti-church and pro-labor, and doesn't gain many followers
- (1920-1922) Mussolini changes stances, moving the fascists to a more right-wing perspective, and the fascist movement becomes the PNF
- advocates for businesses, privatization of industry, guarantee of private property, the establishment of corporatist state (corporations representing all classes), Italia irredenta (incorporation of all Italian-speaking territories into the state), the Third Rome (a dominant role for Italy in the Mediterranean)
- (mid-1921) changes from anti-church to for the union of the church and state
- gains support of wealthy industrialists and the church
- (1920s) PNF sends squads of "black shirts" to break up strikes and attack socialists
- (1922) a weak, liberal government comes into power and violence from the fascists increases
- socialists protest violence and demand King Victor Emmanuel III do something about the fascists
- (September 1922) Mussolini gives a speech supporting the monarchy but not the government, and saying he should be prime minister instead
- (October 1922) PNF stages a "March on Rome" of 20,000-30,000 people in favor of fascist rule
- the socialist prime minister demands the king stop the march; king refuses out of fear of starting a civil war; prime minister resigns in protest; fascists enter Rome
- (October 30, 1922) King Victor Emmanuel III appoints Mussolini to prime minister and Mussolini refers to himself as Il Duce ("The Leader")
- Mussolini starts implementing his policies and liberals accuse the fascists of being "totalitarian"
- (1925) Mussolini agrees that "fascism is totalitarian" because it is control of the state and everything is a part of the state

#### "achieving autarky"

- Mussolini begins to move Italy towards a totalitarian state (though it never fully becomes one)
- Mussolini believes economic stability would promote foreign expansion which would promote economic stability
- Mussolini tried to achieve economic stability by making Italy self-sufficient and less dependent on other nations, or "achieving autarky"
- begins productivism, or government investment in heavy industry through higher taxation to support heavy industry over consumer goods
- what matters to Mussolini is "will power" to overcome a struggle
- Mussolini launches a series of "battles"

#### 1925 The Battle for Grain

- Mussolini felt like Italy was importing too much grain, so promotes the growth of grain by domestic farmers
- grain production doubles, grain imports decrease by 75%
- did not protect other crops like citrus, wine, livestock, etc.
- agrarian southern Italy becomes even more impoverished because everyone grows grain and the soil isn't good for it

#### 1926 The Battle for Lire

- lire → Italian currency
- lire was devaluating (at its worst 150 Italian lire = 1 British pound)
- Mussolini felt that the lire must be stabilized and artificially sets the exchange rate at 92.5 lire = 1 £
- exports decrease
- other countries raise tariffs, so Italy raises tariffs so imports cost about the same
- only the wealthy profit by buying small businesses which are going out of business
- higher income tax and higher unemployment lead to economic problems

### 1927 The Battle for Births

- Mussolini wants to increase the Italian population from 37 million to 60 million
- taxes bachelors, awards women for having more children, families with 10 children are exempt from the income tax
- criminal code of 1932 bans contraception, abortion, and sterilization
- (1940) Italy's population has grown to 44 million
- birth rate had actually declined; but death rate declined and there was less emigration

### 1928 The "Mussolini Law"

- designed as a land reclamation project to develop more infrastructure, arable land, housing developments, etc.
- generally did not happen
- did result in the draining of the Pontine Marshes south of Rome and making them housing and farmland

### ideological causes

1. spazio vitale ("vital space")
2. 1923 Corfu
3. 1924 Fiume
4. 1925 Locarno
5. 1926 Albania
6. 1922-1928 Libya
7. 1928 Kellogg-Briand Pact
8. 1928 Treaty of Friendship with Abyssinia

### spazio vitale ("vital space")

- Italy was hit by its own economic problems and the 1929 global depression
- Italy still pursues foreign expansion, believing it was the "heir of Rome"
- Mussolini responds to risorgimento by saying that, as the Italian population grows, Italy needs spazio vitale, so should imperialize

### 1923 Corfu

- in response to the death of 5 Italians in Greece (presumably killed by bandits), Italian gunboats shell the Greek island of Corfu and occupy the island
- Greece appeals to the League of Nations

the League caves to pressure from Great Britain and France

- Greece apologizes for the deaths and pays Italy 50 million lire; Italy leaves Corfu

