



Liberal Italy Challenges + WW1 Impact, 1914 - 1921



10 mins



Obj - to understand how World War 1 further divided Italy and consider the growth of the fascist movement.

20 mins

Problems in 'Liberal Italy' before and during WW1	Timeline
Lack of national identification after Italian Unification in 1861 = unification did result in a unified nation. E.g. Piedmont forced laws and systems over other states. North wealthier than rural south.	1861 - 1914
Left - wing party challenges = The Italian Socialist Party (PSI) - viewed the Liberal government as corrupt and elitist. Workers excluded from voting.	1861+
Church v State = Liberal government policy of secularism and anti - clerical policies.	1861 - 1900
Growth of nationalist opposition = Filippo Marinetti - a popular nationalist (poet) established the Future Movement. Reclaim 'irredeemable lands.'	1910
Italy's intervention in WW1 = Various factions agreed / disagreed with the Treaty of London. Far left socialist groups wanted entry to 'mess' things up and create an environment for revolution.	1915
Further regional divide = War was of benefit to some in north. Industries such as steel and motor vehicles (Fiat) given lucrative state contracts.	1915 - 1918
Further regional divide = conscription of 5 millions Italians to fight in WW1 - many were southern peasants and farm labourers. This further weakened the already poor southern economy.	1915 - 1918
Italian defeat by Austrians = The Battle of Caporetto - 40,000 Italians killed and 300 000 captured.	1917
War costs and spiralling debts = Italy already had weak economy. Led to borrowing from US and Britain - national debt rising from 16 to 85 billion lire.	1918

Biennio Rosso

Southern Peasantry

Giovanni Giolitti - 1919-1921

Partito Popolare

Arditti

Treaty of Saint Germain (Austria) = prime minister Vittorio Orlando DID get most of demands - 'unredeemable lands' Trentino / South Tyrol.	1919
'Mutilated victory' -Gabriele D'Annunzio - popular nationalists = fuelled fury at Orlando. Italian sacrifices did not lead to any African territory or coastal territory of Fiume and Dalmatia - given to Yugoslavia.	1919
Economic issues / inflation = Liberal government printed more banknotes leading to rapid inflation - 400 % price increases. Destroyed middle classes' saving and battered landowners' incomes.	1919
Economic issues / unemployment = post war led to loss of jobs for many industrial workers + 2.5 million demobilized soldiers.	1919
Partito Popolare (PPI) = Papacy lifted its ban on the formation of a political party. Formed in protest of government stance AND due to fears of peasantry being attracted to socialism. 20% of vote - 2nd after PSI.	1919
Biennio Rosso = Two Red Years - series of strikes, land occupations and worker strikes organised by trade unions. Socialists trade union members up from 250,000 to 2 million in this year.	1919
Arditti - disaffected former officers and soldiers. Felt betrayed and humiliated - black shirts - formed Arditti Associations - Filippo Marinetti set one chapter in Milan. 'The Daring Ones'.	1919
Primer minister Giovanni Giolitti - Following food riots he urged employers to make concessions. Middle classes, landowners and nationalists accused him of being ' <i>dangerously incompetent</i> .' S.Waller.	1919 - 21
Fascists combat fighting groups - Mussolini (Arditti member) begins to bring various factions together - beginning of organised fascists movement. The PNF(Nationalist Fascist Party) founded in 1921.	1919 - 21
The Impact of the First World War on 'Liberal Italy'	Timeline



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