Italian Entry into WW1 and The Treaty of London - 1915



Obj - to understand how different groups in Italy viewed the Treaty of London and switch from the Triple Alliance to the Triple Entente.

- In 1882, Italy had joined with Germany and Austria Hungary to form the Triple Alliance. However, when the First World War broke out in 1914, Italy had remained neutral. In the same year, Britain and her allies invited Italy to sign the Treaty of London - and to switch alliances. This prospect was met with various responses from different groups in Italy. Some were in favour of the Treaty of London, others were not. Most had different reasons for their positions.
- Catholic Church = unwilling to join the fight against Catholic neighbour, Austria.
- Filippo Marinetti + Future Movement. War necessary for Italy to fulfil its destiny and reclaim 'unredeemed lands'.
- Italian Socialist Party (PSI) = Ideologically against the elites, intervention and the "imperialist war."
- King Victor Emmanuel III = Reluctantly? pressured into supporting entry by various groups.
- Benito Mussolini = After initially being anti war and subsequently speaking in favour of entry (emerging fascist beliefs) he was kicked out of the Italian Socialist Party.
- Revolutionary Action Groups = Hard line left wingers who wanted war because they thought it would spark revolution and destroy 'Liberal Italy'.
- Right Wing Liberals = wanted Italy to join the Triple Entente in return for promises of Italian speaking parts of Austria such as Trieste.
- Prime Minister Antonio Salamanda = agreed with right wing liberals about potential 'spoils' of war if victorious.
- Liberal Italians such as Prime Minister Giolitti = Ideologically opposed to war.

LW Insert groups into 'best fit' place on political spectrum. RW

Pro - Anti War Reason	 Pro - Anti War Reason	Pro - Anti War Reason	Pro - Anti War Reason					