



Italian Constitutional Commision (1946)

Rebuilding Italy



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Policy Dilemma

The political history of Italy is long and tumultuous. In the 76 years since 1946, Italy witnessed the rise and fall of 68 governments, and by 2023, was among the three European countries with the most frequent overturns of government with a median length of .98 years per administration. By contrast, the average median length of government for Luxembourg, the most stable of European countries studied, was quadruple that number. The years of instability following the fall of former prime minister Benito Mussolini in 1946 established precedent for Italy's continued history of political violence and polarization. A reflection on the policies and structures crafted in this pivotal time in Italy's political history offers the opportunity to rethink the course of history, had Italy crafted a solid foundation on top of which an enduring and united nation may have been built.

Prior to the birth of the modern Italian Republic in 1946, Italy functioned from 1861 as a constitutional monarchy. The reigning King in the period leading up to the fall of the monarchy, Victor Emmanuel III (1900-1946), was dubbed the "Fascist King", and his reign is remembered as a time of suffering among the citizens of Italy due to economic disparity and costs associated with Italy's participation as an axis power in World War II.

In the late 1910's, a young Benito Mussolini, newly expelled from the Italian Socialist Party (PSI), began harnessing support for a "Third Way" ideology that was both revolutionary and traditional. Feeling that socialism was a failed project and desiring to see the rebirth of Italy as an empirical power, Mussolini began publishing rhetoric promoting the rule of an elite class, opposing democratic institutions, and highlighting the necessity of military expansionism. In October of 1922, thirty-thousands of Mussolini's

supporters (the “blackshirts”) marched on Rome demanding the resignation of liberal Prime Minister Luigi Facta and the creation of a fascist government. On October 31, responding to what was to become known as the “March on Rome”, King Emmanuel forced Facta’s resignation and appointed Mussolini in his stead.¹ Charismatic and nationalistic, the young Mussolini enjoyed widespread public support for what would become his eventual dictatorship.²

Emmanuel’s appointment of Mussolini marked the transition of Italy into a fascist state. As Mussolini embraced dictatorial authority, Emmanuel relinquished power in an attempt to prevent a full-fledged civil war. This period was characterized by enhanced militarization and restrictions on political freedoms. During Mussolini’s rule, propaganda was rampant, free speech dwindled, and elections became fraudulent.³ Voices of opposition to Mussolini were largely imprisoned, exiled, or murdered. Additionally, Italy’s newly empowered military engaged in a series of conquests across the Mediterranean.

Mussolini was in power as World War II commenced on September 1, 1939.⁴ Believing that Britain and France were in empirical decline, Mussolini allied himself with Hitler and Nazi Germany, envisioning Italy as the successor to empirical success. In 1940, Emmanuel gave his explicit consent to Mussolini to enter World War II, which was opposed by the leftist coalition. The toll of war on Italy’s population was significant, and opposition to Mussolini was bursting from containment. By August 1943, the Allied Powers (Great Britain, the United States, and the Soviet Union) invaded Sicily, a small island south of the Italian peninsula. This invasion was one of the primary contributions to the downfall of Mussolini.

In 1943, King Emmanuel expelled Mussolini from office and ordered his arrest. Though Mussolini’s term had ended, the roots of fascism had firmly planted themselves in the nation’s political landscape. However, Mussolini’s reign also unintentionally fostered the emergence and growth of diverse opposition groups, including anti-fascist resistance

organizations. These were often spearheaded by past politicians or citizens who were unhappy with the ongoing World War and especially unhappy with Mussolini's fascist grip on Italy.

Marshal Pietro Badoglio succeeded Mussolini as prime minister of Italy on July 25, 1943. By this time, the tides of the war had turned, leading Italy to sign the Armistice of Cassibile with the United States and the United Kingdom. The document was signed on September 3, 1943, and approved by both the King and Prime Minister Badoglio. In response to Italy's armistice with Allied forces, Germany invaded Italy.

On September 8, 1943, the *partigiani*, or resistance fighters fought as German forces invaded Italy; Germans fought against the Italians in a mission called Operation Achse (Axis).⁵ This day marked the first day of the Italian Civil War. September 8, 1943, was the first time resistance groups could be armed, as Mussolini imprisoned, murdered, or exiled any resistance during his rule. The primary organization that organized these resistance movements was the *Comitato di Liberazione Nazionale* (CLN).⁶ The CLN was an umbrella organization that consisted of several smaller resistance groups. Individuals within these resistance groups had very diverse backgrounds and occupations. Some were party leaders; others were writers or former soldiers. Their mission was one: to reunite Italy.

Uniquely, individuals from the resistance groups / CLNs came from various political parties. The six primary anti-fascist political parties included: the Communist Party, the Socialist Party, the Liberal Party, the Christian Democrats, the Action Party, and the Labor Democratic Party.⁷ Of these six, the Communist Party was the largest.⁸ This made the anti-fascist groups a large coalition group of sorts. Out of the many smaller communist groups, the largest one was Brigade Garibaldi. The predominantly Catholic group was Brigade Fiamme Verdi. The largest liberal-socialist group was the Giustizia e Libertà.⁹ CLNs functioned both regionally and locally. Each area had its own CLN that

could focus on resistance in their region. These regions and group-leaders worked together to create solutions that best fit the nation at large.

The CLN believed 5 key principles would serve to unite and strengthen Italy. The first was to expand the economic sector. The second was to clearly define the different regional CLNs. The third: restart the economy and allow all those to profit except those who had profited off fascism. The fourth was the reconstruction of the land; they sought to rehabilitate Italy's landscapes and bolster its resilience against future adversities. Finally, the fifth was a focus on international policy; they recognized the interconnectedness of global affairs and the importance of forging mutually beneficial relationships. They believed this reconstruction program could set Italy on the path to success separate from its fascist roots.¹⁰ Ultimately, the CLN's reconstruction program was not merely about rebuilding physical infrastructure but also about cultivating a renewed sense of national identity and purpose.

After the CLN became the primary governing body in Italy, reconstruction was on the forefront. A new Italian Parliament was formed to handle reconstruction efforts in a post war Italy. Domestically, the parliament focused on providing relief to cities such as Milan and Rome that had suffered during the war. The parliament implemented policies for infrastructure such rebuilding schools, roads, and towns. Most importantly, they sought for a solution to Italy's years of unstable governments, and attempted to create long lasting solutions for Italy that would last forever.

