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Command and Leadership Series

Benito Mussolini

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Mussolini, Benito (1883–1945)

Introduction

One of the most memorable if not notorious leaders of the 20th Century, Mussolini led fascist Italy during World War Two. A strong believer in socialism, he changed his views on war dramatically after World War One and formed the Pact of Steel with Germany in 1939 to create the Axis Powers. Amongst other things, this led to the persecution of Jews in Italy and an army largely unprepared for war.

From his beginnings as a teacher, Mussolini published many socialist papers until his appointment to Government in 1922. He introduced strict censorship and dissolved other political parties, creating a police state. He was an expert in propaganda and through his intervention in the Spanish Civil War, broke ties between Italy and the Allied powers. In 1943, his colleagues turned against him and although the Germans rescued him, Italian partisans captured him before the Allies reached Milan and he was publicly executed.

This bibliography has been designed to provide a guide as to where to find information on Mussolini. Please note that the list of references below is a selection of the more relevant titles and information on the subject. The list is not intended to be exhaustive or definitive but is an introductory guide to some of the resources available.

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