#### 1924 Fiume

- Italy wanted Fiume in the Paris Peace Talks, but it was given to the newly-created Yugoslavia
- (1924) Italy demands Fiume from Yugoslavia
- Yugoslavia legally cedes Fiume to Italy in the Pact of Rome
- motivated by the League's weak response to Corfu and Italy's funding of Croat separatists in Yugoslavia

#### 1925 Locarno

- (Oct 1925) Mussolini meets with foreign ministers of Great Britain, France, Belgium, and Germany in Locarno, Switzerland
- Mussolini plays a key role in drafting the Locarno treaties
- no territorial concessions, and Germany accepts a defined boundary with France
- significance for Italy: Mussolini takes a leadership role in international relations in Europe and helps usher in a period of cooperation and friendship

#### 1926 Albania

- (1921) Italy had helped achieve Albanian independence
- (1924) Ahmed Zog is restored to power, backed by Italy
- Mussolini invests heavily in Zog's regime
- (1926) Treaty of Friendship between Albania and Italy
- Italy trains the Albanian military, essentially rendering Albania a military protectorate

#### 1922-28 Libya

- Mussolini's "pacification campaign" in Libya, really a campaign to expand into North Africa, begins in 1922
- it was supposedly to put down a revolt, but it was really an invasion with mass executions, oppressions of the Libyans, and Italian occupation
- occupation ends in 1928, when Italy declares that Libya is a part of its empire

#### 1928 Kellogg-Briand Pact

- US and French representatives draw up the pact, which denounced the use of war to resolve disputes
- significance: Mussolini played a significant role and over 60 countries signed it (becomes multi-lateral agreement)

#### 1928 Treaty of Friendship with Abyssinia

- foreshadows Mussolini's desire to invade Abyssinia once the Italian military was strong enough
- mostly considered to be a cynical gesture

## **Italy unification**

1861

## **Liberal Italy**

1870-1923

## **All men over 30 were given the right to vote**

1930

## **Italian Socialist Party (PSI) was founded**

1892

## **Giovanni Giolitti - prime minister**

1903-1905, 1906-09, 1911-14

## **Italian-Turkish War**

1911-12

## **Italian Nationalist Association-founded**

1910

## **Failed attempt to conquer Abyssinia**

1896

## **Treaty of London- signed by Italy, Britain, France, and Russia**

1907

## **Battle of Caporetto**

October 1917

## **Battle of Vittorio Veneto**

October 1918

## **Mussolini set up first Fascist units**

March 1919

## **Polarizing elections: 35 seats to Fascists, 108 to Catholic party and 138 to Socialists and Communists**

1921

## **Fiume Affair**

September 1919

D'Annunzio was removed in December 1920 when Giolitti was returned as prime minister