The Post-War Parliament attempted to address three primary issues, economic reconstruction, political reforms, and social reforms. But each of these came with significant challenges leading the body to be unstable overall. Due to a highly fragmented Italy with unstable coalitions, social reforms became difficult. New policies aimed to provide social security, healthcare, and education but with mass social unrest still present within the nation, these were difficult to implement. Despite financial assistance received from the Marshall Plan, inflation and high unemployment created a lack of confidence

between citizens and the Parliament. Additionally, economic growth often advanced at a faster rate in the North, often creating dissatisfaction in the South. Government corruption and inefficiency often contributed to instability among the Parliament. Though the Italian Parliament implemented solutions that attempted to stabilize post-war Italy, external influences and internal oversights ultimately meant that Italy's political future was to remain tumultuous.

In this critical moment in Italy's history, this new body can reverse the mistakes of the past and build a solid foundation for the future of Italian governance.

Chronology

1919-1920: The Biennio Rosso

The conclusion of World War I brought about a wave of social unrest in Italy that would determine the political fate of the country for decades to come. The human consequence of the war was felt acutely in Italy, which suffered a loss of 600,000 citizens.¹¹ Though they were technically the victors of this war, their citizens felt anything but that. The war had devastated the Italian economy, which suffered from rising inflation and rampant unemployment. By 1919, two million citizens were unemployed.¹² Workers demanded higher wages to compensate for the high cost of living, often causing trade unions to strike.¹³ Under such conditions, socialist parties advocating for egalitarianism and the abolition of social classes flourished.

This time became known as the *biennio rosso*, or the “two red years”, during which principles of socialism saw new heights in political discourse. Socialist members of parliament began walking out in protest of King Emmanuel, and in just the first year of *biennio rosso*, there were over 1800 strikes. *Biennio Rosso* was significant as it empowered the lowest class and showed that the government's acts were not unnoticed. The socialist tidal wave was influenced by the success of the Bolshevik Revolution in

Russia just two years prior.¹⁴ In Russia, feudalist peasants claimed ownership over land ruled by the landowning bourgeoisie, so in Italy, they attempted to do the same. The Italian Socialist Party (PSI) was the major party advocating for the interests of the working class. Prior to the war, was founded as a left-wing socialist party. They promoted improved worker conditions, further promoting their success. In just two years, PSI gained 760,000 members.¹⁵

Within this first year of *biennio rosso*, Benito Mussolini, having become disillusioned with socialism, began publishing ideas that would soon take Italy, and the world, by storm. This ideology came to be known as *fascismo*, or fascism, derived from *fascio*, or ‘bundle of sticks.’ Fascism, sitting on the far-right of the political spectrum, emerged as a different interpretation of the post-WWI world. It argued that World War I changed the rules and character of war, and that in ‘total war’ there was no distinction between military combatants and civilians. Similarly, fascism denied that violence was inherently wrong. By contrast, the left-wing ideas that flourished under the *biennio rosso* were largely anti-war. Fascism drew popular support from the upper classes in Italy whose interests were threatened by socialism.

The *biennio rosso* concluded in September of 1920 when workers occupied factories for three weeks attempting to strengthen the working class. Unlike many other European governments, Giovanni Giolitti did not immediately respond with violence, but instead hoped that the strikes would naturally wear themselves out. Though workers were able to occupy factories, the occupations gradually ended over time. The concurrent rise and clash of radical political ideologies like socialism and fascism demonstrated the discontent with the monarchy and laid the foundation for the instability Italy would endure in the coming years.

9 November 1921 – 25 July 1943: Ventennio Fascista

Concurrent with the rise of anti-war ideas was the emergence of *Ventennio Fascista*, or

Italian fascism. Grievances regarding the reigning prime minister, Luigi Facta, and his inability to set Italy upon a solid course of either burgeoning ideology, grew post-war. There were many grievances about how Italy functioned under Luigi Facta, Italy's prime minister from February 1922 to October 1922. Facta was unable to address economic instability, unable to contain the rise of fascism, and was overall perceived as a weak leader. Mussolini's message had spread across Italy by this point, resonating with many employers and his support grew. Plans began to be drawn for the fascists to seize power.¹⁶ On October 28, 1922, a group of fascists led by Mussolini conducted a mass insurrection at the capital of Rome.¹⁷ Fascist party members staged a coup d'état, along with the Blackshirts, a fascist paramilitary group in Italy. Facta believed the solution was to declare a state of siege, or a state of emergency where the government could limit personal freedoms for the sake of stability. However, fearing an all-out civil war, King Emmanuel III demanded that he resign. On October 29, the King sent a telegram to Benito Mussolini requesting that he replace Facta as the new prime minister of Italy.¹⁸ The March on Rome was the official 'celebration' to begin Mussolini's rule. He became Il Duce, or 'the Ruler.'

On October 31, 1922, Mussolini officially became the youngest Prime Minister of Italy at 39 years old. Mussolini was adored by his party and many Italians, despite his oppressive style of rule. To his supporters, he was returning order to a broken nation and returning a sense of national unity.¹⁹ Mussolini's rhetoric was intensely nationalistic, to the extent that he demanded the annexation of Austria-Hungary simply because parts of the region spoke Italian.²⁰

At the time he began his rule, the Fascist Party occupied 35/510 seats in the Italian Chamber of Deputies. Mussolini, eager for more seats in the parliament, called for an election on April 6, 1924. During the time of voting, the Blackshirts used mass intimidation, including the murder of those who opposed Mussolini's message. At the end of the election, the fascists had supposedly won by 64.9%.²¹ Some members of Parliament

attempted to speak up to the election fraud such as Giacomo Matteotti, the leader of the Unitary Socialist Party. His protests, however, were short-lived; after he spoke out, he was kidnapped, stabbed, and murdered. Murder of opposition was not rare during Mussolini's regime.

The Gran Consiglio del Fascismo, or the Grand Council of Fascism, was created in 1923 by Mussolini and was the main governing body of his regime. The Grand Council had the ability to elect deputies and to select a prime minister given a vacant position. It was a creation under the *Partito Nazionale Fascista*, the National Fascist Party. This was the primary political party in Italy from 1921-1943, a period known as *Ventennio Fascista*, or the twenty fascist years.

By January 1935, Mussolini decided to launch a set of decrees in Parliament as he believed only force could repair the issues at hand. The main issues that Mussolini sought to address included economic instability, expansion, and international pressures. He began censorship of the press and all media forms. He banned all opposition parties from the Fascist party. He began a series of training within the youth to follow his principles like that of the Hitler Youth. In 1938, Mussolini began to discriminate against the nation's Jewish population, limiting their jobs in academia and government.²² Though he attempted to improve the economy, he cut wages, raised taxes, and banned any form of protest. Unemployment and inflation remained high throughout his rule. Throughout his regime, King Emmanuel III reserved the right to remove him from office at any point as the sovereign king of the nation. The reason he did not remove him is unsure, however the King likely left him in power due to Mussolini's promises to strengthen Italy and his appeal to the powerful elite.

