

UNIT II: CHALLENGES AND CHANGES

FACISM - Italy



Europe



ITALY



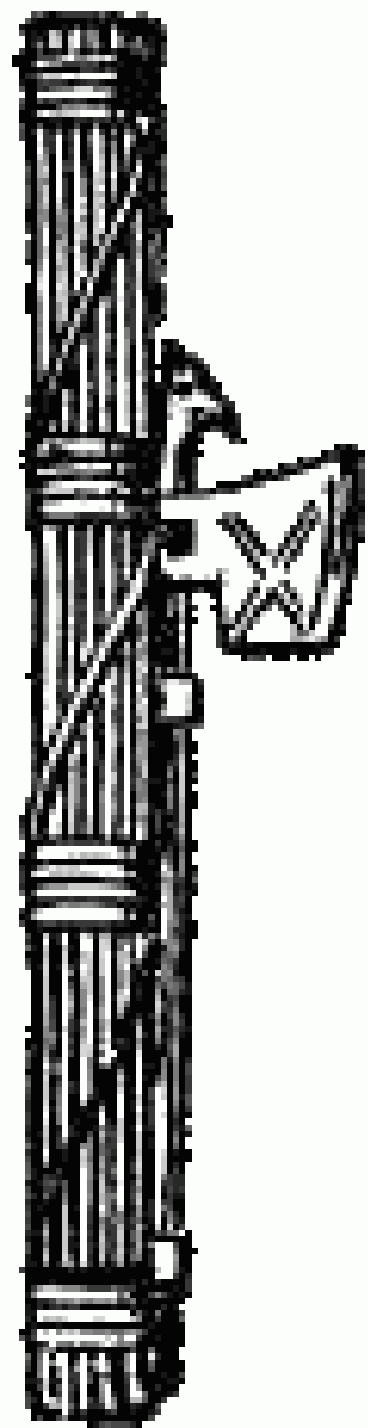


The Rise of Dictatorships

Mussolini's Italy

1919-1943



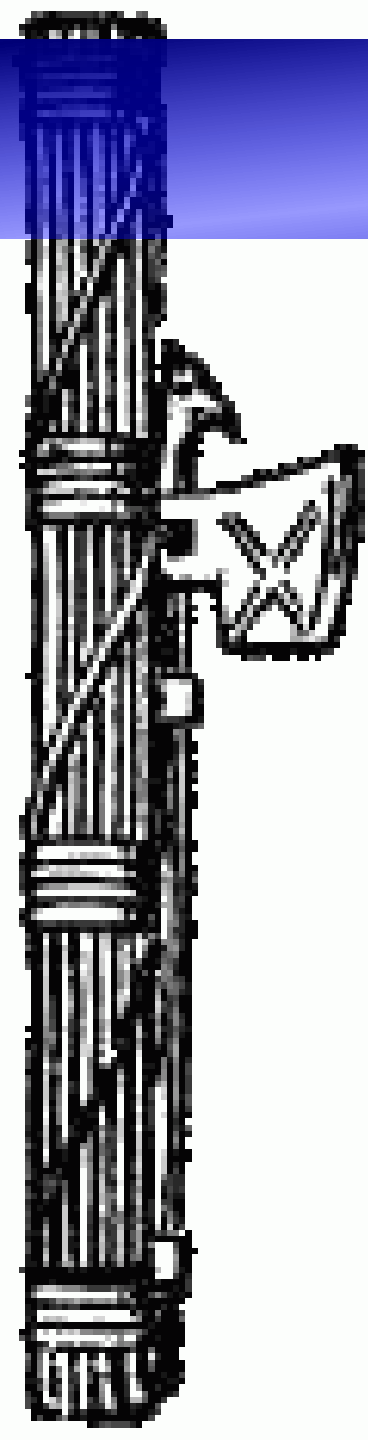


Fascism

FASCISM

WT*?

- Very difficult to define:
 1. Italian regime 1922-1943.
 2. German regime 1933-1945.
 3. Spanish regime 1939-1975.
- Self-defined as “totalitarian”.

