

Mussolini and Italy:

Why was Mussolini able to acquire dictatorial powers?

- **The constitutional position after 1922:** In 1922, Mussolini became prime minister by constitutional means although these were backed by violence and a potential breakdown of law and order brought about by the fascist squadristi. In 1922-23, most Italians assumed that Mussolini would continue to act with the normal constitutional limits and, indeed that his period in office would be quite short lived. From 1922-24, he led a coalition government in which fascist ministers were a minority.
- **The Acerbo Law:** In 1923 the fascists pushed through the laws on electoral procedures which, after 1924 election transformed the basis of political power, giving them almost two-thirds of the seats in the Chamber of Deputies.
- **The Matteotti Crisis:** 1924 murder of the socialist leader which jeopardised his image but he emerged from the crisis strongly through his bold reaction. He denounced his critics and instituted a series of measures to suppress them that amounted to the creation of an authoritarian state.
- **The authoritarian measures of 1925-6:** These destroyed any legal basis for opposition (made opposition illegal) to the one-party regime that they established. Gave them control of the media, with surprisingly little opposition.
- **The consolidation of the regime:** The Rocco Laws laid down the basis for the corporate state and the control of labour relations. They effectively replaced unions and imposed restrictions on them. In 1929 the Lateran Pact, allowed the state to make peace with the Catholic Church. The opposition to the new fascist state was reduced and more surprisingly, the Fascist Party and its individual members lost most of their influence.
- **The emergence of Mussolini's personal dictatorship:** By 1929, the over centralised pattern of government with authoritarian rule from above, the vast state propaganda machine and the personal cult of 'il Duce' were all in existence. The parliamentary constitution, intact in 1922, had been destroyed and Mussolini was exercising a personal dictatorship with almost no opportunity for his decrees to be questioned or challenged.

Mussolini's Domestic Policies: Economic and Propaganda

Key Aim:

Economic:

- Wanted to improve the economy so that foreign input was no longer necessary
- Wanted to portray the economic greatness of Italy to the world

Propaganda:

- Mussolini wanted to create a 'personal dictatorship' with the praise of the Italian people and the master of his own party.

Main economic problems facing Italy in 1922:

- Debt from WWI- money owed to America

Economic policies adopted to overcome these problems:

Policy	Aims	Success	Failures
Battle for grain 1925	Improve agriculture and grain production so foreign input was no longer needed Main aim was to achieve Italian autonomy as well as	Grain imports were reduced 75% between 1925-35 Mussolini took credit for this, portraying himself as a man of the people	It increased grain production but at the cost of other crops more suitable to grow on the land taken over for grain production such as citrus, olives and grapes causing

	showing economic strength and national pride Farmers were given grants on tractors and fertilisers as well as advice on modern farming techniques	It improved his popularity both with the Italian people and in foreign countries	these exports to decrease dramatically Failed to address the North-South divide and the rural poverty of the south
Corporate state 1926-39	Aimed to transform the economy to a revolutionary form to avoid problems of labour disputes with capitalists The corporate revolution would provide corporation for each industry that would manage employer and employee relations- this would supposedly maximise production	By 1934, 22 corporations had been set up covering most of the Italian economy and it seemed to have an influence across the entire nation's economy.	Corporations were dominated by fascists rather than workers representatives which caused the issues of the workers to be pushed aside Major industrialists tended to ignore the corporations which was made possible by the fact that they were only advisory and not legally binding Corporations did not resolve any capita-labour conflicts but instead overturn them
Revaluation of the Lira	Revaluates the Lira from 150 to 90 lira against the British Pound sterling Introduces tariffs on imports	Benefitted heavy industries which relied on imports Tariffs on undesirable imports such as consumer goods and foodstuffs kept their prices high and restricted demands	Wage-cuts were incurred to bring them in line with the new value Wages fell more than prices Living standards fell
Battle of the Land	In 1928 the 'Mussolini Law' outlined the regime's policy on land reclamation Fascist propaganda stressed the need to rebuild rural areas and revive the peasantry To revive rural Italy by altering the pattern of landowning for the benefit of small farmers	Some drainage projects were successful- the Pontine Marsh scheme was near Rome provided land for settlement by 1935 and provided an opportunity for propaganda For some years the actual reclamation of the land provided work for the unemployed and large subsidies for the landowners who administered the scheme	90% of the farming population owned only 13% while the richest 0.5% of the population still owned over 40% of the land Subsidies benefitted landowners and less than 100,000 peasant families were resettled The small peasant farmers grew neither in size or prosperity