By 1943, most of the citizens and government members were worried about the fate of Italy under Mussolini. They saw no major improvements in the government, economy, or political system. On July 24, the Fascist Council met to decide the future of Italy and its ruler. Mussolini attempted to explain himself to the council, making

promises of tightening his rule on Italy, but the Council had already decided to give full control to King Emmanuel III. By the next morning, Mussolini was officially voted out by his own Grand Council.

In July 1943, Mussolini was officially forced out of office. He was voted out by his Grand Council, the body who originally supported his regime.²³ King Victor Emmanuel III arranged to meet with Mussolini to discuss his current political standing; however, the King arranged for his arrest directly after the meeting. The King saw Mussolini as a political liability rather than an asset, the arrest was ultimately to strip Mussolini of his powers and to end his rule. Mussolini was removed from office, and Pietro Badoglio became the next prime minister of Italy.

1929: Birth of the Resistance Movement

The removal and imprisonment of Mussolini would not have been possible without the contributions of resistance writers, thinkers, and activists. The most notable movement began forming in 1929; *Giustizia e Libertà*, or Justice and Freedom, was founded by Carlo Rosselli, Francesco Fausto Nitti, and Emilio Lussu in France. Due to Rosselli's criticism to fascism, he was exiled from Italy but was able to make his escape to France.²⁴ Rosselli was a strong opponent of fascist Italy with many works criticizing the government and their methods of rule. Due to Mussolini's strict rule, opposition was shut down quite swiftly across the nation. After years of fervent opposition, he was sentenced by the Italian government to *confino*, or confinement, to the Southern Island of Lipari.²⁵ After two years of confinement, Rosselli, along with Nitti and Lussu, escaped by boat to Paris from Lipari. While in Paris he was able to speak freely against fascism publishing his dissent in his newspaper, *Giustizia e Libertà*. What began as a newspaper evolved into a political organization, the ideas written in the newspaper gained support, and transitioned from ideas on a paper to tangible political action.

Mussolini's goal was to spread fascism not just across Italy, but around the world. This only deepened the issues for Rosselli, most notably in Ethiopia and Spain. Rosselli

suggested that *Giustizia e Libertà* should act in Spain during the Spanish Civil War; he wanted to fight the fascist driven forces. Many of his colleagues opposed action in Spain, but two groups decided to join him: maximalist socialists and anarchists.²⁶ Maximalist Socialist were a more radical wing within the socialist party that advocated for a revolutionary overthrow of capitalism, complete with a full implementation of the ‘maximum programme’. This included full socialization of the land, factories, and all other means of production. By contrast, anarchists rejected the idea of a centrally planned economy, and a centralized government in principle. Rosselli attempted to gain forces for Spain through *Giustizia e Libertà*. He needed arms and soldiers to succeed in this war against the fascists. Fighting for the Spanish gave life to the anti-fascist movement after years of oppression by Mussolini. The war was a conflict between Republicans and Nationalists; the republicans being supporters of the Spanish republic, and Rosselli, and the Nationalists supporting Nazi Germany and the spread of fascism.

On June 9, 1937, Carlo Rosselli and his brother Nello departed Paris and were assassinated, they were killed by a group of cagoulards, a French fascist group. Their deaths shook the anti-fascist community, and around 100,000 to 200,000 attended their funeral. On their tombstone was written, “EXPECT TOGETHER THAT THE SACRIFICE OF THEIR YOUTH WILL HASTEN IN ITALY THE VICTORY OF THEIR IDEALS, JUSTICE, AND LIBERTY”.²⁷ Carlo Rosselli was a pioneer for the anti-fascist movement, and his mission succeeded his life.

The anti-fascist movement took off after his death, as many longed to carry his mission for the future of Italy. *Giustizia e Libertà* lived on.

1 September 1939: WWII Begins

Italy was not alone in the tidal wave of fascism sweeping across the globe. During the twenty fascist years, on September 1, 1939, WWII officially began. On this day, Adolf Hitler invaded Poland, and soon after France and Britain declared war on Germany.²⁸ Adolf Hitler was the fascist leader of Germany whose mission was to spread fascism both

across Germany and around the world. Italy entered the war four years later, on October 13, 1943. Italy joined Germany's side of the war against the Allied Powers (Great Britain, the United States, and the Soviet Union).²⁹ Prior to the entrance of Italy in this war, Mussolini and Hitler signed the Pact of Steel. This pact initiated the formal creation of the Axis Powers. This pact was seen as a defensive and political alliance.³⁰

At the time Italy entered the war, they were not a Great Power. In fact, they had very little raw materials for weaponry, which put them at a severe disadvantage. Before the war, Italy imported about nine million tons of coal and created less than four million tons.³¹ Due to war time engines and cars were limited, decreasing their primary natural resource. Between 1938 and 1939, Italian stocks plummeted by nearly 1 million.³² The war also cut off several of Italy's primary suppliers, such as the United States, limiting their supply of oil. Many factories that produced resources were subject to bombing by the Allied powers.³³ Germany and Italy both had poor war strategies which diminished their supply even quicker. Most of the supplies including ammunition and food were used during the attack on Poland. Italy was the smallest of the industrialized nations, putting them at a severe disadvantage for the war. Within the Axis alliance, Italy produced around 20% of war material that was used for occupations and war with the Allied powers.³⁴

Pursuant to his ambition of conquering the Mediterranean, Mussolini attempted to take over Greece through an invasion of Albania. However, this invasion failed as the army in Greece pushed Italy back into Albania in under a month. The Italians lost many of their soldiers and resources in similar invasions in North Africa and East Africa (Ethiopia).³⁵

Bombing by Allied powers led to major civilian unrest across Italy. Many civilians had fled from major cities to the countryside. Food shortages were high due to the lack of resources, and morale was low. Though Mussolini's government attempted to launch government propaganda campaigns utilizing censorship and media campaigns, they were

largely unsuccessful.³⁶ This civilian unrest led to a direct creation of anti-fascist groups in protest of Mussolini.

At large, Axis successes were largely due to Germany, and failures were due to Italy.