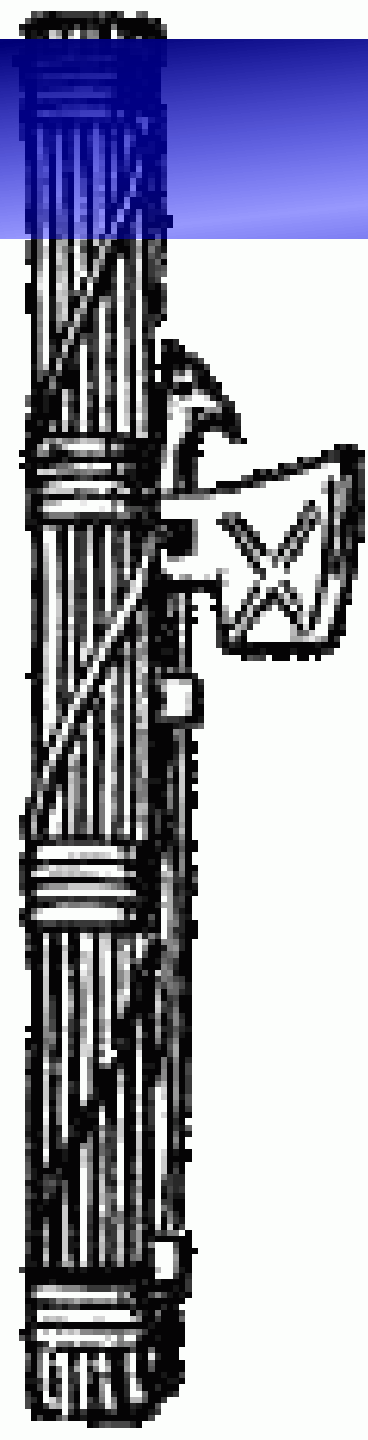


FASCISM
WT*?

Mussolini's Formula:

**TUTTO NELLO STATO, NIENTI AL DI
FUORI DELLO STATO,
NULLA CONTRO LO STATO!**

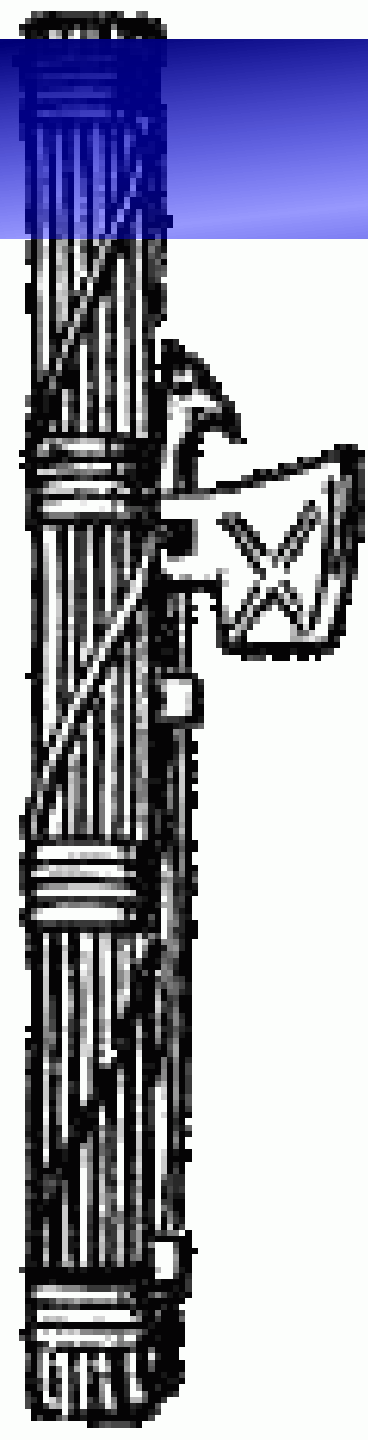
**ALL STATE , NOTHING OUTSIDE THE STATE ,
NOTHING AGAINST THE STATE !**



FASCISM WT*?

Origins:

- The word “*fasci*” is a reference to Ancient Rome where “bundles of sticks” were a symbol of power.
- After WW1, Mussolini created the “*Fasci di combattimento ...*” which gave the expression fascism.



2.2.2: FASCISM

- Is a movement or political philosophy emphasizing national and racial superiority and a centralized, autocratic government headed by a dictator.
- Examples:
- **MUSSOLINI** (ITALY)
- **HITLER** (GERMANY)



CHARACTERISTICS OF FASCISM (10 % DBQ)



1. EXTREME NATIONALISM:

- Fascists leaders demanded unquestioned loyalty and service to the nation-state.
- A strong state, they argued, had every right to overcome a weaker state.



- Their clear sense of superiority to others often involved returning a failed nation back to the glories of the past.
- Glorification of the state was key as Mussolini stated:
“Everything in the state, nothing outside the state, nothing against the state.”



2. DICTATORSHIP:

- Fascist parties promote the cult of the leader and **absolute obedience** to that persons wishes.
- **Usage of violence or threats to force the points of view of dictators on their citizens.**
- They condemn democracy because they believe rival political parties destroy the unity of the state.
- They **swear loyalty to one person** who becomes the voice of the nation and represents the entire power of the nation. (Hitler – Germany; Mussolini – Italy)



3. ECONOMIC SELF SUFFICIENCY:

- Fascism promoted self sufficiency within a nation by concentrating on building the nation and limiting dependence on other nations.
- Public works programs, increased manufacturing, housing programs, and improving infrastructure (road building, etc) helped to reduce unemployment.
- **WHY???????????**



- Other policies such as minimizing imports and maximizing exports strengthened the economy.
- Hitler went so far as to encourage scientist to develop materials (synthetic rubber, plastics, etc...) that would lessen Germany's dependence on raw materials from other countries.



