

Mussolini – Part 1

Background

Italy had joined the First World War with hopes of repatriating all ethnic Italians living in the north. After enduring 600 000 casualties, the Paris Peace Settlement left at least three northern provinces under foreign rule.

The League of Nations assigned mandates to Great Britain and France, but not Italy.

The country was rocked by unemployment, and inflation caused the standard of living to crash by a third.

Southern Italy remained semi-feudal. Peasants still could not farm their own land.

Democracy was blamed!

Italians wanted stronger government, and Benito Mussolini promised a return to the glory of the Roman Empire.

King Emmanuel III handed Mussolini political power.

What happened?

Mussolini formed a totalitarian regime, and launched a campaign of conquest in North Africa.

We are not yet talking about the causes of the Second World War, but we should remember this pattern of development in Italy.

We will see the same pattern in Nazi Germany!

Assignment

Your mission is to gather information about Mussolini and the growth of the Fascist Party.

Step 1 – Read each section in your *Student Workbook*.

Step 2 – Take notes, focussing on specifics.

