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 1870
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)