Methods and strategies of propaganda:

Propaganda:

- Mussolini encouraged the cult of his personality that stressed his power, his genius and indispensability as a leader of the nation
- He consolidated his position by creating relations with powerful groups of interest such as the Church, industrialists and armed forces
- In 1926, opposition newspapers were suppressed and journalists could be arrested if they wrote anything "inappropriate" against the regime
- Mussolini had his own press with issued "official" versions of the events
- From 1924, the radio by the state was used to broadcast bulletins that continuously praised Mussolini and aired his speeches
- By 1930s, it was ensured that people living in rural areas and all schools had a radio so that they could listen to communal radio in their village

- However, American films still dominated much of the cinema and patriotic films were slow to being shown; but it was ensured that each film shown was preceded by a short newsreel which gave a Fascist version of the news

Cult of Personality:

- He became increasingly known as “Il Duce” and the cult was intended to build up support Mussolini and overcome any opposition by stressing his greatness
- He was portrayed as Italy’s saviour and a man chosen by destiny to save Italy from Socialism and corrupt democratic politicians; who would restore Italy’s greatness
- Newspapers quoted politicians abroad to prove Italy’s greatness in foreign countries: Chamberlain was quoted saying that Mussolini was “a wonderful man working for the greatness of his country”
- Newspapers suggested that Mussolini was always right- Mussolini would encourage this by saying that “often I would like to be wrong, but so far it has never happened and the event turned out just the way I foresaw”
- He was quick to take credit for success and blame others for failures

Success- How popular was he?	Failures- why is it hard to judge the extent of his popularity?
<p>It is uncertain just how many people were convinced by his cult of personality but it did help to convince the public that there was no other regime but the fascist one</p> <p>The amount of propaganda stressing Mussolini’s greatness deterred potential opposition</p> <p>The success of the Fascists was well known abroad and until 1930s it seemed that at least the dictator was producing stability at home</p> <p>Many foreign journalists were impressed by the enthusiasm displayed at fascist rallies and believed Mussolini to be extremely popular</p> <p><i>Italian historian Felice has argued that Mussolini was genuinely popular between at least 1925-36 with the victory over Ethiopia and lasted until the ill-fated invasion of Greece</i></p>	<p>There are many differing views-</p> <p>Anti-fascists who were exiled have stressed the brutal, repressive aspects of the regime and the only deterrent to opposition was fear</p> <p>Events of late 1930s in Greece, more intrusive policies and the introduction of anti-semitic laws in 1937-38 made his increasingly more unpopular</p>

Mussolini’s Domestic Policies: Social and Religious

Key Aims:

Social and ideological aims:

- Secure his position as all powerful leader
- Transform society and the Italian character- replacing the bourgeois mentality with commitment to fascism

Policies toward Women

Aims	Methods	Success	Failure
<p>Aimed for women to give birth as a way of showing national vitality and providing future soldiers</p>	<p>The battle of the births 1927 aimed to increase the population by 50-60% by 1950</p> <p>12 children per family was ideal</p> <p>Loans and tax breaks were encouraged to encourage child protection while higher taxes and job restrictions were used to encourage childless couples</p>	<p>These policies were of no success to Mussolini as the practical demands of the economy meant that his ideological aims were not realised</p>	<p>Birth rate actually declined until 1936 where they again rose slowly</p> <p>By 1950 the population was only 47.5 million far from the aim</p> <p>Men remained as</p>

	Prizes were awarded to mothers with the most children		bachelors
To restrict the number of women in the workforce to allow for more children	Quota system introduced to reduce the number of women working to 10% in the public sector as well as later in companies		In 1936 the workforce was still 33% women, only 3% less than in 1921
Women's organisations	The Fascist Party created the Women's Fasci which directed the women members into neighbourhood welfare work	Young women enjoyed greater social freedom being encouraged to take part in sport Gave women advice on raising children	