**unemployment soared to 2 million**

1919

**"Two Red Years"**

1919-1920

**Partido Comunista Italiano was set up**

21st January 1921

**The coalition government led by Ivanhoe Bonomi collapsed**

February 1922

**Socialists and Communist call general strike**

August 1922

**Mussolini met with leaders in Milan and agreed it was the right time to take power**

16th October 1922

**Fascist congress was held in Naples**

24th October 1922

**Fascists attempted to seize control of gov. buildings**

27th October 1922

**Mussolini revives telegram from the king**

29th October 1922

**Victor Emmanuel II appoints Mussolini prime minister**

30th October 1922

**New gov. wins vote of confidence**

November 1922

**Nationalists join Fascists**

February 1923

**Acerbo Law is passed**

July 1923

**Fascists increased representation in gov. from 7% to 66%**

April 1924

**Giacomo Matteotti is murdered after speech condemning Fascist violence**

May 1924

**Mussolini took responsibility for the Fascist violence+took title of "Il Duce"**

3rd January 1925

**Law on Powers of Head of Government**

December 1925

**OVRA was founded+increased repression**

November 1926- January 1927

**Battle for the Grain**

1925

**Battle for the Lira**

1926

**"Mussolini Law"**

1928

**Gov. cut wages by 10%**

1927

**Mussolini invaded Corfu**

1923

**Ahmed Zog took power in Albania**

1924

**Albania became an Italian protectorate**

1926

**Mussolini meets leaders from Britain, Germany, Belgium, and France at Locarno**

October 1925

**Kellogg-Briand Pact**

1928

**Italy recognized new gov. of Soviet Union**

1921 with 2 trade agreements; formally in 1924



## **Rapallo Treaty**

1922

## **Instituto Mobiliare Italiano was set up**

1931

## **Instituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale was set up**

1933

## **Annual budget deficit of 28 billion lire by**

1939

## **Dino Grandi was appointed as foreign minister**

1929

## **Count Galeazzo Ciano was appointed as foreign minister**

1936

## **Four Power Pact-Britain, France, Germany, and Italy signed**

15th July 1933

## **Nazi supporters murdered Austrian Chancellor Engelbert Dollfuss was murdered**

25th July 1934

## **The "Final Declaration of the Stresa Declaration" was signed**

14th April 1935

## **Anglo-German Naval Agreement was signed**

June 1935

## **Wal Wal Incident**

December 1934

## **League of Nations resolved that neither side was to blame in the Wal Wal Incident**

September 1934

## **Italy launches full scale invasion of Abyssinia**

3rd October 1934

## **Italian forces capture Adowa**

6th October 1934

## **League of Nations voted to impose sanction on Italy**

7th October 1934

**Limited sanctions were imposed on Italy**

18th November 1934

**Hoare-Laval Pact**

December 1935

**Abyssinian Army was defeated at Lake Ashangi**

6th April 1936

**Italian forces took over Addis Ababa**

5th May 1936

**Lira was devalued by 40%**

October 1936

**Italian fought a long drawn out guerrilla war in Abyssinia until it fell to British in**

1941

**The Spanish Civil War**

1936-1939

**Rome Berlin Axis was signed**

25th October 1936

**Italy joined the Anti Comintern Pact**

November 1937

**Mussolini instructed the Italian government to demand the annexation of Corsica, Nice, Tunis from France.**

November 1938

**Italy made a punitive assault on Albania**

7 April 1939

**King Zog signed trade agreements with Greece and Yugoslavia**

1934

**Mussolini sent an ultimatum to Tirana demanding agreement to Italian occupation of Albania but King Zog refused.**

25 March 1939

**Albanian Royal Heir was born**

5 April 1939

**Anti-Italian demonstrations**

6 April 1939

**Italian forces entered Tirana and seized control of all government buildings**

8th April 1939

**Albanian parliament deposed King Zog in absentia and voted to unite with Italy in "personal union"**

12th April 1939

**Albania withdrew from League of Nations**

15th April 1939

**Mussolini would use Albania as a base to launch an invasion of Greece**

28th October 1939

**Pact of Steel or Pact of Friendship- between Italy and Germany**

22nd May 1939

**Mussolini declared Italy non-belligerent**

1939

**Germany owed Italy 40 million US \$, in return, it supplied Italy with coal by sea. However, Britain blocked all German coal ports.**

March 1940

**Italy joined the war**

June 1940

**Mussolini**

Italian fascist dictator (1883-1945)

**Abyssinia**

**Ethiopia**

**Avanti**

Italian newspaper of the extreme left, (revolutionary socialism) whom the editor was Mussolini until 1915. (Lee 89)

### **Fascio di Combattimento**

name of Mussolini's first local political party founded in 1919 in Milan, who failed to enter national government. (Lee 89)

### **Partito Nazionale Fascista**

political party founded by Mussolini in 1921 whose aim was to enter parliament. (Lee 90)

### **Political reason for the rise of Mussolini**

the very unstable liberal-parliamentary regime during the interwar period, each ministry lasting 1,1 years each. (Lee 91)

### **The economic repercussions of the first world war**

Italy's economy shaken, total social disruption and huge deficit with uneven trading and poor industrialization. (Lee 91)

### **Lack of national identity**

cause of the social unrest in Italy as only newly unified and very divided territorially. (Rogers and Thomas 85)