8 September 1943: The Start of the Italian Civil War

On September 8, 1943, German forces invaded Italy.³⁷ This day, which marked the first day of the Italian Civil War and the emergence of the Resistance, had immense consequences for the trajectory of Italy and constitutes one of the most important days in Italian history.³⁸

As Mussolini departed from office, newly elected Prime Minister Pietro Badoglio assumed the responsibility of rebuilding Italy. Badoglio, along with King Emmanuel III, signed the Armistice of Cassibile with the United States and United Kingdom (Allied powers), protecting Italy from these two large world powers.³⁹ The Armistice was signed by Major General Walter Bedell Smith from the Allied end, and Brigade General Giuseppe Castellano from Italy. Badoglio believed partnering with the Allies would lead to success for Italy. Brigade General Giuseppe Castellano was sent to Lisbon, Portugal to work on the details of the Armistice. In the Armistice, Italy agreed to surrender to the Allied powers so long as they removed their occupying troops from Italian land. The Allied troops and Italy would now be working together instead of against each other, in a fight to defeat fascist forces in Italy and Germany.

Germany, however, was displeased with this action and decided to invade Italy beginning in the North, in a mission called Operation Asche.⁴⁰ Mussolini's penchant for government censorship and propaganda was eliminated under the Badoglio administration. Badoglio believed democratic principles such as free speech could lead Italy to success, contradictory to Mussolini, who believed the government could only thrive under his belief system. Opposition was highly present, the biggest of these being

resistance fighters. For years, anti-fascist resistance fighters had vigilantly awaited an opportune moment to reclaim Italy, and the invasion by German forces presented an ideal time for retaliation.

On September 9, 1943, six anti-fascist parties joined to form the National Liberation Committee (CLN).⁴¹ The movement was founded by Ivanoe Bonomi, a revolutionist and Italian politician who was passionate about the rebuilding of Italy. The six parties that met on this day were: the Italian Communist Party, the Labor Democratic Party, the Italian Liberal Party, the Italian Socialist Party, the Action Party, and the Christian Democracy.⁴² The largest party affiliation belonged to the Communist Party, which had around 50,000 resistance fighters.⁴³ The second largest group was the Christian Democrats with about 20,000 fighters. Christian Democrats believed in a Catholic ideology, and were against socialism, communism, and anarchism. The third largest group was the Action Party, which aligned closely with liberal socialism. Liberals, Socialists, and Labor Democratic Party members also were present in the CLN.⁴⁴

Beginning in the North, CLN groups took up arms and directly fought German troops. The importance of this day derives from the power vested upon a previously powerless group. Without the anti-fascist resistance, it is quite possible that Italy would have fallen back under fascist control on September 8th. The resistance groups now had three wars to fight: a war to defeat the fascist groups within Italy, to defeat the German fascist groups, and to eliminate class divisions within Italian society.⁴⁵

The CLNs primarily functioned regionally and responded to issues that were pressing for their region. Each group had a military commander and a political commander. The Northern region of Italy had the most active CLN members due to mountainous terrain. Many workers and families were part of the Northern CLNs.

Southern CLN members tended to be farmers and factory workers. Few members in each CLN communicated with other CLNs to solve issues that affected the nation at large. Some sub-groups within the CLN had higher participation such as the Brigade

Garibaldi, a communist group. Each brigade had a daily “political hour” to engage in debate regarding recent political topics.⁴⁶ The Brigade Garibaldi consisted primarily of the working class. Other sub-groups such as the Action Party consisted of many soldiers. Carlo Rosselli was the founder of this movement whose primary principles tied back to socialism.⁴⁷ The Action Party also had one of the largest newspapers, focusing on educating the citizens of Italy called L’Italia Libera.⁴⁸

September 8, 1943, was a day that many in the CLN believed to be a second *Risorgimento*, meaning ‘rising again’.⁴⁹ The first *risorgimento* resulted in the unification of Italy less than 100 years prior. The groups fought but lacked resources compared to Germany. In the first two weeks of battle, many resistance fighters were murdered by German forces. The CLNs urged Italian citizens to fight, but it became increasingly difficult, as not many were willing to fight German forces. Upon the initial invasion by German forces, it seems they did not realize the extent to which the CLNs would be willing to fight for Italy. Allied powers attempted to assist resistance fighters since they too wished to see an end to fascist rule. The CLN realized a new strategy was necessary to fight the fascist forces, so they decided to split the largest CLN branch into two areas they thought Germans would strike the most. One branch remained in Northern Italy, and the other was in Rome.⁵⁰ These became the two largest branches that smaller CLNs would report to. The Northern troops attempted to fight the German forces in the North and stop before they could reach the rest of the country but failed.

On September 10, 1943, German forces reached Rome. The confrontation between resistance groups and German forces is remembered as the Battle of Porta San Paolo (St. Paul’s Gate).⁵¹ This populous city was met with many casualties and German forces on every street. Prime Minister Pietro Badoglio and Victor Emmanuel III, who both resided in Rome, fled the capital as soon as German forces arrived.⁵² The royal army, no longer receiving orders, fled as they no longer received orders from the King. Italy was essentially unprotected from those who had vowed to protect them from all sides.

A few days later, on September 12, 1943, Mussolini was freed by German troops. A week later on September 23, 1943, he established the Italian Social Republic, (RSI), a puppet regime, and served as the heart of the fascist movement, again.⁵³ German forces attempted to recruit Italian men to serve in the army under Mussolini and fight for the fascists. They were able to take around 18,000 men from Campania and Latium, Italy.⁵⁴ In the absence of the Prime Minister and the King, Italian citizens turned to Bonomi and the CLN.

Resistance groups continued to fight German forces but were halted by a strong defensive line that stretched across Southern Italy. The Gustav Line, or Winter Line, was a combination of three lines that defended the Southwestern part of Italy, primarily the town of Monte Cassino.⁵⁵ Monte Cassino was also surrounded by tall mountains and several river crossings, making it difficult for Allied and resistance troops to capture. This town held significance to the Catholic monastery and was a symbol of peace and magnificence. The history of this town dates to 529 AD.⁵⁶ The anti-fascists attempted to reach Monte Cassino four different times, which involved four different battles. Allied powers were stuck on the opposite side of the Gustav line as the German forces. Commander Mark Clark said the battle was “the most grueling, the most harrowing, and in one aspect the most tragic, of any phase of the war in Italy.”⁵⁷

This holy site was met with heavy bombardment from both armies. US army artillery attempted to blast the Germans off the mountain, destroying the site. Monte Cassino was reduced to rubble.⁵⁸ In total, the anti-fascist resistance sustained around 55,000 casualties to take back Monte Cassino, making this the bloodiest day in the resistance fight for Italy.⁵⁹

4 June 1944: Liberation of Rome and Milan

Resistance forces along with the British 8th Army, and U.S. 5th Army launched an operation to take back Rome on May 11, 1944.⁶⁰ They attacked the Gustav Line, which

was the main German defensive line in the south of Rome, in the Battle of Anzio. On May 25, 1944, Albert Kesserling, commander of German forces, abandoned the Gustav line. This gave way to the entrance of the Allied troops and the successful liberation of Rome. In June 1944, Rome became the first capital to be liberated from German forces.⁶¹

The CLN continued the fight against German forces both in the North and South by disrupting German supply lines. Along with the Allied forces, the resistance groups cut off communication networks and resources for the Germans through a long plan called Operation Herring.⁶²

In April 1945, the Allied troops along with the Garibaldi Brigades resistance group advanced into the area of Milan, Italy.⁶³ Milan was the only city left to take back which the Germans held tightly. After many German forces and supplies were cut off through Operation Herring, resistance groups were able to take back Milan. April 25 is celebrated as the official Liberation Day of Italy commemorating the last day of Germany and fascist occupation. Three days after Milan was liberated, Mussolini was captured while he was attempting to flee Switzerland by resistance group members. They caught and executed him, symbolizing the end of the fascist regime in Italy.

