14: European states in the inter-war years (1918–1939)

This section deals with domestic developments in certain key European states in the period between the two world wars. It requires the study of four European countries: Germany, Italy, Spain and any one other country. The section considers the impact of the end of the First World War, then examines the economic, social and cultural changes in each country during the 1920s and 1930s.

- Weimar Germany: constitutional, political, economic/financial and social issues (1918–1933); initial challenges (1918–1923); “Golden Era” under Stresemann (1924–1929); the crisis years and the rise of Hitler (1929–1933)
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- Case study of domestic political, economic and social developments in one European country (other than Germany, Italy or Spain) in the inter-war years.
Lesson 3a – Domestic policies

**Essential Question**
Evaluate the successes and failures of Mussolini’s domestic policies between 1922 and 1939 (May 2019)

Learning Outcomes: Students will
- What: learn about Mussolini’s economic policies
- Why: how can you determine if an economic policy is successful

**Success Criteria**
I can add to my timeline for Mussolini’s domestic policies
Vocab

• Battle for the Lira (1926)
• Corporate State (1926)
• Vidoni Palace Pact (1925)
• Labour Charter (1927)
• Institute for Industrial Reconstruction (1933)
• Autarky
• Battle over the Southern Problem (1924)
• Battle for Grain (1925)
Economic Policies - Industry

- **1926 – Battle for the Lira** – make the Lira a strong currency
  - Mussolini – “I will defend the lira to my last breath”
  - Impact – the value increased, but had a negative impact on the economy
    - Value increased (ex. 1927 – 90 lire = £)
    - Exports decreased as Italian products became more expensive
      - ex. Fiat exported less cars in 1930s vs. 1920s
Economic Policies – Corporate State

• 1926 - Corporate State – bring employees and employers under one Fascist-led confederation
  - 1934 – 22 corporations were established
  - Impact – Businesses gained more power over workers
    • 1925 – Vidoni Palace Pact – socialist and Catholic trade unions are banned and replaced by Fascist run
    • employees were forbidden to strike and always lost appeals for raise
    • Labour Charter (1927) - “private ownership of business was declared the most efficient method of running an economy”
    • Wages decreased 20% (1927), 10% (1934)
    • Unemployment decreased from 2 million (1920) to 500,000 (1928)
    • Workers did win increased sick pay and paid national holidays (1938)
  - The Depression caused Italy to abandon the Corporate State for more government intervention
    • Unemployment rose from 500,000 (1928) to 2 million (1933) and Car production fell 50%, number of banks dropped by 46% from 1929 to 1936
    • 1933 - Institute for Industrial Reconstruction – government organization that bailed out businesses and became the owner of many of the top companies
      • Impact – the government of Italy owned the second most businesses, only behind the USSR
        • 1934 – Mussolini stated - "Three-fourths of the Italian economy, industrial and agricultural, is in the hands of the state".
        • Public expenditure rose 75% compared to the GDP while tax rate remained unchanged
          • By 1938, total production increased 154% since 1913, compared to 150% in Germany and 109% in France
  - Perspective – Farrell – Economic policies were a success
  - Perspective - Tannenbaum – Economic policies were a failure as the Corporate state did not reduce class antagonisms or improve economic conditions
Economic Policies - Autarky

- **Autarky** – Italy should be self-sufficient in case of war
  - Gov’t took control of 80% of shipbuilding and 50% of steel production
  - Tariffs grew from 4.5% in 1920s to 17% in 1930s
- Impact – Italy is not clearly prepared for war
  - 11.8% of national income was spent on armed forces, less than Germany, but more than Britain and France
    - Industrial output rose 15% (1937) after large military orders
    - Air force only had 1000 inferior planes
  - After 1929, Imports decreased 36% and exports 50%
  - Reliance on colonies increased from 3% of exports (1920s) to 25% by 1939
  - Key materials, such as oil and coal had to be imported, which was made worse by the League of Nations Sanctions
- Cost of living rose for Italians
  - Wine increased almost 30% while wool increased 400%
  - Price of pasta was actually reduced (1932 vs. 1938)
  - Government funded expensive foreign policy endeavors
    - Italy spent 12.5% of its budget on East Africa
    - Historian Clark - “Ethiopia bled Italy dry”
- Perspective - De Grand – Fascism did not create its own economic system but just added bureaucratic tissue on Italian capitalism
- Perspective – Whittam – Businessmen began to feel uneasy (with policies of autarky)...new taxes, price controls and import controls were regarded with dismay
Economic Policies - Agriculture