3. MILITARY STRENGTH AND WAR:

- Fascist emphasized **militarism**.
- They believed aggression represented action, while the desire for peace merely indicated weakness.
- The military had to be strong, sizable, and well trained.
- Military training was introduced at an **early age** and the **young recruits** were taught the virtue of obedience to the ruler.



- Much effort was put into growing the military and building up supplies and materials for them to use.
- **Fascist felt war was something which was inevitable, even necessary if they were to achieve the greatness they desired.**
- Thus, they were always preparing for it



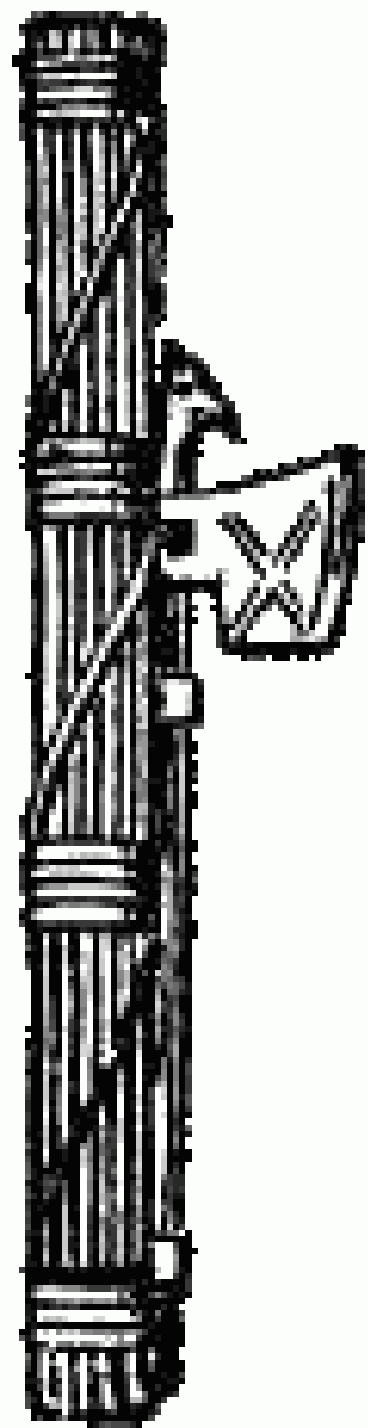
OTHER:

- A. The State dehumanizes a **SCAPEGOAT**, often an enemy of the state. This enemy is seen as inferior and often involved in some plot to take down the government.
- B. **A charismatic leader.**
- C. **Human rights** are neglected due to fear of an enemy, so people tend to accept torture, deportations, long-term incarcerations, etc. ... all for the good of the State.



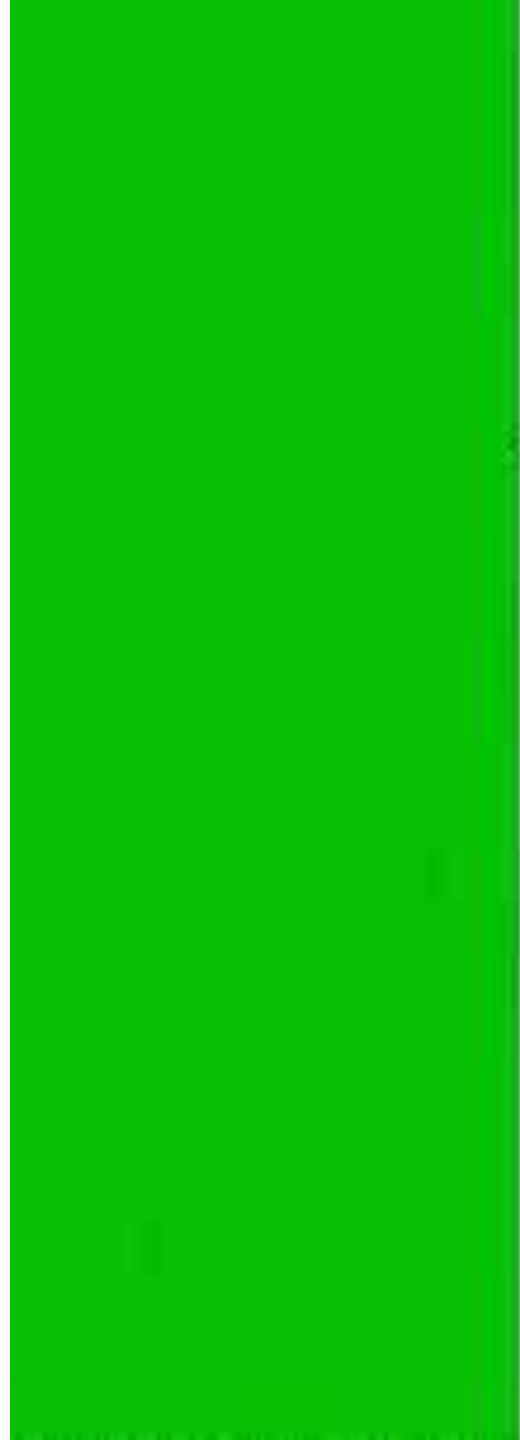
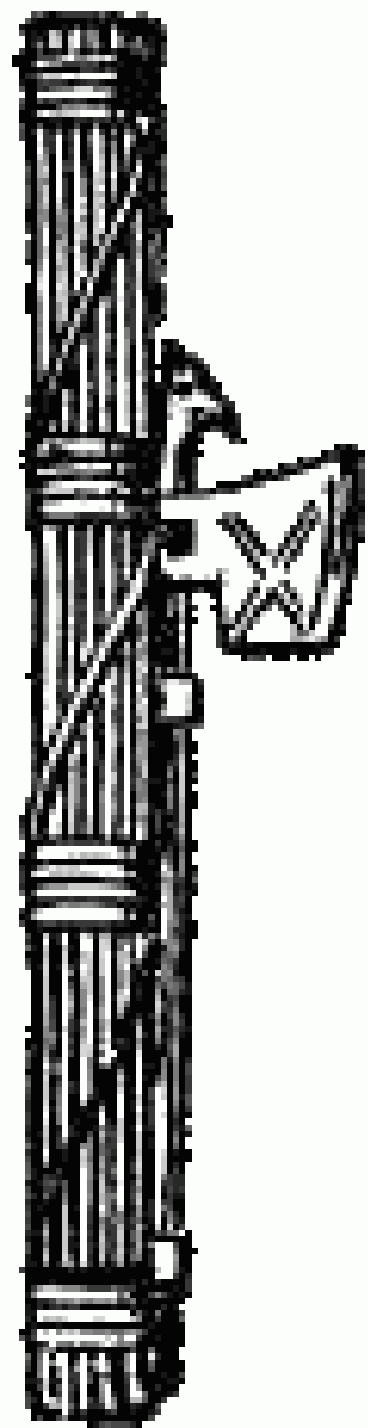
- D. **Hatred towards the arts and education.** Often teachers, doctors, artists, and lawyers are arrested or executed.
- E. **Phoney elections are common,** when they happen they are rigged.
- F. Exuberant **sexism** existed as fascist governments were always dominated by men.

