

Italy: Political History & Development

**I. *Risorgimento* and
Unification**

**II. Mussolini and
Fascism**

**III. Postwar
Settlement**

IV. 'New' Italian Politics



I. *Risorgimento* and Unification

- *Risorgimento* (National Resurgence)
- Unification
 - Kingdom of Sardinia (Piedmont)
 - King Victor Emmanuel II and PM Count Camillo Cavour
 - Giuseppe Garibaldi
- Kingdom of Italy (1861)
- Venetia added in 1866
- Rome in in 1870

Garibaldi helps
Victor Emmanuel
take Italy



Process of Italian Unification



Problems with Liberal Italy

- Popular Antipathy and Resentment
 - Monarchy disguised as popular democracy
 - No economic reform
- Oligarchic Rule
 - Minimal franchise
- Church Resistance
 - *Non expedit* decree (noncooperation decree) forbid Catholics from participating in Italian politics

Mussolini and Fascism, 1922-1943

- ‘Black shirts’ and March on Rome (1922)
- Italian Fascism:
 - Anti-Democratic
 - Extreme Nationalist
 - Expansionist (Ethiopia 1936)
 - Differences from Nazis
- Concordat with Church (1929)
- Axis Power and World War II:
 - Defeat in North Africa
 - Allied Invasion (1943)
 - Mussolini Deposed; Italy Surrenders (1943)
 - Germany Occupies Northern Italy (1943-45)



III. The Postwar Settlement

- Legacies of Fascism
- Fear of Communism
- 1946 Election: Monarchy Abolished; Republic Declared
- 1948 Parliamentary Elections
 - American and Vatican support for DC
 - Political stagnation and economic revival
- Opening to the Left in Early 1960s
- DC/PSI Coalition Governments
- 'Instability' in Italian Politics



IV. 'New' Italian Politics

- Communism and extremism in the 1970s
 - 'Red Brigade' assassinates former PM Aldo Moro (1978)
- Collapse of DC/PSI 'Old Order'
 - *Tangentopli* ('Bribesville')
 - Rise of new parties (e.g., *Lega Nord* [Northern League])
 - Reform of electoral system
 - The move away from proportional representation (1993)
 - The move back to proportional representation (2005)



The new face of Italian politics