

Mussolini - Economic Policies



KQs ...

- What were Mussolini's economic battles?
- How successful were these battles / policies?
- Social classes / groups - winners + losers?
- Was autarchy achieved?

Mussolini had little understanding of economics but understood a robust and **self - sufficient** economy was essential to maintain power and to make **Italy strong again** via the **'third way.'**

Mussolini would have to overcome weaknesses in Italy's economy, especially the **'Southern Problem'** and (compared to BR / FR) in the lagging industrial output in the north. Key to this would be to gain raw materials not available in Italy as well as reducing Italy's dependency on imports. Note - Abyssinia (1935 - 36) invasion here - help or hindrance to Italy's economic situation?

Autarchy / autarky.

The Third Way.

Corporativism.

Confindustria.

Alberto de Stefani, 1922- 25 to Count Giuseppe Volpi, 1925 -28.

A.J. Gregor - Italian Fascism was a **'modernising dictatorship'** What was his claim - do you agree?



Good 'perspectives' summary in this video - @ 16min 30.

Battle 1 - Grain / wheat

Southern Problem

Battle 2 - Lira

Imports / Exports

Winners + Losers

Process

Problems

Process

Winners + Losers

Battle 3 - Land

Reclamation / expansion

Battle 4 - Industry

Confindustria / IRI



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Autarchy / autarky.

Becoming self - sufficient. Usually requires expansion (Abyssinia) to access raw materials and vastly reduce need for imports.

The Third Way.

An early argument made by fascist leaders - Italian fascism would sit between exploitative capitalism and revolutionary socialism. The employers and employees would work together for the prosperity of Italy and all its 'stakeholders' / people. **The reality?**

Corporatism.

Idea that big businesses (Confindustria) for each area of industry would work in partnership with fascist organised trade unions to ensure harmony between groups .

Confindustria.

The organisation that represented big businesses owners and their interests. Would traditionally be in opposition to trade unions.

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The main claim was that under Mussolini, Italy attempted and underwent a 'rapid industrialisation'. (Similar to Stalin in USSR)



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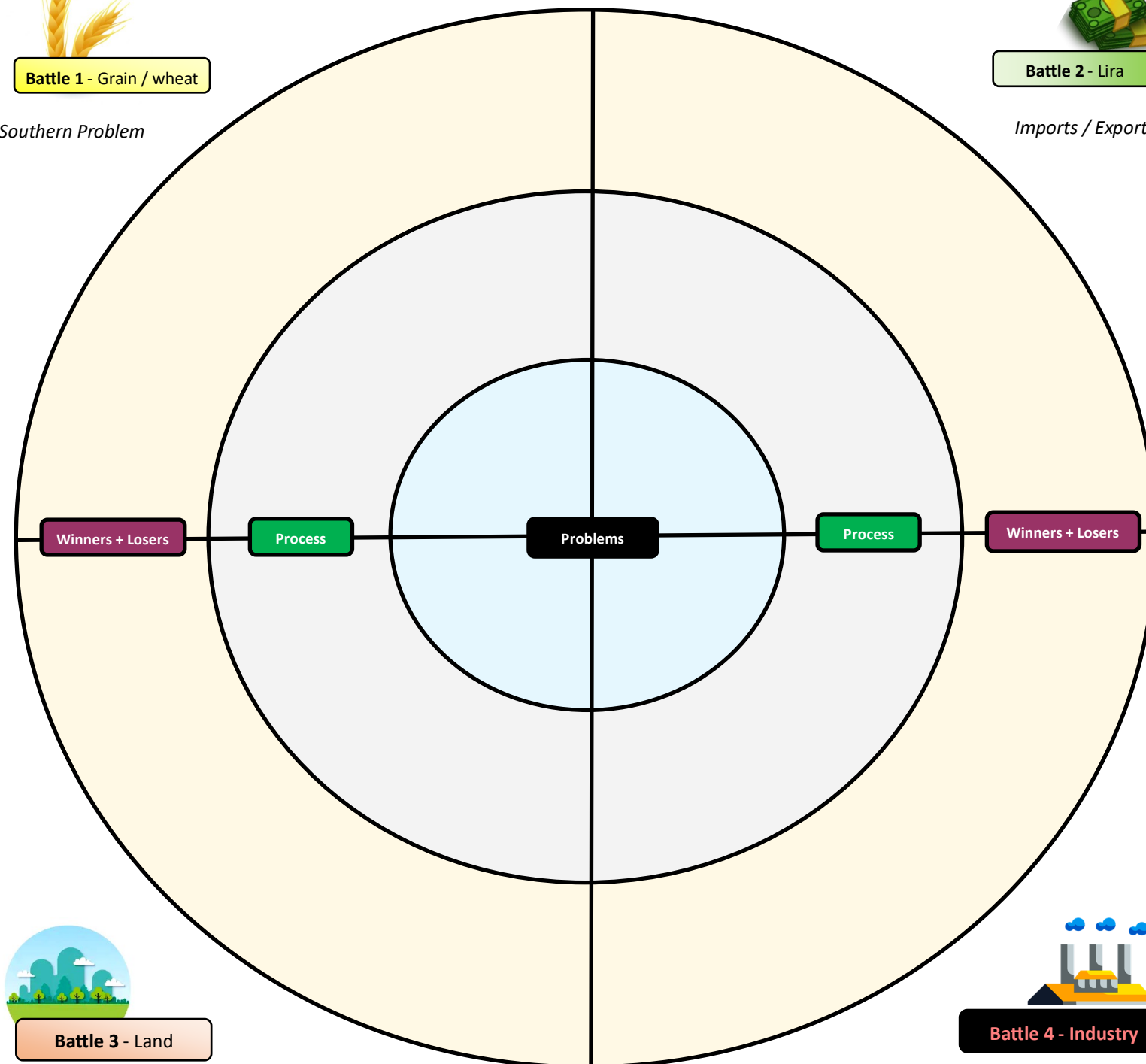
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Southern Problem



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Reclamation / expansion



Battle 4 - Industry

Confindustria / IRI