Policies towards Youth and Education

Aims	Methods	Success	Failures
To create a loyal breed of future fascists who would become aggressive, future soldiers of Italy The youth would be identified with fascism, Mussolini and Italy	In schools <i>loyalty of teachers 1929</i> was enforced <i>oath of loyalty 1937</i> , compulsory membership of the <i>fascist teachers association</i> . It was fascists who were usually selected as headmasters Cult of personality enforced at schools- each classroom had to have a picture of Mussolini Stress on national pride and greatness and focus of history and literature was increased 1936- books lacking patriotism were banned One official national textbook was used stressing the leading role Italy takes in the world Youth clubs <i>Opera Nazionale Balilla ONB</i> attempted to reach people outside schools which aimed to transform Italy in 'body and soul', with the motto "Believe, Obey, Fight" Focused on military/ ideological/sport/ fitness training Boys and girls aged 8-21 were to attend	Control of the teachers and school curriculum By 1937, 7 million had joined the ONB	Not clear how many actually converted to Mussolini's fascist ideology Many children left school at young ages (11) and in private and Catholic school systems membership to the ONB was not enforced Even at uni. not everyone had the full fascist ideology The regime tolerated hostile student newspapers and films believing that they were harmless Overall they established control over the mind of the youth but whether or not they achieved that is open for debate

Policies on Leisure:

Aims	Methods	Success	Failures
The Dovolavoro- after work. Aimed to provide adults with leisure activities/facilities and introduce welfare facilities	Administered by a government agency set up in 1925- the Opera Nazionale Dopolavoro	By 1939- 4 million people were members Initially the program focused on education, and training skills Provided a good propaganda opportunity	As more members joined the focus shifted to sport, heavily subsidised day trips and seaside holidays

Cinema	Newsreels were played at the beginning of films depicting the fascist version of current events	The state put money into Italian film making and training techniques	The regime undervalued film considering it to be an escapist piece of nonsense inspired by Americans therefore did not utilise film as a propaganda technique
Sport	Used to capture the imagination of people and for propaganda	12 Olympic gold 2 world cup victories Boxing championships Cycling and skiing expanded	

Religious Policies

Aims	Method	Success	Failure
To compromise with the Church to win greater public support and prestige abroad (he was atheist himself but realised the influence of the Catholic church over the people)	In 1929 <i>the Lateran agreements</i> ended conflict between the Italian state and the Catholic Church: Pope given the Vatican and Mussolini received recognition in terms of his state and fascist regime, Catholicism was the state religion and RE made compulsory in all state schools BUT the clergy would not be involved in politics	Secured the moral backing of the church and therefore the millions of Italians who followed the church while guaranteeing that the church would not become a potential opposition	Represented the fact that Mussolini failed to replace Catholicism with Fascism and failed to remove the influence of the church over Italian society Relations between the state and the church were complicated by 1931: disputes over Catholic Youth groups rivalling ONB, conflicts over access to the minds of the youth After the Anti-semitic laws relations between the Church and the state were over

Anti-Semitic Policies:

- Prior to 1939, the Fascist regime accepted the Jews and allowed 3000 German Jews to enter Italy as refugees
- However, in the 1930s Mussolini's foreign policy goals had brought the regime closer to Nazi ideology and convinced Mussolini that a Jewish resistance to Fascism was evident in Italy and Europe
- The first example of the Nazi influence appeared in July 1938 when the regime allowed anti-Semitic claims with the publication of the 'Manifesto of Racial Scientists who declared that "the Jews do not belong to the Italian race"
- *Anti-Jewish racial laws 1938* brought great changes to the lives of Jews living in Italy who lost much of their liberties and living standards
- Up until 1943 the regime did not comply with the extermination of the Jews and the implementation of the racial laws was inconsistent
- November 1943 a decree allowed for the repossession of Jewish property and the rounding up of all Jews
- Over 7500 Italian Jews were taken to Nazi concentration camps and only around 600 survived
- In terms of racial ideology *Mussolini did not share Hitler's ideal of creating a 'master race'*
- Mussolini instead believed that Italians had an innate superiority over other races
- Overall the racial laws caused great hardship but the vast majority of German Jews escaped the concentration camps unlike those in Germany

