**Mussolini’s Foreign Policy – Chapter 8**

Analyse the importance of Mussolini’s foreign policy on the maintenance of power.

Evaluate the successes and failures of Mussolini’s foreign policy.

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1. What did Mussolini mean when he said he wanted to make Italy “great, respected, and feared”? What were his goals?

**Diplomacy 1922-32**

2. What factors limited Fascist foreign policy in the 1920’s?

3. Why was the Greece & Corfu incident hailed as a success for Mussolini? What weaknesses did it reveal?

4. What foreign policy success did Mussolini have with respect to the Balkans (Yugoslavia and Albania)? \*Pact of Rome 1924 and Treaty of Friendship 1926

5. How did Mussolini deal with the great powers of Europe – Britain and France? \*Locarno Treaties 1925 and Kellogg-Briand Pact 1928

6. Why did Mussolini’s foreign policy become more ambitious and aggressive from the late 1920s?

**German-Italian Relations 1923-35**

7. Why did Mussolini see a strong resurgent Germany as a benefit to Italy? What were some of Mussolini’s concerns and fears with respect to a strong Germany?

8. Why did relations between Germany and Italy reach a low in March 1935? What was the Stressa Front? How did Mussolini hope to manipulate the situation to his benefit?

**War in Ethiopia 1935**

9. What were Mussolini’s aims? Why was Ethiopia the perfect target?

10. What was Mussolini’s excuse for war with Ethiopia? How did he justify the war to the Italian people?

11. Why was Ethiopia easily defeated? Read Mussolini’s telegram on

page 122, what insight does it reveal?

12. How far did the war increase domestic support for Mussolini?

13. What actions did the League of Nations take? What was the Hoare-Laval Pact and what did it reveal to Mussolini about the great powers and the League?

**Alliance with Germany 1936-39**

14. Why did Mussolini ally with Nazi Germany? What were the terms of the Rome-Berlin Axis of 1936?

15. Why did Mussolini commit troops to the Spanish Civil War in 1936?

16. How did Anschluss effect relations between Italy and Nazi Germany?

17. Why was Mussolini hailed as an “architect of peace” after the Munich Conference set up to avoid war with Germany over the Sudetenland?

18. How did Mussolini attempt to prove Italy was a major power in 1939?

19. Why did Mussolini sign a military alliance with Nazi Germany in 1939? Pact of Steel

20. Why did Italy not join WWII in September 1939, but chose to join in June 1940?

**The Second World War and the Fall of Mussolini – Chapter 9**

1. Why did Italy suffer military defeats in Greece, North Africa and East Africa between 1940-43?

2. Why did Mussolini fall from power? Why did prominent fascists like Mussolini’s son in law Ciano and Dino Grandi decide Mussolini must be dismissed?

3. Why was the invasion of Sicily by the Allies in July 1943 the last straw for Mussolini’s reign? How was his dismissal accomplished? What form of government replaced the fascist regime? Who was appointed Prime Minister?

4. What were the consequences of the fall of Mussolini’s regime? Consider both the occupation of Italy and the civil war.

5. What was to be the fate of Mussolini and Italy?