### **The catholic church before the 20th century**

relations had broken down during unification and had encouraged the rise in anti-clerical policies. (Rogers and Thomas 85)

### **Working class protest**

only men over 30 and with wealth could vote, promoting the upper and middle class men to politics. This caused the rise in extreme parties lead by the working class. (Rogers and Thomas 85)

### **Treaty of London**

treaty between Italy, France, Britain and the USSR where Italy officially joined the triple entente (1915) in the hopes to gain some land after the war (Rogers and Thomas 86)

### **Battle of Caporetto**

immense defeat of Italy in 1917 with many losses, humiliation (Rogers and Thomas 88)

### **Battle of Vittorio**

one of the few victories for Italy in 1918 however a great cost : 600 000 men dead.(Rogers and Thomas 88)

### **Political climate during the first world war**

Italy even more divided with a rise in: socialist parties who didn't support the war; trade unions because of the increased workforce; militant forces.(Rogers and Thomas 88)

### **Key feature of fascism Nationalism**

desire to remove foreign influences; own nation seen as superior to other nations; view of the nation state, its culture and history, as a unifying force. (Rogers and Thomas 89)

#### **Key feature of fascism Militarism**

promotion of political violence and war as a method of revitalizing society; violence is seen as necessary in order to progress; development of paramilitary organizations. (Rogers and Thomas 89)

#### **Key feature of fascism Social Darwinism**

the belief that races have evolved as superior to other races; survival of the fittest. (Rogers and Thomas 89)

#### **Key feature of Social Unity**

opposes class-based divisions in society and promotes collective national society. (Rogers and Thomas 89)

#### **Key feature of fascism Authoritarianism**

Totalitarian (the state has influence or control over all aspects of society; the people are subservient to the state; Mussolini: "obedience not discussion" (Rogers and Thomas 89)

#### **Impact of first world war**

Italy didn't get its territory abroad, many casualties so the support for the government declined (Rogers and Thomas 90-91)

#### **Two Red Years**

fear of communism in Italy between 1919 and 1920 (Rogers and Thomas 92)

#### **Economical causes for the rise of fascism**

high inflation and unemployment furthered by the US strict policy of immigration (nowhere to go to escape poverty) (Rogers and Thomas 92)

#### **March on Rome**

30th of October 1922 when the blackshirts walked into the government in Rome and Mussolini was offered the position of Prime minister. (Rogers and Thomas 95)

#### **Mussolini's relationship with the church**

made compromises with them and gave them the Vatican state and in return the church would support the new government. (Rogers and Thomas 97)

#### **Factors influencing Mussolini's foreign policy**

increase in national pride, consolidate domestic support for the regime, revise the post war settlement of 1919-1920, dominate the balkans, dominate the mediterranean, build an empire into Africa, foster the spread of Fascism in other countries (Rogers and Thomas 97)

#### **France and Italy relationship**

Mussolini was hostile as he had claims over French territory (Corsica, Nice and Sardinia), was jealous of the French empire in Africa, and envied the French control over the Balkans. (Rogers and Thomas 101)

### **Impact of economic issues on Italian foreign policy**

weak even with many policies implemented by Mussolini, put a restraint on the expansion of Italy as they were unable to produce a war economy. (Rogers and Thomas 99)

### **Appeasement**

diplomatic policy of making concession to nations in order to avoid conflict. Associated with Britain (and French) foreign policy in the 1930s. It allowed Mussolini (and Hitler) to get away with territorial demands. (Rogers and Thomas. 194)

### **Reasons for Appeasement**

1)Public opinion against WW1 and towards LON 2)Demands of Dictators seen as justified 3)no alternative policy 4)Great Depression did not allow for international conflict 5) Business opportunities with aggressors (believed by Neville Chamberlain, BR prime minister (Rogers and Thomas. 194-196)

### **Neutrality Act**

designed 1935 by US to keep it out of possible European war by banning sale of armaments to belligerents. (Rogers and Thomas. 199)