Mussolini's Foreign Policy- Overview:

Aims:

1. Mussolini wanted to establish a new Roman Empire in the Mediterranean
2. A successful foreign policy might distract from problems at home
3. Mussolini was disappointed from the territorial gains from WWI and the Treaty of Versailles
4. Fascist ideology preached national glory

Methods and strategies:

- 1920s'- tries to achieve foreign policy aims by diplomacy
- 1923- Corfu Incident: A number of Italian officials who were situated in Corfu Greece were assassinated. As a result Mussolini demanded that the Greek government pay compensation and apologies. Greece refused to comply and appealed to the League. In the meantime Mussolini invaded the island. Under pressure from Britain and France he withdraws and receives an apology and compensation
- 1924- The pact of Rome signed between Italy and Yugoslavia. Italy gets the long disputed town of Fiume
- 1925- Locarno Treaty signed, 1928 Kellogg-Briand pact. Mussolini signs these peace promoting treaties as he believes that to reverse some of the ToV he has to improve relations with Britain and France
- 1930s'- more aggressive foreign policy as Mussolini moves closer to Hitler
- 1935- Abyssinia. Mussolini invades after using a border conflict from 1934 to promote the conflict and built up his army in preparation
- 1936- Rome-Berlin axis
- 1936- Involvement in the Spanish Civil War
- 1938- Munich Conference
- 1939- Pact of Steel- Italy and Germany agree to support each other militarily in the event of war
- 1940- WWII results in heavy defeats for Italy
- 1943- Mussolini forced to resign
- 1945- Mussolini assassinated by freedom fighters

Key Success:

- 1923- Corfu Greece- boosted his image
- 1924- Pact of Rome- town of Fiume
- 1926-27-Albania
- 1934- Succeeded in preventing Hitler from taking Austria
- 1936- Spanish Civil War should be considered a success even though the Italian military lost large numbers. It boosted Mussolini's image, helped to spread fascism in Europe and contributed to the creation of the Rome-Berlin axis

Key Failures:

- Mussolini fails to reverse ToV and WWI humiliation
- 1935- Abyssinia. Despite territorial gains and the achievement of some of his foreign policy, it came at a high cost to Italy with little economic benefits
- 1938- Munich conference. Mussolini was largely ignored and it was highlighted that he was Hitler's sidekick

Foreign Policy in Italy 1919-22

Foreign Policy in Italy 1922-35

Foreign policy in Italy 1935-40

A revolution of Italian foreign policy:

- Initially Mussolini was alarmed by the threat that Hitler posed to Austrian independence and therefore to Italian borders
- The re-emergence of an increasingly aggressive Germany revived French fears, who therefore were less capable and less interested in checking for Mussolini's ambitions in the Mediterranean and Africa
- The failure of Britain and France to appease Hitler and the failure to use the League of Nations to contain aggression made Mussolini scornful of the western democracies
- Mussolini became increasingly impressed with and excited by the power of Germany and the vigour of its new authoritarian government. The Nazis and the fascists seemed to have much in common: their hatred of communism, desire to re-draw the political settlement imposed by the western democracies at the end of WWI
- German and Italian national ambitions seemed to be compatible, with Hitler, looking to territorial gains in northern and eastern Europe, leaving Italy free to create a Mediterranean-African empire
- By 1938, these positive attractions of a closer German connection had outweighed Mussolini's initial concerns over the integrity of Austria and from that point, Italy moved swiftly to join forces with Germany. In 1940, became its ally in a major European war

Abyssinia in detail: (Could be used for paper 1 as well)

The origins of the war against Abyssinia:

- In the late nineteenth century Italy and acquired two disappointingly unproductive colonies- Eritrea and Somaliland but fared less well than Britain, France and Germany
- When German colonies were seized and redistributed, Italy had been denied any share
- Italians had come to resent their imperial inferiority- *Fascism, at its core is a nationalistic and militarist movement at heart was a natural vehicle for imperial ambitions*
- After 1922, Mussolini with his dreams of making Italy great and himself important was inevitably an imperialist. The entire theme of linking fascist Italy to the glory of the ancient Roman Empire went in the same direction.
- These dreams lay dormant until fascism was established in Italy