2 June 1946: Institutional Referendum

After years of fighting between the CLN and the Fascist regime, the six parties which made up the CLN were finally able to host a referendum within the nation. This referendum allowed for citizens of Italy to have a say in the future of the nation. The referendum included two options for citizens to vote for the future of Italy. Choice 1 was to rule as a Republic and Choice 2 was to rule as a Monarchy. Each of the six parties campaigned for either of these choices. Generally, the North of Italy wanted a Republic and the South, a monarchy. Ultimately, there were 24,946,878 voters, 54% which voted for a Republic and 45% that voted for a Monarchy. Italy from that day forward was born as a Republic, a day which is celebrated as Festa della Repubblica (Day of the Republic).

Actors and Interests

The Italian Parliament

The Italian Parliament (*Parlamento Italiano*) was a bicameral legislative body that emerged after the Constituent of Assembly was dissolved. It consists of 600 members, which is divided between the Senate of the Republic (Senato della Repubblica) and the Chamber of Deputies (Camera dei Deputati).⁶⁴ The two bodies contain similar legislative powers but operate independent of each other. The number of members in the Parliament fluctuated depending on population. The body has the power to create and pass laws, which must pass in both parts of the legislature, and must be officially passed by the President of the Legislature. The Chamber of Deputies is elected by Italian citizens (18 and over) and contains a mixed-member proportional representation method. The Senate of the republic contains senators elected by citizens 25 and over. This body contains both ordinary and special constituencies. Ordinary constituencies are elected by proportional representation. Special constituencies (citizens living abroad) use both a plurality system and proportional representation.⁶⁵

In the 1948 elections for the Chamber of Deputies, the Christian Democrats won a majority, obtaining 53.5% of the seats. However, since there was proportional representation, no one party had an extreme majority.⁶⁶ The new parliament focused on economic policy which involved reconstruction and development. They also focused on stability to mend the divisions in Italian society. Lastly, they focused on foreign policy, often following pro-Western policy.⁶⁷

The Constituent Assembly of Italy

The Italian Constituent Assembly was a legislative body in Italy that existed for about 7 months following the dissolution of the Italian monarchy.⁶⁸ After the referendum, the Assembly was responsible for creating an Italian Constitution. The three

main political parties that existed in this assembly were the Christian Democrats, the Italian Socialist Party, and the Italian Communist Party. Christian Democracy largely stood for conservative beliefs both economically and socially; this party accounted for 207 seats in the Constituent Assembly.⁶⁹ The Italian Socialist party believed heavily in socialist, far left principles; they held 115 seats in the Constituent. The third largest party was the Italian Communist Party, which was a democratic socialist, left-wing political party that was the largest in the CLN. They held 104 seats in the Constituent. The Constituent also included a few other small political parties disregarding these three large parties. The elections for the assembly represented 32 electoral regions in a proportional representation system. The primary task for the body was to create a constitution but they were also responsible for the nation's budget and handled various international treaties.⁷⁰

As their main interest was to create the constitution, they worked to create a set of formal rules that would encompass all groups in Italy. After years of fascist rule, they wanted to ensure Italy would not fall back under an undemocratic rule. The official constitution consists of 139 articles.⁷¹ It is divided into three parts, the first regards the rights of citizens, and the second the rules of the republic of Italy. The first section highlights the division between the catholic church and state, something that was not present under the monarchy. This section also highlights that citizens have the rights to speech, to assemble unarmed, to travel freely, along with various other rights. However, they are not allowed to have any secret organizations that have military character. The last section includes general provisions for the government.⁷²

Eventually the assembly's role was no longer needed and was officially replaced with the Italian Parliament.

The CIA

The United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was known to be heavily involved in the 1948 Italian election. After the 1946 referendum, this election was the first Italy had as a republic. Czechoslovakia having fallen in 1946 as the last democracy in

Eastern Europe because of Soviet interference, the Truman administration was increasingly worried about the results of the Italian election. Particularly, the CIA predicted that allowing Italy to stay on-course would mean a certain win for the communist party, then united under the Popular Democratic Front of Italy (FDP). Further, they predicted that a Soviet invasion (physical or covert) of Western Europe was imminent. These fears pushed the CIA in its infancy, only having been created a year prior, to save Italy from falling to communism.

Leading up to the election, the Truman administration funneled millions of dollars into thwarting the success of left-wing parties. This money was not only allocated to propaganda and smear-campaigns, but financial support for the opposition party. The CIA supported the Christian Democratic Party, a right-wing pro-Western party with traditional values. Only many years later, in the 1990s, was it revealed that the CIA had spread propaganda against the Communist Party in Italy by forging letters and pamphlets to discredit them. They also tried to put out radio broadcasts that pushed anti-communist rhetoric. The CIA even worked with Time magazine to feature the head of the Christian Democratic Party, Alcide De Gasperi. In total, the United States spent between \$10-\$20 million to ensure Italy would not turn communist. Through the Marshall Plan, which was a United States plan to assist European nations which had been torn due to World War II, the United States poured more money into Italy. A large goal of the plan was to stop the spread of communism.⁷³ In addition to spreading propaganda about the horrors of communism, the CIA also claimed that the Communist party was receiving funds from the Soviet Union, which was also a justification for their own intervention.

The Action Party

The Italian Action Party (Partito d'Azione) was a prominent political party that emerged in the early 1940s, and remained popular for a decade. The party was officially founded in 1942, when they emerged as opposition to the Fascist regime. The Action Party worked closely with the six other parties in the CLN to fight German forces and

Italian fascists. Members of the Action Party typically came from Central and North Italy, both places that faced struggles during the war. They attracted the middle class with their progressive ideas and push for social justice.⁷⁴

The core ideas of the Action Party aligned with republicanism. Their core belief was that the monarchy was harmful to Italian society, and a republic would make Italy thrive. The party also supported policies for worker's rights and social equality.

