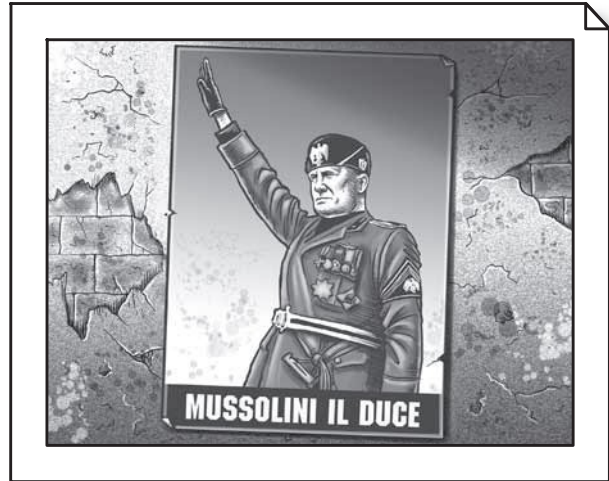


# Fascism in Italy

**B**etween World War I and World War II, the world suffered through the Great Depression. During this economic crisis, many people lost their jobs and savings. Democratic governments had not been able to help people who suffered during the Depression. So, some countries turned to a different type of government. In Italy, for example, people wanted a leader who would take action. Benito Mussolini started the first fascist state in the early 1920s.



During a time of economic turmoil and political corruption, Mussolini promised to bring order to Italy. He gained popularity with his patriotic and nationalistic speeches. Mussolini knew the Italian people were angry that Italy did not get more land from the peace settlement after World War I. He promised to bring back Roman greatness.

Mussolini won many supporters. In 1922, fascists marched on the Italian capital of Rome. Mussolini threatened the king. He said, “Either we are allowed to govern, or we will seize power.” Afraid, the king gave in and made Mussolini prime minister. Mussolini used his position as prime minister to create a new fascist government for Italy.

Fascism is a type of totalitarian government. In a totalitarian state, the government controls everything in its citizens’ lives. Fascist Italy was governed by one leader and had one political party. Fascists believed that citizens should put loyalty to their country above everything else. Fascists did not agree with the Enlightenment ideas that had been popular for so long. Limited government and the guarantee of individual freedoms were finished. Instead, fascists tried to create a nation of disciplined, war-loving citizens. The fascists used violence to rule.

Under Mussolini, it became illegal for the press to say anything bad about the government. The police were allowed to arrest people and put them in jail for any reason. The fascists made it illegal for other political parties to exist in Italy. Although Italy still had a king, Mussolini was the dictator, or single ruler, of the country. He ruled the country as “Il Duce,” which is Italian for “The Leader.”

Supporters of fascism liked the political movement because it promised a strong, stable government. Fighting between political parties had made democratic rule seem hopeless. A strong leader, Mussolini showed power and confidence during a confusing time. Other nations, like Germany, saw Mussolini’s success in Italy. In fact, Italian fascists’ achievements were soon overshadowed by a German admirer of Mussolini—Adolf Hitler.



# Fascism in Italy

## Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ happened between World War I and World War II.
- A. American Civil War
  - B. Great Depression
  - C. Scientific Revolution
  - D. Enlightenment

2. In a \_\_\_\_\_, the government controls everything in its citizens' lives.
- A. totalitarian state
  - B. democratic state
  - C. monarchy
  - D. constitutional monarchy

3. Mussolini started the first fascist state in \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. Germany
  - B. the Soviet Union
  - C. Italy
  - D. Portugal

4. In Mussolini's fascist state, \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. it was illegal for the press to say bad things about the government
  - B. the police were allowed to arrest people for any reason
  - C. it was illegal for other political parties to exist
  - D. all of the above