The campaign:

- Spanned from **October 1935- May 1936**
- Ethiopian forces split into rival groups and poorly armed, were not ready to fight a modern war. However thanks to their mountainous terrain and primitive state of the roads- the military effort took 7 months to complete
- 400,000 Italian troops were sent with an unnecessary amount of equipment leading to a great deal of muddle
- They finally reached the capital after conducting a campaign of poisonous gas dropped from planes, in May 1936
- The war had been fought ineffectively
- Fortunately for the fascists the enemy was much weaker and from the total of men sent, there were only 1500 casualties
- The over-provision cost a total of two years of normal state spending for a seven month campaign
- The attacked had no succeeded entirely as the Ethiopians united against the Italians and waged a guerrilla war

Internal Relations:

- Initially the attack divided public opinion despite the large propaganda effort made by Mussolini
- It was only when the League of Nations imposed its sanctions did the country begin to support the military effort
- Stories of easy victories broadcasted on radio created lots of support for Mussolini
- The victory was seen as a great personal triumph as a new empire had been secured in a few months with fewer than 2000 casualties

External Relations:

- Ethiopia was a member of the League of Nations and the Emperor of Ethiopia Haile Selassie demanded the League take action against Italy
- Italy's actions provoked widespread condemnation and the League voted in **Nov 1935** to apply economic sanctions against Italy which meant that there would be no sale of arms to Italy and a ban of imports of Italian goods to League member countries
- Fortunately these sanctions proved ineffective particularly as oil was not embargoed and countries such as Germany, Japan and the US did not support these sanctions
- Once Italy gained total control over Ethiopia the sanctions were quietly dropped anyway

Outcomes:

- Victor Emmanuel was crowned king of Ethiopia
- The territory proved to be a great expense and failed to provide settlement or trade opportunities
- The victory did however encourage the regime to create a truly fascist state, proving that it could work in Italy
- The war in Africa produced a new racist tone in Italy which drew anti-Semitism
- The war was a major economic burden forcing increased government borrowing and diverting production into that of armaments
- The victory made Mussolini overconfident in his own political and military judgements as well as Italy's abilities as a military power
- The failure of the League to enforce any real sanctions on Italy further undermined its credibility

Relations with Germany:

- **1936-1943: Galeazzo Ciano** made Italy's foreign minister
- Ciano pushed Italy moving towards a stronger ally with Germany
- Ciano established with Hitler that Germany had no ambitions to encroach on Italy's plan to move into Africa and the Mediterranean
- In return Italy accepted the right of Germany to rearm and surprisingly acknowledged German presence in Austria
- The Rome-Berlin Axis was formed which later included Japan and became known as the 'Axis Powers'
- The new relations soon affected Italian policy in some areas for example: the persecution of Italian Jews
- **Nov 1937**- The Anti-Comintern Pact signed by Germany, Japan (Nov 1936) and later Italy to stop the spread of Communism
- **Dec 1937**- Italy follows Germany and withdraws from the League of Nations
- **May 1939**- The Pact of Steel

COMPARE AND CONTRAST HITLER AND MUSSOLINI'S DOMESTIC POLICIES

Ideology and general social aims:

General Fascist Principles:

- **Nationalism and state centralism:** nation as an organic community that needs strong leadership, a singular collective identity and a will to wage war to keep the nation strong
- **National expansion and foreign policy:** view of the world based on the belief that struggles of a nation and its race are a central feature of the world. Growth of the empire and national expansion seen as proof of national vitality and strength
- **Militarism:** focus on domestic society towards war as a key consequence of foreign policy worldwide
- **Anti-individualism:** individuals only important in terms of their contribution to the state. No human value or right outside the fascist state. The sacrificing of an individual for the nation e.g. motherhood

Features specific to Hitler:

- **Volksgemeinschaft:** aimed to create a community in which every individual saw their purpose as contributing to the German 'volk'
- **Racial theory and Anti-Semitism:** central to Hitler's social vision. Only pure Aryans Germans part of the German volk, would guarantee superiority. There was no room for asocials, the disabled or non-Aryans

Features specific to Mussolini:

- **Pragmatic and flexible nature of policies:** "only maniacs never change" Mussolini who changed fascism from left wing to right wing between 1919-22
- **Disparate nature:** pointed out by *historian Denis Mack Smith that fascism changes from left-right, anti-clerical to Catholic, revolutionary to conservative depending on Mussolini's needs at the time*
- **Broad aim of policy:** to create a new type of Italian- virile, heroic, selfless in the service of the nation

Education and Youth:

Youth

Italy	Germany	Both
<p>1926- Established a youth movement which was compulsory in 1932 however 40% of youth never joined with figures especially low in the rural south.</p> <p>Youth group meetings were highly militarised and had much political indoctrination as well as sporting a recreational activities that appealed to children</p> <p><i>Sons of the she wolf</i>- 4-8 years</p> <p><i>Balila (ONB)</i>- 8-14 years</p> <p><i>Avanguardista</i>- 14-18 years</p> <p>All groups wore uniforms</p>	<p>Millions joined the Hitler Youth from age 4 made more attractive by their adventurous activities.</p> <p>Activities were gender specific:</p> <p>BOYS- schooled in military training for preparation for war</p> <p>GIRLS- prepared for motherhood and homemaking</p> <p>Membership was made compulsory in 1936</p> <p>However there is evidence of dishearten with Hitler Youth as children became bored by the increasing military focus. During the war years there was even youth opposition groups- Edelweiss Pirates</p>	<p>Encouraged the 'cult of Youth' to indoctrinate the Nazis/fascists values in order to capture and mould the minds of the young</p> <p>It is hard to determine the overall effectiveness of the Youth groups as their in mixed evidence and an inability to assess loyalty</p>

Education

Both	Germany	Italy
Attempted to encourage loyalty and indoctrinate youth through exerting control over the classroom and education	1933- law purged all non-Nazi teachers and local Nazi officials kept a close watch on teachers to ensure that they adhered to Nazi curriculum Curriculum was politicised with a focus on PE. There was a focus on Nazi ideology and race/eugenics in history and biology 1935- textbooks had to be Nazi approved	Anti-fascist teachers were removed in the 1920s and an oath of loyalty to the regime was introduced for teachers Attempt to control the regime and to promote fascist virtues of manliness, obedience and patriotism with a greater influence on PE Direct fascist in the classroom was limited until 1930s 1936- fascist approved history textbook introduced
SUCCESS:	Nazi policies focusing on fitness and loyalty led to loyal and fit but stupid students In education terms these policies reduced the academic policy of these students	More successful indoctrination in primary schools than secondary schools where the focus on results and teaching philosophy fostered independent thinking Students were not hostile to fascist ideas but not committed either Very little educational progress was made with still over 20% of children illiterate in 1930s

Women:

Both	Germany	Italy
Viewed women as in separate spheres from men with their roles being childbearing and homemaking Both encouraged women to have large families and promoted childbirth as a national duty Both believed there was a connection between a growing population and national strength and providing men for a future army	“Kinder, Küche and Kiche”- promoted the conservative focus of childbearing and the home. Many women too held these traditional views too Loans were given to families with children, welfare for mothers, and medals awarded to mothers with many children	Fascist Italy slogan for women “angles of the hearth” and Mussolini emphasised that “war is to men what maternity is to women” Mussolini and the 1927 Battle for Births aimed to increase the population from 27 million to 60 million. To help encourage larger families higher taxes were imposed on bachelors and tax credits given to couples with more children 1932- contraception, abortion and sterilisation were banned
SUCCESS:	Slight increase in birth rate but mostly due to the improved economic circumstances Labour shortage in 1920s meant that policy to keep women out of the workforce failed	Failure of the Battle of the Births as birth rate continued to fall

Propaganda, Media and Culture:

Both	Germany	Italy
<p>Used propaganda to encourage a cult surrounding the leader</p> <p>Rallies, sport and festival events were important for celebrating the leader and deepening the commitment to the regime</p> <p>Both states attempted to exert control over the media and made use of new forms of technology</p>	<p>Cult of the Führer established</p> <p>Hitler's biography sold more than 420,000 copies from 1932-40</p> <p>Hitler's birthday was celebrated at mass rallies</p> <p>Hitler assigned Goebbles the role as propaganda minister which had over 14,500 employees.</p> <p>Hitler believed that it was: "the sharpest weapon in conquering the state"</p> <p>The press was initially in private hands but censored by the Nazis however by 1939 2/3 of the press was owned by the state</p> <p>Newsreels in cinemas were crucial</p> <p>Encouraged the growth of radio so by 1939 70% of the population had one compared to 25% in 1932</p> <p>All art was controlled and subjected to approval</p> <p>All artists had to join a Nazi association to work and those that did not left the country most often</p> <p>Guidelines to what art could look like- heroic and Nazi in character</p> <p>Modernist and experimental art was termed degenerate but as a consequence led to uninspiring as a reflection of restrictions on creativity</p>	<p>"Il Duce" propaganda stressed Mussolini's greatness</p> <p>Fascists used mass rallies with classical imagery to reflect the Roman Empire and to increase Mussolini's popularity- generally successful</p> <p>Saw control of the media as vital especially as Mussolini had been a journalist</p> <p>Fascists only owned 10% of the media but did have controls over it</p> <p>Film and radio was not a major emphasis in the 20s but picked during the 30s particularly radio</p> <p>Propaganda was not used a systematically as Nazis</p> <p>Relatively limited controls over art, no artists were forced to leave</p> <p>Fascists were divided over what forms of art to encourage</p> <p>There was greater intellectual freedom than the Nazis allowed, as long as unis conformed they were left with greater tolerance for opposition</p>

Religion and Mass Murder:

Germany	Italy
<p>Hitler disliked Christianity but recognised its connection with the people</p> <p>Set up his own protestant church and made an agreement with the Catholic Church</p> <p>However when the Church criticised the Nazis they were arrested and threatened so they had to compromise with regime to survive</p> <p>Hitler's aims of <i>Volksgemeinschaft</i> meant that 'social aliens' had to be removed which resulted in labour camps for sterilisation and eventually the 'final solution'</p> <p>1933- Jews lost citizenship and moved to camp in late 30s early 40s where mass killings took place</p>	<p>Mussolini may have disliked the Church privately but recognised that he needed its support to gain support of the people</p> <p>1929 Lateran Agreement gave the Church the Vatican and RE in schools which secured the Church's support</p> <p>Mussolini only introduced anti-Semitic laws in 1938 after the creation of the Rome-Berlin Axis</p> <p>The Laws banned Jews from; working in the civil service, marrying non-Jews or attending schools</p> <p>The Anti-Semitic Laws were deeply unpopular with the Church and the people</p>

COMPARE AND CONTRAST HITLER AND MUSSOLINI'S FOREIGN POLICIES

Aims and planning:

- Both leaders based their foreign policies in opposition to Paris Peace Settlement. Unity of all Germans for Hitler and Italian speakers for Mussolini was the basis for thinking of foreign policies
- Both put great emphasis on military expansion and strength as a proof of vitality in the national arena. Militaristic values were spread at a young age in preparation for future wars and national conquests

Historiography:

- Struggle to agree on how far both leaders had a clear foreign policy
- *A.J.P Taylor*: dismissed Hitler's plans for world domination as "day dreams" arguing that instead he was an opportunist
- *A.J.P Taylor*: also dismissed Mussolini as "*a vain, blundering boaster without either ideas or aims*" as while he may have wanted to make Italy "*great, respected and feared*" economic weaknesses meant that he was a pure opportunist

Aggressively Expansionist Policies:

- Both leaders tried to implement their aggressive foreign policy, though Hitler achieved more, more quickly in a more coherent manner
- **HITLER AND NAZIS:** 1936- remilitarised the Rhineland; 1938- Anschluss with Austria and Sudetenland; 1939- Czechoslovakia and Poland. Eventually overturning losses in the treaty of Versailles
- **MUSSOLINI AND FASCISTS:** 1923- Corfu incident with Greece; 1924- port of Fiume obtained in Yugoslavia; 1926- set up a puppet state in Albania; 1935- invasion of Abyssinia; 1939- invasion of Albania