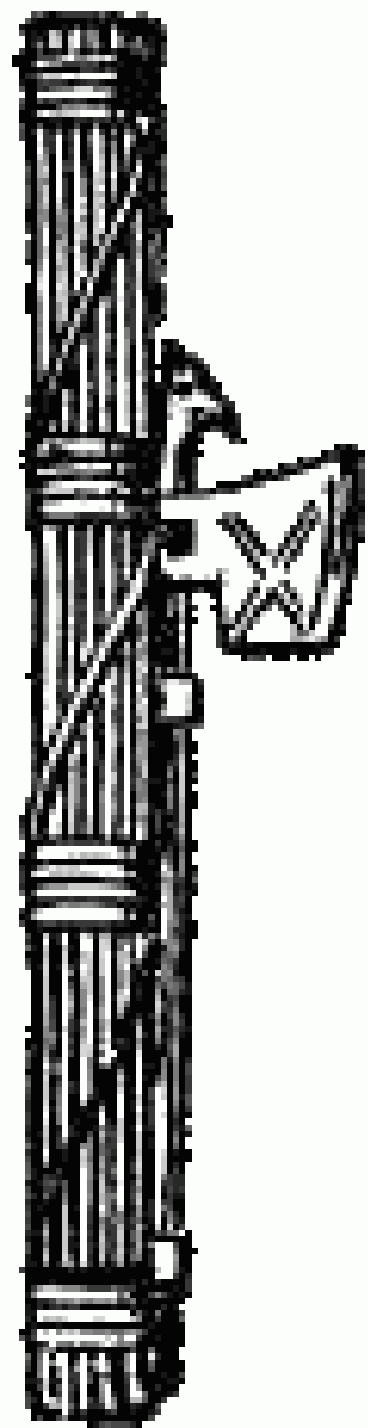


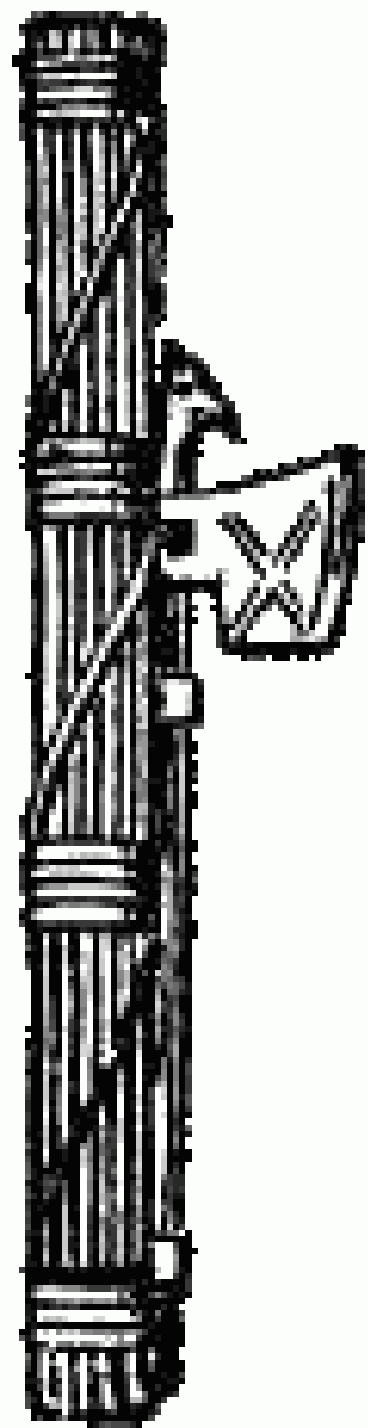


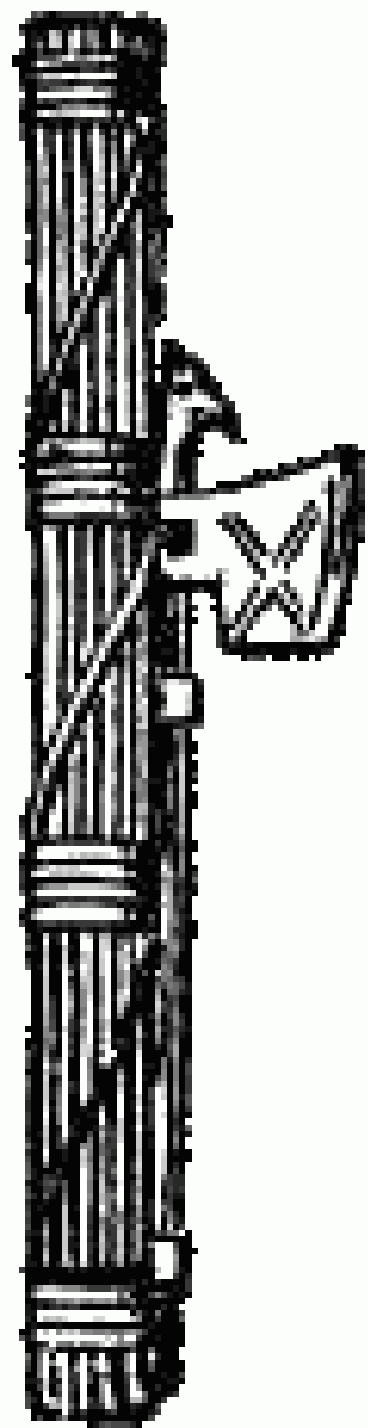
Fascist Symbols

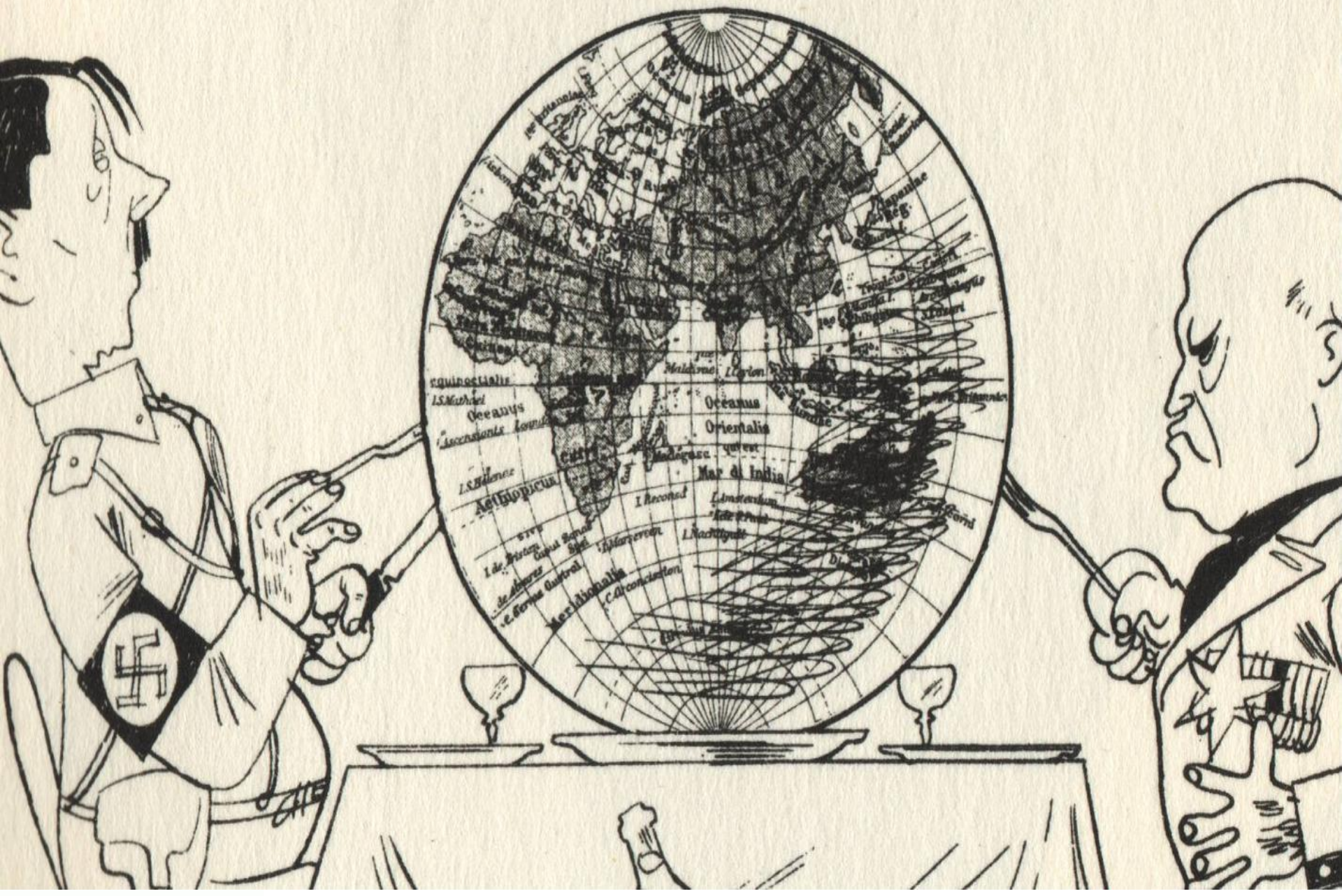


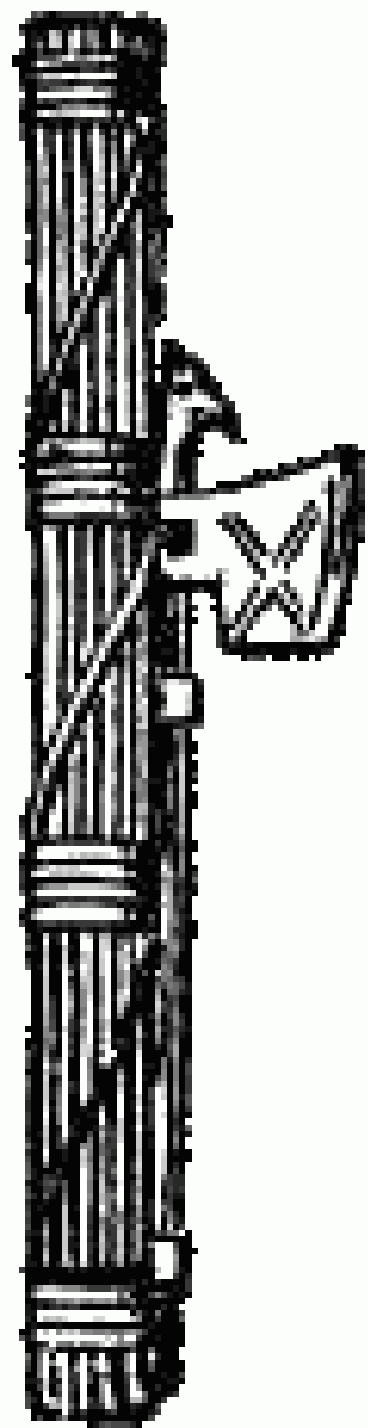


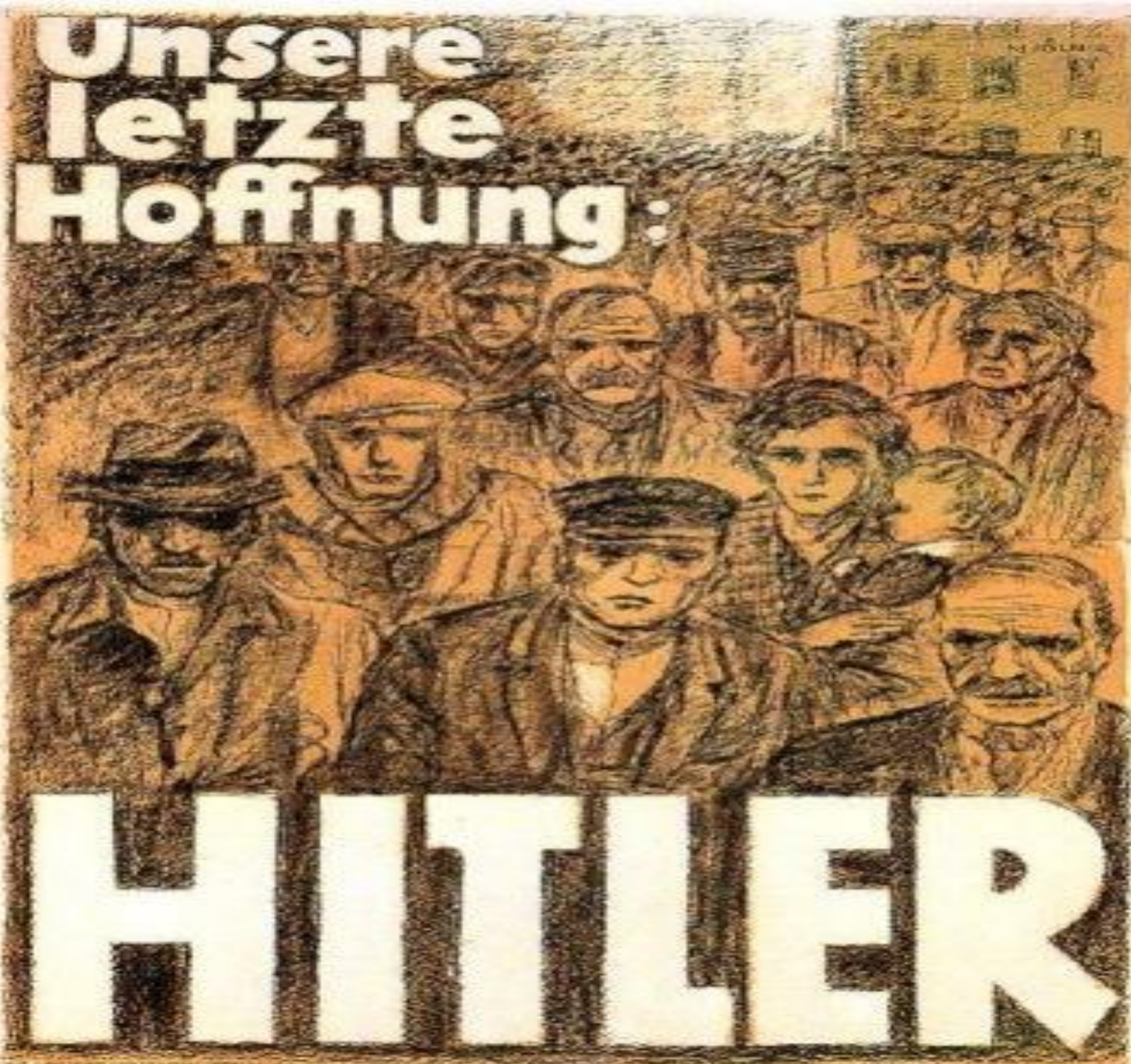
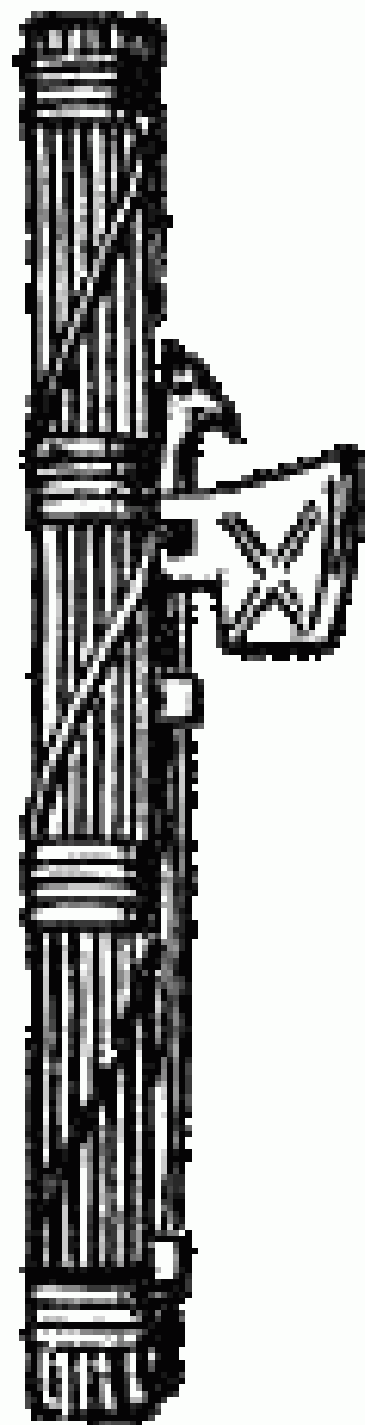












2.2.3 MUSSOLINI'S RISE TO POWER

- Mussolini's rise to power was partly his own doing but **other important factors included the following:**



1. ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES:

- The economic conditions of the 1920's did much to encourage support for extremist parties like the Fascist.
- This was mainly due to Italy's war debts and problems of reconstruction, as well as the devaluation of the Lire (\$).
- The working class voter's wages remained at prewar levels while prices increased.



- Farmers were hit hard by agricultural depression.
- As a result, more support was created for left wing parties (socialist).
- Mussolini gained support from this by saying it could lead to social revolution which increased his support with the middle classes who feared socialism.



2. WEAKNESS OF COALITION GOVERNMENTS:

- In the period following WWI, Italy had a series of coalition governments (# of parties get together to form a government).
- These governments were generally weak, having little power to make any significant moves.
- The unrest in the countryside and the general strikes could not be handled by these governments.



- The governments in power even went to the extreme of asking the Fascists to handle these difficult situations.
- Consequently, the Fascist increased their influence and gained popular support.