Feruccio Parri was a key leader of the Italian resistance, and the most notable figure of the Action Party. Parri served as the Prime Minister of Italy in 1945 and advocated for the Action Party's democratic principles. As the Prime Minister, Parri led a coalition government based on CLN leadership. He was crucial to post-War Italy and laid the groundwork for recovery.⁷⁵

Ugo La Malfa was also a significant member of the Action Party. La Malfa was an economist and politician that pushed for economic reforms in a post-War Italy. He believed that by combining economic policies with social policies, inequality across the nation could be decreased.⁷⁶

In post-war Italy, the Action party brought significant contributions to the drafting of the new Italian constitution. Their efforts and policies during the war left a legacy throughout Italy for decades after they dissolved.

The Christian Democrats

The Christian-Democracy is a political group which largely stands for political freedom and right-wing beliefs. This party attempts to apply Christian principles to both social and political life.⁷⁷ However, the Christian Democrats' goal was not to make a Christian state. The party believes in freedoms for citizens that include free expression, freedom to organize politically, and other social and economic rights.⁷⁸

They were largely supported by the United States and the West due to their anti communist beliefs. They promised citizens that if they ruled, they would guarantee public

order and economic stability. They often criticized communism for its lack of political freedom. One of the founders of the party, Alcide De Gasperi, said “we are not fighting the communist party because of its economic program, with regard to which an agreement might be possible, up to a certain point.”⁷⁹ De Gasperi served under both Victor Emmanuel III and Umberto II. He served for eight years and was the first prime minister of the Italian republic. He was also the representative for the Christian Democrats in the CLN. When he became Prime Minister he led a coalition government, with communist leader Togliatti as deputy prime minister. De Gasperi himself received a great deal of American support due to his anti-communist beliefs. He believed that by implementing policies to promote industrialization, the economy would grow exponentially. His party supports a mixed economy system involving a balance between the private and public sector. De Gasperi prioritized national interests and European interests and sought to balance power between Italy’s role in Europe and with other nations.

Though many citizens were not the biggest proponents of the Christian, or clerical influence on the party, they preferred this to communism. In the initial elections for the Chamber of Deputies, in 1948 the Christian Democracy received 13 million votes.⁸⁰ About 10 million voted for Marxist parties (Communist and Socialist).⁸¹ The Christian Democracy was most popular in the North. Between the 1946 and 1948 elections, the votes for the Marxist parties dropped by 10%. Most parties that were popular during the resistance were quelled by the rise in popularity from the Christian Democrats.

The Communist Party

The communist campaign was the largest throughout the resistance but slowly faded with the rise of the Christian Democrats. Communism in Italy when it was most popular often exploited citizens' fear of fascism, but after this fear was gone their support dwindled.⁸² The main goal of the communists was to convince the citizens of their relevance and importance in society. With a collapsed economy and lack of resources,

communism did not seem to be the solution for many Italians. Their solutions seemed to be temporary, for example, regarding the industrial system, the communists believed that low production and high costs could fix the issues surrounding industries. However, this proved to be inefficient considering Italy's reliance on international trade. The main group which found communism appealing was peasants who owned no land, as communism promised to protect them. However, larger groups such as industrial workers believed that communism would lead to higher levels of social injustice and economic instability.⁸³ Most groups saw that communism had torn apart other nations such as the Soviet Union, and therefore did not want to entrust power onto this group.

Palmiro Togliatti was the head of the Italian Communist Party for forty years. He was responsible for the success and size of the communist party and was vice-prime minister to De Gasperi.⁸⁴ During the 1948 election, Togliatti created an alliance with the Socialist Party and the Popular Democratic Front party against the Christian Democracy. Though his party did not receive the majority, he is often called one of the fathers of the Italian Republic. Despite their defeat Togliatti remained a prominent figure in Italian politics, vouching for a communist, left-wing system.

The Socialist Party

The Italian Socialist Party (Partito Socialista Italiano, PSI) was another one of the six parties that opposed a fascist state. They primarily believed in Socialism and Workers Rights. This included the redistribution of wealth and improved working conditions. They also stood for Democracy and Anti-Fascism. The socialists stood for welfare programs for all Italians to improve society at large. They were strongly opposed to a non-secular state and opposed the Catholic Church. Due to their beliefs, their base primarily consisted of industrial workers and the lower middle class; this was typically in Central and North Italy, particularly in urban areas.⁸⁵

PSI was known to have many disagreements with the Italian communist party which often caused tensions in Italy society and created internal divisions. Pietro Nenni

was the leader of the PSI and was known to advocate for socialist policies. He was an active participant in the Italian Constituent Assembly.⁸⁶

During the war, the Socialist party had a particularly large base as they catered towards social reform. They became a very influential member in the Constituent Assembly and during the drafting of the new Italian constitution. Despite the many challenges they faced, they had a large significance on Italian politics and left a legacy.⁸⁷

The Italian Liberal Party

The Italian Liberal Party (Partito Liberale Italiano, PLI) aimed to restore liberal values and oppose fascism in Italy. The party leaned right and opposed the Communist and Socialist Parties. They advocated for Classical Liberalism, which included free markets, private property, and limited government intervention. Most citizens who aligned with the PLI were upper class. This was typically wealthy business owners who wanted individual freedoms. This often became a struggle for the party since they had a smaller base and less individuals to appeal to.⁸⁸

The most prominent figure of the Liberal Party was Luigi Einaudi, who was a liberal political figure and economist. He became the second president of the Italian republic and was known for his aid in economic policies.⁸⁹

The Italian Liberal Party had a large influence due to their prominent figures and wealthy base. They had less impact during the writing of the constitution than other parties but still had tremendous influence throughout the late 1940s.

The Labor Democratic Party

The Labor Democratic Party (Partito Democratico del Lavoro, PDL) was a smaller political party in 1940s Italy. Like other anti-fascist parties, it emerged by a group of anti fascists who hoped for Italian democratic reconstruction. The PDL was a left-wing party and more conservative than the Christian Democrats. Their smaller base consisted of trade

unionists typically from Central Italy.

The party played a significant role in the development of the Constitution and contributed to the Constituent Assembly.

Ivanoe Bonomi, is one of the most prominent figures of this time and was a member of the PDL. He served as the face of the resistance and was the Prime Minister of Italy prior to World War II. His impact within Italy was enormous as he created many reconstruction policies and built back Italy's image. He was able to unite all fascist parties together in the CLN and was a reason that the anti-fascist forces were able to defeat the fascists. He typically had moderate reformist policies that leaned most with the PDL.⁹⁰

The party struggled against other parties that were larger and more established, citizens typically were more interested in larger parties that could have a larger impact. This also created issues of legitimacy within their own party.

