

LEE - MUSSOLINI

1. Analyse Mussolinis rise to power	2. The methods Mussolini used to stay in power	3. The decline of Mussolini
<p>1. Opportunism</p> <p>2. How Mussolini exploited the weakness of the establishment</p>	<p>1. The extent he left the previous administrative structure standing</p> <p>2. The personality cult "Mussolinianism"</p>	<p>1. The results of personal defects</p> <p>2. Growing weaknesses within the system</p> <p>3. The close connection with Nazi Germany</p>
<p>a. Mussolini's only really consistent belief was in necessity of <i>direct involvement</i></p> <p>b. In 1932 Mussolini claimed "<i>My own doctrine . . . had always been a doctrine of action</i>"</p> <p>c. Mussolini was <i>inconsistent</i> "<i>Only maniacs never change. New facts call for new positions</i>" (About WWI...)</p> <p>d. <i>Mussolini's strength</i> lay in his <i>having no overall system</i> and <i>no ideological straightjacket</i></p> <p>e. Mussolini was an <i>opportunist</i></p> <p>f. Mussolini used a combination of <i>parliamentary manoeuvre</i> and <i>extra-parliamentary radical pressure</i></p> <p>g. Mussolinis way of using the <i>weaknesses and divisions</i> within the <i>executive</i> and <i>legislature</i> gave the <i>few Fascists far greater importance than the 35 seats</i> (in 1921)</p> <p>h. Action - the <i>capture of Ferrara by 63000 fascists</i> and their move against the "socialist strikes"</p> <p>i. Action - "<i>March on Rome</i>"</p> <p>j. Mussolini <i>attacked</i> both <i>socialism</i> and <i>liberalism</i> in his paper <i>offering himself as a unifier</i></p> <p>k. The <i>rejection of a united front</i> enabled <i>Mussolinis take-over</i></p> <p>l. Major <i>mistake to think Mussolini could be used "as a pawn"</i></p> <p>m. Mussolini's inconsistent policy - <i>agreed with workers' control of factories + promised to uphold capitalism + nationalism</i></p> <p>n. <i>No ideological commitments!</i></p>	<p>a. <i>Three constitutional laws enabled Mussolini's take-over</i></p> <p>1. <i>1923 - Electoral Law (Acerbo Laws)</i> - two-thirds majority to the governing party (at least 25%)</p> <p>2. <i>1926 - Mussolini was enabled to govern by decree</i></p> <p>3. <i>1928 - New electoral law gives a new system with a Fascist Grand Council</i> (They suggested 400 candidates that could be accepted or rejected en masse)</p> <p>b. <i>OVRA</i> - the secret police force was formed in 1926</p> <p>c. <i>Mussolini implanted his own methods of control</i> over the economy through a series of "battles" and public programmes</p> <p>d. Mussolini also introduced the "<i>corporate state</i>"</p> <p>e. Mussolini <i>left part of the old system intact</i> - ex. the system of <i>local prefects</i> (above fascists)</p> <p>f. Mussolini <i>played members of the Fascist Grand Council against each other</i></p> <p>g. Mussolini insisted on a <i>wide-spread membership of the Party</i></p> <p>h. Mussolini <i>made the administrative machine very complex...</i></p> <p>i. Mussolini <i>ruled by balancing the state and the Party!</i></p> <p>j. Mussolini <i>deliberately weakened the Fascist organizations</i> so no one could challenge his authority</p> <p>k. <i>Mussolini was the centre of convergence for all major forces</i></p> <p>l. <i>Mussolini emphasized his role by reactivating Italy's great past (fascies, salute, eagle & wolf)</i></p>	<p>a. Mussolinis <i>personality cult</i> was also <i>partly responsible for his decline</i></p> <p>b. Mussolini <i>took to much personal responsibility</i> - in 1929 he ran 8 key ministries: foreign affairs, interior, war, navy, aviation, colonies, corporations & public works</p> <p>c. Mussolini <i>showed little interest in anything that could not be solved by intuitive measures...</i></p> <p>d. Mussolini <i>might have been able to remain in power if he hadn't got involved in "foreign affairs"</i></p> <p>e. During the <i>1920's Mussolini</i> was seen as a statesman who cared about the <i>collective security</i> in the <i>30's</i> he became an <i>aggressor</i></p> <p>f. <i>After the Wall Street Crash</i> Mussolini was not restrained by US investments - this <i>depression led to more direct control over the economy</i>. Mussolini now geared it for <i>war and expansion</i>.</p> <p>g. The <i>conquest of an African empire - Abyssinia - brought glory</i></p> <p>h. The <i>Rome-Berlin Axis brought ultimate disaster...</i></p> <p>i. <i>Military failure - a catastrophic impact on Mussolini's cult...</i></p> <p>j. The <i>final blow</i> was the <i>reaction against the import of Nazi doctrines</i> (especially anti-semitism)</p> <p>k. <i>Instead of making the Fascist Party more homogeneous Mussolini continued to divide and rule</i></p> <p>l. Unlike Hitler <i>Mussolini never assumed the title as well as the effective power of state</i>. The Italian army took an oath to the state...</p>