Ideological intervention in Spanish Civil War:

- Both Hitler and Mussolini were prepared to make a stand for their ideological opposition to Communism and support Franco in his struggle against the Popular Front in the SCW 1936. Both leaders actively intervened in support of fascism
- **NATURE OF SUPPORT:**
 - Hitler offered air support to test out his military tactics and new air force
 - Mussolini supplied a large number of troops as well as planes, tanks and weapons
- **MOTIVATION FOR SUPPORT (key contrast)**
 - Hitler was concerned with increasing his economic power making an agreement with Franco to access 75% of Spain's ore in return for troops, needed for preparation for war
 - Mussolini however was looking for prestige seen by the rest of the world as a military power playing a role in the fight against communism. He had few economic motives and gained little from intervention
- **Historiography:**
 - Russel Tarr: highlights the focus of Hitler and power vs Mussolini and prestige- *an important difference the undermines apparent similarities between the two leaders*

Nature of Empire:

- Both sought to embark on imperialistic expansion but the nature of their projects differed greatly
- **HITLER:**
 - Drive for *lebensraum* in the East was developed around racial theories as well as an important economic development
 - According the ideology of the 'Aryan Race', the Slavic races in the east were superiorly inferior and therefore should be a part of the Third Reich as labour slaves to work the land and provide food for the Motherland
 - Imperial expansion was purely economical
 - **HISTORIOGRAPHY:** *Hugh Trevor-Roper: Hitler's imperial ideology rested on a radically new idea of race*
- **MUSSOLINI:**
 - **HISTORIOGRAPHY:** *Hugh Trevor-Roper: Mussolini's imperial thinking remained firmly backwards based on its reliance of nineteenth century ideas of the 'scramble for Africa'*
 - Mussolini, unlike Hitler, had no clear defined theory of race beyond European superiority over Africa

- Mussolini's colonial desires were not economically based such as Hitler's but for boosting Italian prestige
- A key motive for Italy to invade Mussolini was to seek revenge for defeat in 1896, suggesting that national pride was far more important than economic gain

Relations with Western Powers and Collective security:

- Hitler withdrew Germany from the League of Nations in 1933, in disgust of the Western Powers in honouring their disarmament agreements
- Mussolini had more ambitious relations with the Western Powers and the idea of 'collective security'
- 1934- Stresa Pact: reflected Mussolini's first attempts to work with Britain and France in the face of the potential threat of Hitler
- Mussolini actually used military force to work against Hitler, sending troops into Austria to prevent early attempts at Anschluss showing that initially Mussolini sided with Britain and France in defending Europe against Hitler
- It was only after Britain and France failed to grant Mussolini Abyssinia and Mussolini's interference in SCW did Mussolini turn to Germany to form the Rome-Berlin Axis
- There was also a result of Britain's betrayal of the Stresa Front and also his opportunism in believing that Hitler held more power than the other Western Powers
- Hitler was more definite in his defiance against the League and the Western Powers but Mussolini tended to swap sides

Foreign policy consistency leading up to WWII:

- HISTORIOGRAPHY:
 - *Hugh Trevor-Rough: Hitler's policies from 1936 onwards were on a path to war*
- From 1937 onwards emphasis was placed on Germany's need to fight and win a war in order to gain European supremacy, increased while his opponents were still weak
- Such clear direction was clearly missing from Mussolini
- Despite the signing of the Pact of Steel in 1939, pledging support to Germany in any event of war, Mussolini failed to uphold the agreement when war broke out in Sept 1939 due to military unpreparedness
- Mussolini's failure to keep the terms of the agreement hint at a level of uncertainty in his true desire to ally with Hitler
- VITAL DIFFERENCE:
 - Hitler- single minded seeker of economic, military and political power
 - Mussolini- the undecided opportunist who hoped to boost Italian prestige and create a new Roman Empire. However military and economic weakness along with his indecision were major weaknesses