### **Hoare- Laval Pact**

December 1935. French foreign secretary Pierre Laval and British Samuel Hoare wanted to appease Mussolini to reassure his assistance against Hitler. The pact gave Mussolini most of Abyssinia. Plan leaked in french press and public outrage led to denouncing the pact and sanctions continued. (Rogers and Thomas. 204)

### **Haile Selassie**

Emperor of Abyssinia. Appealed to the League of Nations multiple times after Italian invasion to arbitrate and for support. Fled on 2 May 1936. Held powerful speech criticizing the international community for its inaction. (Rogers and Thomas. 203/206)

### **BR response to Italian invasion 1940 (of Albania + Egypt + Greece)**

condemned the Italian invasion. Turning point for Chamberlain: no longer trusted dictators and guarantee British support for Greek borders. BR counterattacked in North Africa and defeated Italy in Libya 1941. BR navy sank half of Italian fleet. (Rogers and Thomas. 209)

### **Weaknesses of the League of Nations (in regard to Italian aggression)**

1) lacked credibility and economic power 2) no USA 3)Powerful countries (Ger, Italy, France, Japan) were 'revisionist' towards Treaty of Versailles 4)Soviet Union joined only in 1934 5)ineffective structure and organization (Rogers and Thomas. 198)

### **Stresa Pact/Front**

Agreement between FR, BR, and Italy. To reaffirm the Locarno Treaties and remain independence of Austria. Also agreed to resist any further attempt by Germans to change Treaty of Versailles. (Rogers and Thomas 203-204)

### **League of Nation response to invasion of Abyssinia**

condemnation from LON. Leagues arbitration committee found neither side responsible (Italy/Abyssinia). LON found Italy aggressor on October 7 1935 and started imposing limited sanctions. Sanctions did not include coal, oil, steel. (Rogers and Thomas 203)

### **Wal Wal incident**

In Dec 1934, Italian troops were attacked at the Wal Wal oasis on Ethiopian border. Italy demanded apology as she claimed right to use oasis. Italy used incident as an excuse to invade Abyssinia. (Lee. 119)

### **Munich Conference**

September 1938. Agreement permitted Hitler to annex German speaking part of Czechoslovakia, the Sudetenland. Germany, France, the United Kingdom and Italy. Mussolini had status of mediator. Excluded Soviet Union. Seen as a failed act of appeasement. (Lee. 123)

### **Pact of Steel**

May 1939. Alliance between Italy and Germany. Bounded militarily to Germany. (Lee. 125)

### **Neville Chamberlain**

Prime Minister of BR 1937-40. Followed policy of appeasement. Wanted to have peaceful Europe and solve conflicts with diplomacy. Had little faith in the League or allies. (Rogers and Thomas. 192)

### **Soviet Union foreign policy 1930s**

USSR felt threatened by expansionist policies of GER and Japan. Stalin signed non-aggression pacts with several neighbours. Shift towards a 'Popular Front' against fascism. USSR joined LON in 1934. (Rogers and Thomas. 200)

### **USA foreign policy 1930s**

Policy of isolationism. USA did not join LON. Wanted to engage in free trade and investment. Anti-war attitude. Passes Neutrality Act. (Rogers and Thomas. 204)

### **Results of international response to Abyssinian crisis**

1) Signaled end of LON 2) attention drawn towards Hitler and remilitarization of Rhineland 3) French stopped sanctions 4) Addis Ababa (Abyssinia capital) fell to Italian forces on May 2, 1936 5) July 15, sanction ended 6) Guerrilla war against Italian forces continued. (Rogers and Thomas. 205)

### **January 1933**

Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany (Rogers and Thomas. 192)

### **World Disarmament Conference**

1932-34. (Was an effort by member states of the League of Nations, together with the U.S., to actualize the ideology of disarmament. It took place in the Swiss city of Geneva) (Rogers and Thomas 192)

### **Rome-Berlin Axis**

Coalition formed in 1936 between Italy and Germany, linking the two fascist countries. (Lee, 123)

### **Winston Churchill (in the 1930s)**

called for rearmament. Opposed concessions to Germany but voted for appeasement of Italy over Abyssinia. Supported the idea of a Grand Alliance of Anti-Fascist Powers. (Rogers and Thomas. 195)

