



MUSSOLINI'S ITALY

April 1923	Mussolini passed a law that the party with the most votes would be given two-thirds of the seats in Parliament.
August 1923	An Italian general was killed in Greece. Mussolini invaded the island of Corfu in retaliation.
April 1924	Elections. The Fascists gained most votes and took over Parliament.
June 1924	Giacomo Matteotti, a moderate Socialist, was murdered by Fascists.
1925	Mussolini became Head of State. He took the title <i>Il Duce</i> – “the leader”.
1926	Trade Unions were abolished.
1926	Mussolini put money into farming and industry. An organisation called the <i>Dopolavoro</i> was set up. It gave welfare to the poor. It provided clubs for working men.
April 1926	A youth organisation called the <i>Balilla</i> was formed for boys aged 8–13. They wore uniforms and carried toy machine-guns.
October 1926	All opposition parties were banned. Mussolini was given the power to make his own laws.
1927	Mussolini founded the OVRA (the secret police).
February 1929	Mussolini came to an agreement with the Pope. Roman Catholicism became the official religion of Italy. The Pope supported Mussolini's government.
March 1929	Elections. There was only one party to vote for. Mussolini chose the MPs, and then asked the voters to agree his choice.
1933	An Institute for the Reconstruction of Industry was set up.
1933	Teachers were forced to wear uniforms and to teach Fascist ideas.
1935–6	Italy invaded and conquered Ethiopia.
1937	The Ministry for Popular Culture was set up. It controlled the newspapers, radio and the cinema.
1937	Mussolini made an alliance with Germany and Japan and left the League of Nations.