**The Weakness of Liberal Italy 1870-1915 (Chapter 2)**

* How did the unification of Italy come about between 1815 and 1870? What type of government was formed once the nation was unified?
* What were the problems facing Italy between 1870-1915? How serious were the challenges faced by the Liberal rulers of Italy?
* Why was the Liberal political system weak?
* Why did the Liberals face growing challenges to their political dominance? 3 reasons.
* How stable was the Liberal regime on the eve of the First World War? Explain both the positive and negative views.

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**The Rise of Fascism 1915-22 (Chapter 3)**

**Problems Facing Liberal Italy**

* What did Italy hope to gain by joining the First World War in May 1915?
* How did the conduct of the war lead to criticism of the Liberal regime? Be specific.
* How did the economic legacy of the war further challenge Liberal Italy? Be specific.
* What was the “Socialist Threat”? Electoral victories in November 1919? Why were many middle class and conservative Italians terrified of Socialism and unimpressed with the Liberal government’s response to it?
* Explain the “Mutilated Victory”. Why did the peace settlement undermine support for the Liberal government?
* Explain the seizure of Fiume. How did this event further undermine the Liberal government?

**Mussolini & Birth of Fascism**

* What were the ideas behind the early Fascist movement? When was the first meeting?
* Explain the early failures of the Fascists in 1919.

**The Rise of Fascism 1919-21**

* In 1919, why did the Liberal government find it difficult to achieve majority support in the Italian parliament?
* Explain the advances made by the Socialists in the cities and countryside in 1920. How did the actions of the Liberal government alienate many conservative Italians and big business?
* By 1920, why did Fascism attract growing support in the countryside of central and northern Italy?
* Explain the origin of Fascist violence – Squadrismo. What types of people were attracted to Fascism and why?
* How did Mussolini gain control over the local Fascist squads?
* What success did the Fascists achieve in the 1921 elections? Why were they able to win seats in Parliament?

**Mussolini Seizes the Initiative: May 1921 – October 1922**

* After achieving a foothold in parliament and some respectability, what were Mussolini’s goals?
* How did Mussolini increase his control over the Fascist movement in 1921?
* What tactics did Mussolini use to achieve support from the Catholic Church and conservatives? Explain.
* While Mussolini deliberately kept his policies vague, what were his chief views and ultimate goal?
* How did Mussolini make use of Fascist violence to help his rise to power? What was his “’dual policy” and why effective? How did he use the general strike of 1922 to his advantage?
* Why was Mussolini appointed Prime Minister on October 29th 1922? Consider the March on Rome, Mussolini’s speech on page 37, and King Victor Emmanuel’s response.

**Key Debate**

* To what extent was Mussolini’s success the result of the weakness of the Liberal government or Fascist tactics and actions?
* Would Fascism have succeeded in Italy if not for the First World War? Explain.

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**Mussolini: From Prime Minister to Dictator 1922 -1928 (Chapter 4)**

1. How did Mussolini begin to consolidate his power? Consider:

* Mussolini’s first government – reassuring Liberals and conservatives
* Manipulating the breakdown of law and order
* Rule by Decree and Mussolini’s speech to parliament to grant him such power (page 49)
* Grand Council of Fascism and national militia (Blackshirts)
* Support from powerful groups
* Electoral reform – Acerbo Law
* 1924 election and tactics

2. How was Mussolini able to become dictator?

* Murder of Matteotti – overcoming a crisis
* Destruction of democracy – key actions up to 1928?