The Rise of Mussolini in Italy

Who was Benito Mussolini?

How did Mussolini change Italy in the 1930’s?
What problems existed for Italy after World War I?

- Many...
  - 460,000 soldiers killed
  - Heavy debt
  - Britain and France did not give Italy the land they promised
  - Ineffective government
  - Rising unemployment led to unrest in cities
How did Italians react to the Treaty of Versailles?

- Italians believed that it treated them badly.
  - Failed land promises
  - Felt ignored & humiliated by the other Allied nations

- Italy’s foreign Minister Emanuele Orlando left before the treaty was finished
Treaty of Versailles Conference (1918)
The Most Interesting Diplomat in the World…
Italy’s troubles after World War II
Thus Brings US to Benito Mussolini...
What was Mussolini's early life like?

• Mussolini was born into a working class family in 1883
  – Father = blacksmith / political radical
  – Mother = teacher

• Named for Mexican reformer and President Benito Juárez
Mussolini's Parents
What was Mussolini like as a young man?

- Expelled from numerous boarding schools
  - Studied to be a teacher
- Moved to Switzerland to avoid military service (1902)
  - Became a political writer / newspaper editor
  - Served in World War I
Mussolini's Numerous Arrests
Mussolini in World War I
How did Mussolini get involved in Italian politics?

- Following World War I, Mussolini formed his own political party, the Fascist Party.
  - One-Man rule (Mussolini)
  - Complete control over all aspects of society
  - Control of government through force to improve Italy’s standing & prestige

- Mussolini said this at a party conference:

  "Either the government will be given to us or we will seize it by marching on Rome."
Mussolini the Politician
Mussolini the “Crazy Eyes”
“The Chin...”
Not to be confused with...
How does Mussolini gain power in Italy?

- Mussolini set up a political party and promised to solve Italy’s problems
  - Promised to rebuild Italy
  - Recreate the Roman Empire
- Organized armed gangs called the “Blackshirts”
- Came to power in 1922 to prevent a Communist Revolution in Italy
The “Black Shirts”
Slaughter of Political Critics
This man *mercilessly* slaughtered millions upon millions of people.
Including that little girl.
Like 5 seconds later.
Seriously. Just look at that face.
He's a monster.
“Il Duce” – “The Leader”
How did Mussolini help Italy during the Great Depression?

- Mussolini’s government controlled all aspects of the economy
  - Public Works programs
  - Forced military drafts
- Popular with Italian people
  - “Made the trains run on time…”
What is Mussolini's ambitions for expansion?

- Mussolini has designs on creating a new “Roman Empire”
  - Condemned (but not stopped) by the League of Nations

- List of aggressions
  - 1920’s = annexes small states in Italy
  - 1935 = invades Ethiopia (Africa)
  - 1939 = Invades Albania
This will be a great victory...
Modern Italian Army vs...
The Ethiopians...
Mussolini's African Disaster...
Lovers...Not Fighters...
What is the future of Fascist Italy?

• Despite criticism from League of Nations, Mussolini continues to threaten his neighbors

• 1939 = The Pact of Steel
  – Military alliance w/ Nazi Germany
World History’s Biggest “Bro-mance”