• 1924 - **Battle over the Southern Problem** - Attempted rapid urbanization and land redistribution
  
  • Impact – failed to redistribute land
  
  • 87% of peasants owned just 13% of land
  
  • Italy was 18th in daily calorie intake, with lowest amount in the South
  
  • 500,000 people left the countryside, while the population of Rome doubled, however this is more as a result of the US reducing that amount of Italians allowed

• 1925 - **Battle for Grain** - goal was to make Italy self-sufficient agriculturally, specifically with wheat

  • Impact – production rose, but at a cost
  
  • 1931 – Italy became self-sufficient with wheat
    
    • Ex. 1920s – 5.5 mil tons; 1930s – 7 mil tons
    
    • Ex, Imports decreased 75% 1925-35
  
  • Land converted (C & S Italy) could not grow wheat and traditional products (olive and citrus) decreased

  • Perspective – Mack Smith - “success in this battle was another illusionary propaganda victory...those who gained were the owners”
14: European states in the inter-war years (1918–1939)

- This section deals with **domestic** developments in certain key European states in the period between the two world wars. It requires the study of **four** European countries: Germany, Italy, Spain and any one other country. The section considers the impact of the end of the First World War, then examines the economic, social and cultural changes in each country during the 1920s and 1930s.

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  - Case study of domestic political, economic and social developments in **one** European country (other than Germany, Italy or Spain) in the inter-war years.
Lesson 3b – Domestic policies

Essential Question
Evaluate the successes and failures of Mussolini’s domestic policies between 1922 and 1939 (May 2019)

Learning Outcomes: Students will
- What: learn about Mussolini’s social policies
- Why: how can you determine if social policies were successful

Success Criteria
I can add to my timeline for Mussolini’s domestic policies
Key Facts Quiz – 16 questions

- When – **Battle for the Lira**
- What – **Battle for the Lira**
- What - value of the Lira 1927
- What – **Corporate State**
- What – **Vidoni Palace Pact**
- How much – wage decrease for workers
- What – **Institute for Industrial Reconstruction**
- How much – amount of businesses the government owned
- How much – production increase of Italy compared to other countries
- Perspective – Farell (right-wing) – success? Why?
- What – **Autarky**
- How much – decrease in exports or imports
- How much – rise of cost of living (name one price change)
- What – **Battle over the Southern Problem**
- What – Battle for Grain
- Perspective – Smith (left-wing) – success? Why?
Vocab

• Battle for Births (1927)
• Fascisation
• Opera Nazionale Balilla (ONB)
• Dopolavoro (1925)
• Education Act (1923)
• Lateran Pact (1929)
• Populari
• Catholic Action (1931)
Social Policies - Women

• Mussolini - “A women’s place is in the home”

• 1927 – **Battle for Births** – goal was to increase the population from 37 mil to 60 million by 1950 with a goal of 12 children per family
  - Women not allowed to wear make-up
  - Marriage Loans – for each child, the loan repayment was reduced
  - Married men with 6 children were exempt from tax
  - Bachelors were heavily taxed (1939 – 230 million lire)
  - Jobs in the civil service to only married men with children
  - State railway company fired all women
  - 1933 – quota system for public sector – 10%

• **Success**
  - Population increased from 37.5 to 44 million (1941)

• **Failure**
  - Birth rate decreased (1911 – 147 births per 1000 women; 1936 – 102 per 1000)
  - 1950 – 47.5 million population
  - 1936 – women made up 33% of industrial workforce, a decrease of 3% since 1921
Social Policies - Youth

- **Fascisation** - transform the Italian character and society

- **1926** - Opera Nazionale Balilla (ONB) formed to transform the “body and soul” of Italy for all children
  - 1937 – 7 million members
  - Boys were given military training, Fascist ideology, sports and fitness training
  - Girls were shown activities such as sewing and childcare

- **Teachers**
  - 1925 – anti-fascist teachers removed
  - 1937 – all teacher’s required to join Fascist Teacher’s Association