### **Allied Partner**

Germany which led to Italy being included in WW2. Italo-German Agreements like Rome- Berlin Axis, Pact of Steel were made. Because of this ally, Italy moved away from good relationship with Britain and France. (Rogers and Thomas, 130)

### **Four Power Pact**

signed on 15 July 1933 in Rome for developing European diplomacy as an alternative for the League of Nations. Signed by Britain, France, Germany and Italy. (Rogers and Thomas, 132)

### **Invasion of Abyssinia in 1935**

to build an Empire and to become a greater imperial Power, also to spread personality cult of Mussolini: il cult and to rally support behind the fascist regime. Abyssinia wasn't modernized and therefore easy to invade, it would help Italian military forces and provided export for Italian goods. (Rogers and Thomas, 136)

### **Stresa Conference**

Hitler's rearmament was alarming and Italy, Britain and France met in Stresa (April 1935). It confirmed the independence of Austria, protests against Hitler's violation of the Treaty of Versailles. Mussolini felt supported by Britain and France to expand. The agreement was vague and wasn't effective. (Rogers and Thomas, 133)

### **Italian influence in Spanish civil war**

Mussolini supported Spain fascism to protect spread of communism and sent lots of military without plan. This support damaged Italian economy, showed weakness of military and tightened tensions with France and Britain. (Rogers and Thomas, 141)

### **Rome - Berlin Axis Alliance**

signed on 25 October 1936 was an agreement between Italy and Germany to work together. (Rogers and Thomas, 143)

### **Anti - Comintern 1937**

against International Communism between Japan and Germany and with Italy it became the Axis Powers. (Rogers and Thomas, 143)



### **Italy leaving League of Nations**

in 1937 and moving closer to Germany and therefore Mussolini stopped caring about the Anschluss (which he wanted to hinder since WW1). (Rogers and Thomas, 143)

### **Munich Agreement weakness**

of France and Britain gave Mussolini the "push" to invade Corsica, Nice and Tunis from France. (Rogers and Thomas, 145)

### **Invasion of Albania 1939**

was to assert Italian strength and to imitate Hitler's successful expansion it was meaningless of choosing Albania which was a Satellite state. Albania did several demonstrations against Italian occupation and King Zog of Albania resisted Italian occupation. Italian still won and used Albania as Base for invasion of Greece. (Rogers and Thomas, 146- 147)

### **Response to outbreak of European War**

Italy was against warlike society and against the terms of the Pact of Steel, and firstly didn't want to join the war. They did join the war in June 1940. (Rogers and Thomas, 149)

### **Joining war in 1940**

not joining war would've been embarrassing for Mussolini and it could help him to radicalize the regime and remove the Church's influence. He therefore tried to stay neutral within the war (another Switzerland), Mussolini was looking for territorial gains. (Rogers and Thomas, 150)

### **March 1940 Parallel War**

Italy declared war on Britain and France. He then expanded in the Mediterranean and North Africa, Italian colony invaded Egypt and Greece but failed due to Britain. (Rogers and Thomas, 152)

### **Mussolini's Fascism**

was anti-communist and anti-Socialist it was to force a transformation in Society. (Lee, 111)

### **Italy's dependence on Germany**

was huge as it couldn't go back to Britain and France and needed a trading partner. (Lee, 127)

### **Italy declaring war on US**

in 1941 was because Mussolini had the naive belief America was a degenerated power and could give consumer based military needs. (Lee, 127)

### **Sudetenland 1938**

Mussolini stepped in as a peacemaker which made a good impression of him within Europe. (Rogers and Thomas, 151)

### **Nazi - Soviet Pact**

Mussolini was informed by Hitler two days before it was signed. This made him feel left out and not respected. (Rogers and Thomas, 149)

### **Italian foreign policy**

directed by Mussolini for glorification of war and pursuit of imperial expansion and a move away from diplomacy and cooperation. (Rogers and Thomas, 130)

### **Great Depression affect on italy**

Mussolini managed to prevent social and political upheaval. But the economic crisis required changes; "revolutionary spirit". (Rogers and Thomas, 131)