Possible Causes

The Effects from the War

The war fought between the anti-fascist forces and fascist forces can be largely described as tumultuous and unpredictable. This time period left Italy in ruin and caused many issues for Italy years after. Italy was marked with physical and social destruction.

The war destroyed much of Italy's infrastructure due to extensive bombing by the fascist forces. This left major cities in Italy such as Rome, Milan, and Naples suffering. Most areas that were the core of Italian life were reduced to rubble.⁹¹ The destruction left despair among citizens and contributed to the shortage of essential goods. Farmlands along with major cities were also severely damaged resulting in food scarcity across the nation.⁹²

The collapse of the fascist regime left a significant mark on the political system in Italy. Suddenly, parties that were once united against fascism, were now exposed to each

other's differences. The years of fascist propaganda left large divisions among political factions across the nation. This also created polarizing agendas for each party, as each had diverse political goals when building a new Italy.

The effects of the war were immense, and it required a complete transformation of the country's political, economic, and social fabric.

The Monarchy

Italy's foundation as a monarchy greatly contributed to the unstable nature of the country throughout the 20th century. The weakness of the monarchy under Victor Emmanuel III was perceived as ineffective. As fascism swept under Emmanuel's feet, he did nothing to stop it. The monarchy's inability to provide a stable leadership directly allowed for Mussolini and his fascist regime to enter. Before Mussolini's surge of power, the monarchy was incapable of providing for Italian citizens.⁹³

During World War I, the monarchy struggled to provide for citizens during wartime hardship. Due to the war, there was a large economic strain placed on the country including high inflation and unemployment rates. Additionally, Italy faced a series of military defeats, under the direction of the Royal Army. Most notably, the Battle of Caporetto in 1917 was a severe humiliation for Italy. 600,000 Italians were either deserted or surrendered due to German and Austrian forces.⁹⁴ The military failures decreased the public confidence of the monarchy overall. During the war, many citizens engaged in protests and strikes. The monarchy was incapable of addressing these societal tensions, which led to increased polarization and political instability. This also led to a variety of political parties emerging within Italy. Toward the end of World War I, many citizens disagreed with Italy's place in the war, questioning its purpose. This questioning of the monarchy's capabilities paved the way for alternative movements such as socialism and fascism to emerge, which proposed a radical change from their current government.⁹⁵ The monarchy's position domestically and abroad was severely tainted due to its collaboration with fascist forces. King Victor Emmanuel III, appointed Mussolini to

power himself. This action harmed Italian society and had severe long-term impacts.⁹⁶ The collaboration between the monarchy and fascist forces gave legitimacy to the fascist forces. The monarchy had only existed in name essentially.

The Monarchy created a weak foundation for the Italian future. It directly gave way to fascism and the German occupation of Italy. It created severe long-term economic and military setbacks. Overall, it decreased Italian legitimacy domestically and abroad.⁹⁷ Italy's foundation as a monarchy contributed to the rise of fascism by creating political instability and paving the way for fascism within Italy.

German Occupation

The occupation of Germany in Italy, beginning in 1943 with Operation Asche, is a large cause for the continuous rise in fascism.⁹⁸ The occupation was a significant step back for both CLN groups and Allied forces. After Mussolini was no longer the ruler of Italy, CLN groups rejoiced as they finally had the ability to express their opinions freely. However, the German occupation quickly crushed this celebration. Without the German occupation, Italy would likely have been able to advance their society and rebuild much quicker. However, the occupation was a large setback in their victory and required years more of fighting for Italy.⁹⁹

The German occupation had put Mussolini back in power as leader of the Italian Social Republic.¹⁰⁰ The German support for Mussolini's regime allowed him to continue holding power and maintain fascist control within Italy. The German forces along with Mussolini worked closely to suppress any opposition from the CLN groups.¹⁰¹ They attempted to maintain order in Italian territories as it was controlled under Mussolini. Together they intended to repress groups and instill fear within the Italian population.¹⁰² This often set back resistance efforts as many feared to turn against the fascist powers. This fear gave more legitimacy to the fascist powers as it reinforced their authority within the region.

Along with the fear they attempted to instill, German forces engaged in propaganda to promote fascist ideology. This propaganda often included positive statements about German collaboration with Italy, and how this collaboration was necessary to preserve national identity.¹⁰³ These images or posters would often present Mussolini and German forces as defenders of Italy against the resistance movement. It also depicted the Allied powers as villains who were attempting to destroy Italy. German forces primarily used newspapers, and radio broadcasts to spread propaganda within the nation.¹⁰⁴ However, they also attempted to spread their message in education systems to influence the younger generation towards fascism; this often focused on obedience to authority and loyalty to the fascist regime.

The German forces additionally exploited Italy economically, which had severe long-term effects. They saw Northern and Central Italy's agricultural and industrial resources and intended to seize them. They intended to exploit the human, logistical, and natural resources within Italy. They had first set up operation zones in Bolzano, Trento, and Belluno, in the North of Italy, where there were many factories and natural resources. They aimed to crush any resistance beginning in these Northern villages.¹⁰⁵

The occupation aimed to display the power of the fascist forces, as a 'lesson' for any nation who thought to rebel against them. It was both a military endeavor and a propaganda mission to ultimately elevate the fascist party and their legitimacy both in Italy and around the world.¹⁰⁶

Comparison of Causes

Though the causes for the Italian resistance are each distinctive, each of them contributed to the rise of fascism, or the decline of it within Italy. The causes are interconnected and dependent on each other in many ways.

World War II connects back to almost all the causes mentioned, particularly to the effects from the war. The outbreak of World War II, created the division between Allied

and Axis powers, eventually leading the Allied powers to invade Italy. After the fall of Mussolini, the Allied powers began working with many Italians rather than against them. Due to this, they were able to win against the fascist forces. Without World War II, this international intervention from global superpowers such as the United States and the United Kingdom may have never occurred.

Similarly, the lack of national identity may have contributed to the German occupation. The lack of national identity crumpled Italy's foundation and made way for many atrocities to occur within Italy. Without the citizens banded together there would be no foundation for success. This lack of identity contributed to German forces occupying Italy, as there was little to stop their entrance. The German occupation intensified the conflict and presented a significant obstacle for the CLN and Allied Powers. Throughout the CLN's existence, national identity was still not present due to the consistent war against fascist forces. This fractured the Italian social landscape.

At large, all these causes gave way to a rise of fascism, as they created a weakness within Italy and destroyed any existing foundation of Italian government and society. Each of these causes have a unique background, but ultimately build off one another. None of these causes are truly independent of another but instead rely on each other. Italian history could have changed drastically without the inclusion of any of these causes; each of which have had both negative and positive contributions to Italian society.