- **Education**
  - Pictures of Mussolini were placed in the classrooms
  - Students recited, “I believe in the genius of Mussolini, in our Holy Father Fascism...in the resurrection of the Empire”
  - 1936 – single textbook was compulsory to emphasize Italian greatness
    - Ex. Italian victories in WW1 saved Britain, France and US from defeat

- **Success**
  - Illiteracy rates decreased from 30% (1921) to 20% (1931)

- **Failure**
  - Many students left school at 11, before the indoctrination
  - Head of a Fascist university organization – “the masses in the universities are not yet what the Duce wants...”
Social Policies – Workers

- **Fascisation** - transform the Italian character and society
- 1925 – **Dopolavoro** – provide leisure activities to compensate for the ban on trade-union-sponsored clubs
  - Controlled all football clubs, 1350 theatres, 8000 libraries

**Success**
- 1926 – 300,000 members to 1939 – 4 million
- 1928 – sick pay introduced
- 1938 – end of year bonuses, paid holidays and redundancy pay
- Historian Felice – “Fascism was popular”

**Failure**
- Decline in the standard of living as the average per capita income reduced from 3000 lire (1929) to 1800 (1934)
- Dopolavoro was not meant for indoctrination
  - Ex. 1938 – theatre in Rome (Carro di Tepsi) none of the 7 plays that year were relevant to fascist ideology
  - Historian Sassoon – “Life continued to be easy or difficult, but politics had little to do with it
  - Ex. Dopolavoro – high numbers, but people just went to socialize
Social Policies – Church

• 1923 – **Education Act** – restored compulsory religious education

• 1929 – **Lateran Agreement**

• Success – mutually beneficial agreements
  • 1923 – Pope withdraws support for **Populari** removing parliamentary opposition
  • Exiled intellectual Borgese - “The Church became a collaborator with atheistic tyranny and tyranny rewarded it by making it extreme in the family”
  • 1935-39 – clergy supported invasion of Ethiopia and Spain as “Christian Crusaders”

• Failure – Mussolini’s attempt to shape society lost him Church support
  • 1929 - Mussolini stated Italy “is Catholic...but above all Fascist”
  • 1931 – Church established **Catholic Action**, a rival to the ONB, which had 250,000 members
  • Church declared the creed of **ONB** “blasphemous”
  • Radio Vatican continued to broadcast alternative news and information
  • 1938 – Pope Puis openly criticizes new anti-Semitic laws
  • 1939 – alliance is over as Pope Puis declares “regret” for its early support for Fascism
14: European states in the inter-war years (1918–1939)

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Lesson 3c – Domestic policies

Essential Question

Evaluate the successes and failures of Mussolini’s domestic policies between 1922 and 1939 (May 2019)

Learning Outcomes: Students will

• What: write your APAL paragraphs
• Why: organize your arguments for the Paper 3 essays

Success Criteria

I can complete one APAL paragraph for domestic policies
Key Facts Quiz – 17 questions

- What – Mussolini’s quote on women
- What – Battle of Births
- When – Battle of Births
- Success – Battle of Births
- Failure – Battle of Births
- What – Fascisation
- What – Opera Nazionale Balilla (ONB)
- How many – members 1937
- Failure – Fascisation of youth
- What – Dopolavoro
- Success – workers
- Failure - workers
- Perspective – Sassoon (left-wing)
- What – Education Act
- What – Catholic Action
- When – end of alliance
- Why – end of alliance
The class will be divided into 3 groups to answer one of the questions.

**Evaluate the successes and failures of Mussolini’s domestic policies between 1922 and 1939 (May 2019)**

**Paper 3 – Discuss Mussolini’s social policies from 1922 to 1939**

**Paper 3 – Discuss Mussolini’s economic policies from 1922 to 1939**

- Make sure your group agrees to a concept to use throughout.
- Early Finishers – add to your quizlet for this topic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concepts</th>
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<th>P – From a perspective, (success/failure)</th>
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<td>Cause</td>
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**Possible Perspectives**
- Ethnicity – German, Turkish, etc...
- Political Ideology – Left-wing, Conservative, Liberal, Monarchist, Republican
- People – Ataturk, Horthy
- Historians – Geiss, Ferguson, Fischer, AJP Taylor

**APAL**