

MODULE IV-20TH CENTURY WORLD

TOPIC-FASCISM

HISTORY OF MODERN WORLD

V SEMESTER BA HISTORY

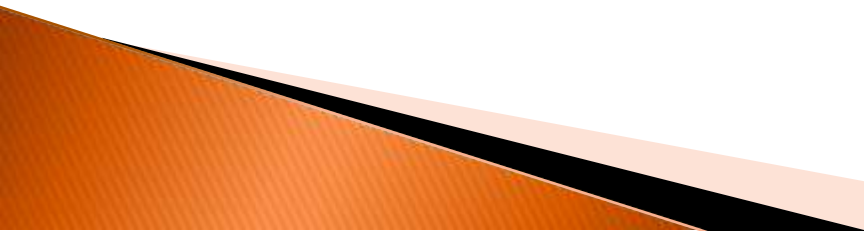
10/9/2020

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DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

CAUSES

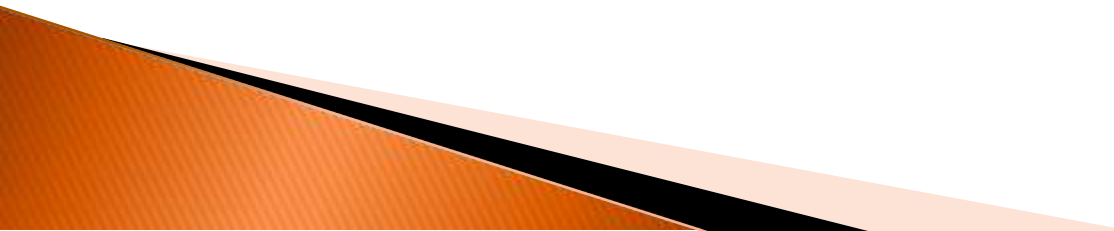
- ▶ In 1919 Benitto Mussolini founded the Italian Fascist party
- ▶ King Victor Emmanuel III inviting Mussolini to form a government in 1922
- ▶ Mussolini remained in power until July 1943
- ▶ Gradually He took on the powers of a dictator and attempted to control the entire way of life of the Italian people
- ▶ He won popularity with his adventurous and successful foreign policy
- ▶ CAUSES
- ▶ -There was a general atmosphere of disillusionment and frustration in Italy by the summer of 1919, caused by a combination of factors
- ▶ 1. Disappointment at Italy's gains from the peace settlement and the Italians felt cheated in view of their valiant efforts during the war

- ▶ **2.ECONOMIC CAUSES:** The effects of the war on the economy and the standard of living were disastrous
 - ▶ The govt had borrowed heavily, especially from the USA and these debts had to be repaid
 - ▶ There was massive unemployment as heavy industry cut back its wartime production levels
 - ▶ **3.POLITICAL CAUSE-GROWING CONTEMPT FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM**
 - ▶ Votes for all men and proportional representation were introduced for the elections-led to the emergence of large number of parties in Parliament
 - ▶ This made it difficult for any one party to gain an overall majority and coalition govt were inevitable.
 - ▶ There was growing impatience with a system which seemed designed to prevent decisive govt
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▶ 4.SOCIAL CAUSES

- ▶ a. A wave of strikes, 1919 and 1920: These were accompanied by rioting, looting of shops and occupation of factories by workers. Government failed to protect the property of common people
- b.Mussolini and the Fascist party were attractive to many sections of society because he aimed to rescue Italy from feeble govt
- ▶ -Politically he was a socialist and began to make a name for himself as a journalist, becoming editor of the socialist newspaper ‘Avanti’
- ▶ He started his own paper ‘Il popolo d italia’
- ▶ In 1919 he founded the fascist party with a socialist and republican programme

PRINCIPLES OF MUSSOLINI

- ▶ Extreme nationalism: an emphasis on the rebirth of the nation after a period of decline, building up the greatness and prestige of the state
 - ▶ Totalitarian system of government:-It is a complete way of life in which the govt to control and organize with strong discipline
 - ▶ A one party state was essential; There was no place for democracy
 - ▶ Economic self-sufficiency
 - ▶ Military strength and violence
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REFORMS

- ▶ POLITICAL REFORMS:
- ▶ a. All parties except the fascist were suppressed-The PM was responsible only to the king, not to Parliament.
- ▶ b. Changes in Local government- Elected town councils and mayors were abolished and towns were run by officials appointed from Rome
- ▶ SOCIAL REFORMS:
- ▶ a. Censorship:A strict press censorship was enforced in which anti-fascist newspapers and Magazines were either banned or their editors replaced by fascist supporters. Radio, Films and the Theatre were controlled in the same way
- ▶ b. A understanding was reached with Pope:
- ▶ According to the treaty of Lateran (1929) Italy Italy recognized the Vatican city as a sovereign state, paid the pope a large sum of money as compensation for all his losses , accepted catholic faith as the official state religion and made religious instruction compulsory in all schools

- ▶ C. Educational policies: Education in schools and universities was closely supervised and textbooks were written to glorify the fascist system. Students were forced to join the govt youth organization and they are instructed that 'Everything was seen in terms of struggle- Believe, Obey, Fight'
- ▶ d. Economic Reforms: Employment policies:
 - ▶ The govt tried to promote co-operation between Employers and workers and to end class warfare in what is known as the corporate state.
 - ▶ Fascist controlled unions had the sole right to negotiate for the workers. By 1934 there were 22 corporations each dealing with a separate industry
 - ▶ The 'Battle of Wheat' encouraged farmers to concentrate on wheat production as part of the drive for self sufficiency

OPPOSITION AND DOWNFALL OF FASCISM

- ▶ 1. Entry into the war was a disastrous mistake
 - ▶ 2. The general public suffered hardships: High taxation, poverty and massive inflation
 - ▶ 3. The Italians suffered a string of defeats culminating in the surrender of all Italian troops in North Africa (May 1943)
 - ▶ On 25th July 1943, Mussolini was dismissed and new government came to power
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