Projections and Implications

Italy has been unable to maintain a stable form of governance since its unification. After the 1946 Institutional Referendum the citizens decided that a Republic would be best suited for this nation. However, many years of war and instability left Italy with a crumbling system that needed repair. The decision of what to do next was up to the Italian Parliament, who could change the trajectory of Italy forever. Without a stable form of governance, Italy will likely continue a path of self-destruction, with a crumbling economy and weak authority both domestically and internationally. However, if the

Italian parliament can rebuild effectively, the benefits for citizens, global image, the economy, and the government will be exponential. At their pace in the 1940s, Italy is one of the only governments that has been unable to form a stable system of governance. It is important to consider why exactly Italy was not able to form a stable government when assessing how to govern Italy in the future.

As a significant member of the European region, Italy's failures directly contribute to a European failure at large. Each of Italy's setbacks created additional challenges for Europe. This includes military setbacks, as war continued within the region. It also increased the duration of conflict post-World War II within Europe. The unsteadiness of Italy's governance displaced millions of Italian citizens, who fled across Europe. This created a significant strain on bordering European nations, who had an influx of refugees enter their nation. After many years of war, Italy was not only at odds with external conflicts, but also faced severe internal divisions. Due to a lack of national identity, North and South divides remained rampant years after the war. Individuals from the Northern region practically existed in an alternate nation than the South. This often created animosity between the two groups, often resulting in violence and casualties. Without a unified Italy, hostility will likely increase from foreign powers, broadening the issues surrounding Italy's foreign image. Without members of parliament bringing this nation together, violence will continue, and the nation will remain divided.

The members of the Italian Parliament's decisions will have a profound impact. Members of parliament must assess the benefits and weaknesses of potential future actions while developing a comprehensive reconstruction plan. If Parliament members fail to act effectively, long-term instability will persist throughout Italy. This will likely lead to economic struggles, social unrest, and political repression.

Many challenges are presented in the re-building of Italy, especially after years of instability and war time. Each problem members of parliament will face will provide its own challenges. How Italy is governed will impact the citizens, global perspective, and

the country's position at large.

Committee Jurisdiction

The Historical Italian Parliament will begin on June 3, 1946, the day after the Italian institutional referendum, and will span from 1946-1948. This day signifies the first public day Italy became a republic, after years of wartime. This day has entirely shifted the trajectory of Italian history.

Across these three years, delegates will be Italian parliament members with various occupations and political affiliations. Party affiliations will derive from the six primary political parties in Italy at this time. This includes the Communist Party, the Socialist Party, the Action Party, the Liberal Party, the Christian Democrats, and the Labor Democratic Party. These groups will have different priorities regarding social welfare, government power, and economic beliefs. Political leanings will have a large effect on decisions made during committees. Delegates should consider their political affiliations when responding to conflicts within the committee and during the crafting of solutions.

Delegate roles will generally stay the same across all three years of the committee. To combat these crises, each delegate will have a list of powers related to their role in the committee, this will allow each delegate to perform a unique set of actions in debate. The actions taken at any point during the committee will have an impact on the future political system of Italy.

This committee is a formal governing body but struggled to gain legitimacy after the war. After Mussolini was removed from power, this body turned into the primary leader of reconstruction across Italy. This committee also has direct communication with the Allied powers, which can assist, if the committee chooses. Each member of the committee will have a unique capability and together can influence different sectors of the nation. Delegates will be able to pass legislation if they have reached a majority vote in committee.

As a historical committee, there will be no technology use, as it was not available during this time.

Conclusion

The Italian Parliament will be tasked with conquering Italy's challenges that it faced in a post-War nation. After years of war time with fascist forces, both internally and externally, it is integral to understand the forces which allowed this nation to be torn down. The individuals tasked with this challenge are members of the Italian Parliament. We represent a group of diverse individuals with unique backgrounds and political parties, and hail from a wide range of geographical locations throughout Italy, from the most Northern tip to the lowest Southern point.

Being tasked with these challenges, we must work together to create a comprehensive solution. Throughout this overarching process, we will be assessing various documents and drawing up legislative solutions for Italian citizens. These documents include foreign communication and policies created by local governments. Perhaps the most challenging difficulty will be a claim to legitimacy for this committee, as the Italian Parliament is the official government, but struggled to gain trust across the Italian populace. As a non-government group, it may be difficult to enforce power, and some may disagree with the power that this body possesses. This body will be confronted with the difficulty of establishing legitimacy.

There is a great deal of forces within Italy which were working against the Italian parliament. This includes fascist groups that were still present in Italy and those were against the republic. These groups challenged the Italian Parliament's legitimacy and sought for an alternate rule such as a Monarchy. This committee will also interact with many outside powers, including the United States and the United Kingdom. Their support may be valuable for the success of this committee.

This body is tasked with the present and future of Italy and can change the path of

history forever. Many have already passed away due to years of war time and others have been torn from families or injured due to the lack of stable governance within Italy. It is this committee's duty to return stability within Italy and bring those who were lost back home.

Discussion Questions

- How can a member of parliament prioritize the large task list that Italy is faced with after years of war time?
- What role should Italy play in the international arena? Should Italy's primary goal be strengthening global ties or improving domestic concerns?
- Who/what is the number one priority?
- How can a nation protect/rebuild itself after a period of war?
- What effects do neighboring nations (such as France, Austria, Albania) have during the rebuilding of Italy?
- How can your specific role as a member of parliament alter the future of Italy and address the concerns of the nation at large?
- What impact will a new system of governance have on the citizens of Italy?

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[q&f=false](#)

This novel is a comprehensive recounting of the Italian Resistance. It includes information from 1918-1948, so I would suggest skimming until the 1940s, as this will be the most important information for this committee. This novel is divided in quite a digestible way, it allows you to understand the rise of fascism and its different factors, as well as understand the instability of the Italian government. I would also suggest taking a look at the end which has a Chronology of all events.

M. K. G. "Republic versus Monarchy in Italy." *The World Today* 2, no. 7 (1946): 305–13. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40392276>.

This journal article examines the various systems of governance within Italy and the strengths and weaknesses of both. It looks at a republic system in contrast to a monarchy system. This looks at the election results in the referendum of 1948. I would suggest taking a look at the party breakdown for each group.

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This video depicts the movement of the Fascist and Anti-Fascist forces in Italy, during the Italian Civil War. It is important to look at the timeline in the top right corner in comparison to major war landmarks. In the early 1940s when German forces invaded, the colors are quite split, but over time the blue began advancing, eventually encompassing all of Italy.

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