

The Emergence of Fascism in Italy

- In the aftermath of war
 - A democracy in distress
 - Seven hundred thousand dead, \$15 billion debt
 - Territorial disputes
 - Militant nationalists seized Fiume
 - Problems
 - Split between the industrial north and agrarian south
 - Conflict over land, wages, and local power
 - Government corruption and indecision
 - Inflation, unemployment, and strikes
 - Demands for radical reform
- The rise of Mussolini (1883–1945)
 - Editor of *Avantia* (leading socialist daily)
 - Lost editorship when he urged Italy to side with the Allies during World War I
 - Founded *Il Popolo d'Italia*
 - The *Fasci*
 - Organized to drum up support for the war
 - Attracted young, idealist, fanatical nationalists
 - The Fascist platform (1919): universal suffrage, the eight-hour day, and tax on inheritance
 - Fascist support
 - Gained respect of middle classes and landowners
 - Repressed radical movements of workers and peasants
 - Attacked socialists
 - Fifty thousand fascist militia marched on Rome on October 28, 1922
 - The black shirts
 - Victor Emmanuel III invited Mussolini to form a cabinet
- Italy under Mussolini
 - One-party dictatorship
 - Statism—“nothing above, outside, or against the state”
 - Nationalism—the “highest form of society”
 - Militarism—the “ennoblement” of man in war
 - Changed the electoral laws
 - Abolished cabinet system
 - Mussolini assumed role of prime minister and party leader (Il Duce)
 - Repression and censorship
 - Ending class conflict
 - A managed economy
 - A corporate state
 - Granted independence to papal residence in the Vatican City
 - Roman Catholicism established as the state religion
 - Maintaining the status quo and “making the trains run on time”
- Alfredo Rocco (1875-1935)

- Trained in economics and law
- Member of Chamber of Deputies until 1925
- Italian Minister of Justice under Mussolini 1925-32