3. INDUSTRIALIST'S FEAR OF SOCIALISM AND COMMUNISM:

- Italian industrialist had seen what had happened to Russia with the arrival of communism.
- They did not want to suffer the same fate they knew they would if communism came to Italy.
- The Fascists believed in and supported private enterprise.



- The industrialists wanted to maintain their wealth and thus put their support behind the Fascists.
- Wealthy landowners also gave support to Mussolini.
- Italians were willing to give in to the idea of Fascism to prevent ruin by the coming of Communism.



GROWTH OF THE ITALIAN FASCIST PARTY



1919 - Italy dissatisfied with Paris Peace Conference. People upset.

- Benito Mussolini began as editor of a socialist newspaper (*Avanti!*) but his experiences in W.W.I pushed him to the right.

1919 - Mussolini's '**Black Shirts**' attacked strikers and socialists.

1921 - The Fascist Party (PNF) is created. Wins 35 seats in Parliament.



GROWTH OF THE ITALIAN FASCIST PARTY



1922 - Party membership grows to 300,000

Aug. 1922 - Mussolini led 50,000 black shirts in **March on Rome** to seize power. **Not one shot fired!!!** Victor Emmanuel III invited Muss to form gvt. Muss. made P.M.!

Jan. 1925 - VEIII gave Muss power to make laws without the Parliament! So he banned all other parties, censored the press, increased powers of police & army.



THE RESULT

- 1928: Mussolini adopts the title '***Il Duce***' (the Leader) and is dictator of Italy of the now one-party state.
- His rule depended on support from the: Church, King, army, police and big business.



MUSSOLINI'S RISE TO POWER

THE RESULT

He makes sure to keep on good terms with the Catholic church, despite appearing atheist.



HE ALSO CREATED THE??????



Vatican City



MUSSOLINI'S RISE TO POWER

THE RESULT

In the 1930's, he decides to recreate the Roman Empire, so he attacks Ethiopia in 1936.



MUSSOLINI'S RISE TO POWER

THE RESULT

His desire to conquer other countries will push him to ally with Hitler.

... which will lead us to WW2 ...

THE RESULT

**He has no more opposition
(eliminated, imprisoned).**

**He got Italy back to work –
public works projects and
agriculture.**

MUSSOLINI 101: SOME INTERESTING NOTES ABOUT « IL DUCE »

- Mussolini did not have total control over the state (like Hitler or Stalin).
- His was a dictatorship, not necessarily a totalitarian state as he had to share power with other interest groups.
- His economic policies were not as successful as the Nazis'.
- Unemployment remained a problem even while the black shirts suppressed unions and socialists.



- Mussolini liked to consider himself a father figure for Italy. His appeals to women (especially mothers) to support the state were legendary.
- 1000's of wives donated their wedding rings to fund the war at Il Duce's request



A shirtless Mussolini gives a speech to Italian settlers, as women swoon on his right.



**Benito Mussolini: Biography of Fascist Italy's
Dictator - 5:01**

Mussolini's march on Rome (Actual Footage) - 1:18

MUSSOLINI SPEECH-NAPOLI 1931 - 3:10

1937 Berlin Welcomes Mussolini - 1:45



PROPAGANDA

- What is pictured here?
- What is the message?
- Why would Mussolini want to distribute pictures like this?



2.2.7 DOMESTIC POLICIES OF MUSSOLINI

- Mussolini wished to establish totalitarian regimes within his country.
- To accomplish this he introduced domestic policies which restricted freedoms of people/groups and concentrated power in themselves.
- Mussolini adopted **TWO** policies:



1: ABOLITION OF ALL POLITICAL PARTIES

- When Mussolini took control of Italy he quickly removed all opposition political parties by outlawing them and stripping them of any power or influence.
- He made it illegal for any other political party to exist, (except the Fascist Party).
- **WHY?????**



2. THE CENSORSHIP OF THE PRESS:

- He ensured that no negative or damaging new items made it into the newspapers or radio broadcasts.
(WHY?????)
- Only stories which showed the government and Mussolini in a positive light made it to the public.
- Those who disobeyed or broke from the rules were severely punished.



QUESTIONS:



1. WHICH ELEMENT OF FASCISM IS BEST REFLECTED IN THE SOURCE BELOW?

"The function of a citizen and a soldier are inseparable."

- Benito Mussolini

- A. Dictatorship
- B. Economic self-sufficiency
- C. Military strength
- D. Religious tolerance



2. WHAT 1922 EVENT OCCURRED AS A RESULT OF MUSSOLINI'S BLACKSHIRTS OVERTHROWING THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT IN AN ATTEMPT TO PAVE THE WAY FOR HIS DICTATORIAL RISE?

- A.** Economic prosperity
- B.** March on Rome
- C.** March Revolution
- D.** Munich Beer Hall Putsch



5. WHICH WAS USED BY MUSSOLINI TO ESTABLISH A FASCIST STATE?

- A. Abolition of religious groups
- B. Censorship of the press
- C. Creation of opposition parties
- D. Elimination of the army