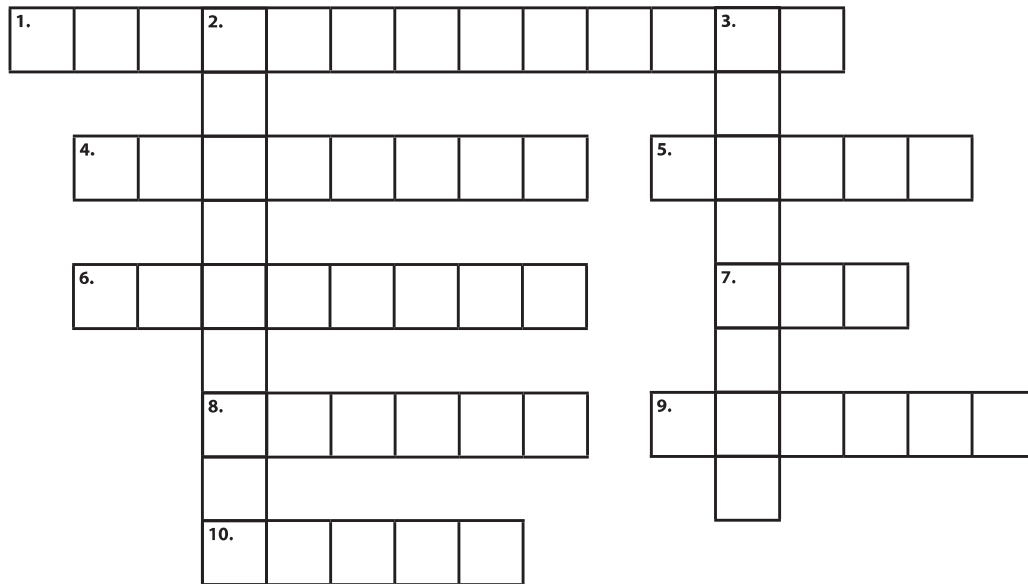
5. Supporters of fascism liked the political movement because it promised \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. a strong, stable government
  - B. limited government
  - C. individual freedoms
  - D. all of the above



# Fascism in Italy

## Crossword Puzzle

Write the best answer in each blank, and complete the crossword puzzle.



### ACROSS

1. Mussolini was officially the \_\_\_\_\_ of Italy.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ tried to create a nation of disciplined, war-loving citizens.
5. Mussolini promised to bring back \_\_\_\_\_ greatness.
6. The fascists used \_\_\_\_\_ to rule.
7. Fascist Italy had \_\_\_\_\_ leader and one political party.
8. Mussolini was known as “ \_\_\_\_\_,” which is Italian for “The Leader.”
9. \_\_\_\_\_ was a German admirer of Mussolini.
10. In \_\_\_\_\_, people wanted a leader who would take action.

### DOWN

2. \_\_\_\_\_ won many supporters with his patriotic and nationalistic speeches.
3. The Great Depression was a/an \_\_\_\_\_ crisis.



# Fascism in Italy

## Chart – Three Dictators in Europe

Use the chart to answer the following questions. Write the answers in complete sentences.

Leader	Country	Date in Power	Political Title	Political Party	Type of Government
Benito Mussolini	Italy	1922	Prime Minister	Fascist Party	Fascist
Joseph Stalin	USSR	1929	General Secretary	Communist Party	Communist
Adolf Hitler	Germany	1933	Chancellor	Nazi Party	Fascist

1. Over which country did Adolf Hitler rule?

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2. What was Joseph Stalin's political title?

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3. In what year did Benito Mussolini come to power in Italy?

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# Fascism in Italy

## Extension Activities

Choose one of the following activities to complete. Write the answer in complete sentences.

1. Mussolini said he would bring back Roman greatness and turn the Mediterranean Sea back into a "Roman lake." Look at a map of the Mediterranean region. What do you think Mussolini meant?
  
2. One goal of the fascists was to shape Italy's youth. Fascist youth groups developed. What kinds of activities did young people do in these groups? Look in your textbook, on the Internet, or at the library to find out.
  
3. Imagine that you are an Italian factory worker during the time that Mussolini and the fascists are taking over. Write a journal entry describing how things are changing in your country.

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## Quiz: Fascism in Italy

### True/False

Decide if each statement is true or false, and write "true" or "false" in the blank.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. In a democracy, the government controls everything in its citizens' lives.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Mussolini started the first fascist state in Italy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The Great Depression happened between World War I and World War II.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Mussolini promised to bring back Greek greatness.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The fascists used violence to rule.

### Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

6. Fascist Italy had \_\_\_\_\_ leader(s) and one political party.
- A. one
  - B. two
  - C. three
  - D. four

7. \_\_\_\_\_ was a German admirer of Mussolini.
- A. Joseph Stalin
  - B. Juan Perón
  - C. Adolf Hitler
  - D. Francisco Franco

### Short Answer

Answer the following question in complete sentences.

8. Name one thing that was illegal in fascist Italy.

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