April 17th, 2008

Fascist Italy & Rise of Nazism

I) Mussolini

II) D'Annunzio & Fiume

III Fascist Party & March on Rome

IV Fascism in Power

V Hitler & early Nazi Party

VI Nazis come to power.

Italian Fascism - model for far-right movements.

Mussolini - successful, ambitious, "made the trains run on time" Started out on the left. Read Marx, editor of socialist newspaper called Avanti (Forward). Not an intellectual. Agitated for Italian entry into WW I. Kicked out of socialist party. Started a right wing paper. Frustrated that Italy did not reap full benefits from war. Wanted property on Adriatic - Yugoslavia.

D'annunzio - siezed island with military veterans in Adriatic & claimed it for Italy. Developed a political style that Mussolini copied. Talking from a balcony, asking questions to masses, choregraphed marches & parades. Visit his museum in Northern Italy.

lots of strikes in Italy. Fear of Bolshivism. Inflation. Anxiety, rage, frustration. New party- Fascists. → group strength. Bundles of wheat in ancient Rome.

Mus. took on left violently. Broke strikes, kicked farmers who were squatters. Middle class saw Mus. as a stabilizing force. Party wins elections. Oct. 1922- Political army (Black Shirts) march to Rome. Mus. Stayed in background to see what happened. King, senate, etc. caved in. King appointed Mus. as Prime Minister. Saw Mus. as useful. Dealt with the devil & lost.

Mus. takes power & establishes a one party state. liquadates opposition like Matteotti. & Started engineering projects that employed many people. Popular abroad. Churchill & Will Rogers admired him. Mus. fashioned himself into Cesser. Spread of terror - built secret police. Fascist Party controlled culture. Artists censored. New Italy was modern- speed, efficency. Compared to America & Lindberg. Took on Mafia - saw them not as bad guys but as compitiors to his power.

Mus. & Vatican - 1929- Treaty with Vatican called Lateran Accord. Recognized sovriegnity of Vatican. Control over marriage. Church recognized Mus. & in effect gave him their blessing. State moved into education. King allowed to stay in power but govt. run by Mus.

In early 1940s the King plays a more prominent role. Mus. had rivals; Hitler & Stalin had Fewer. Not a totalitarian regime. At the time Mus. was widely admired & accepted. Italy not transformed culturally like Soviet Union. Big mistake was alignment with Germany. Mus. became a junior partner which lead to his destruction. Dealt with Devil & lost like Menshevikes & Lenin.

Hitler & Nazi Party - Mother coddled him as he was only surviving son. Father beat him. Mom died of cancer. Austrian by birth. Moved to Linz as a young man. Father died, Hit. moved to Vienna with small inheritance. Saw himself as an artist & architect. Did not finish high school. Turned down by University of Austria. Blamed a Jew on his inability to get into Univ. Karl Lueger - Mayor of Vienna & anti-semite. Mon-orchid - one testicle? No one knows for sure. Saw himself above normal labor. Sold postcards. Became so poor that he ended up in a bowery style mens hostel. 1912. First world war - Hitler joins Bavarian branch of German army. Became a runner & did well. Won Iron Cross twice. Gassed & went to a hopital. Saw downfall of German Empire. Stayed in the Army. Became an intelligence operative. Checked on new political parties shooting up. Sept. 1917- attends DAP party (German Workers Party). Skilled workers - anti-Marxist, extremely nationalistic & militaristic. Small group - no money, no power. Hitler spoke & turned out to be a good speaker. Invited to join party. Military gave Hitler permission to join DAP.

Rallied people to DAP. 1920 - party named NSDAP - National Socialist party. 25 point program. Abolition of Versaille treaty, break-up of large landed properties, nationalization banks, leftist program with ~~mil~~ military overtones. Jews were used as scape goats.

In Nov. 1923 Hitler tries to sieze power at rally. German Revolution at hand! Marched on Munich center. SA- wore brown shirts. Reaches barricades- military vooms down crowd. Beer Hall Putsch. Hitler survived & got away. Arrested & tried for treason. Court took pity, accepted his arguements & gave him 5 years. Served only 1 year. Dictated Mein Kompf while in prison.

Chance & trial ~~-~~ provided second chances. Nazi party was outlawed. Hitler not seen as a danger in mid 1920s. Oct. 1929 Wall Street Crash aided Hitler because US credit dried up for Germany. Nazis rise again. 1932-30 - Nazis are largest party in parliament. Hindenberg appoints Hitler as Chancellor in 1933. No Pope or King to attend to. Power easily consolidated.