

MUSSOLINI'S SHADOW: INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON FASCIST ITALY

The intention for this collection of essays and short articles is to provide new perspectives, and whenever possible new research on the role of Mussolini and of Fascist Italy during the 20th century.

The contributors may suggest articles, ranging between 4-5,000 to 10-12,000 words fully referenced, dealing with a wide variety of subjects, the shape and content of the book to be defined by the various essays and the author's fields of expertise.

The essays may deal with subjects like the following one and other areas will be considered if suggested:

- Italy between the end of World War 1 and the Fascist dictatorship. Emphasis on Mussolini's rise to power and the reasons behind it.
- Mussolini's dictatorship. This section should deal with Mussolini's 'style of ruling Italy' including his relationships with the Royal House, the Vatican, the Fascist Party and its leaders, first and foremost the Grand Council.
- Directly related to the previous one: the structures of Fascist rule in Italy. This should include the Fascist Party, the Milizia and its military offspring the Blackshirts, the police forces (Carabinieri, police, political police) and youth organisations.
- Also related to the previous ones: domestic policies, ranging on subjects like social aspects of Fascist Italy, the Italian economy, life under Fascism, media and cinema.
- Mussolini's foreign policy, that is Ciano and the Foreign Ministry. Details on their relationship and on Ciano's comments on Mussolini should be included, along with analysis of Italy's foreign policy toward France, Britain and Germany at least. (**this one has one offer**)
- Mussolini's expansionism and Italy's aspirations. Italian colonial wars in Libya and Ethiopia, the involvement in the Spanish Civil War, the Italian politics in the Balkans and Ciano's ambitions towards Albania.
- Mussolini's war. The section should deal with various aspects of Italy's involvement and role in the Second World War including: the Italian military and Mussolini's relationship with them and the role (before and during the war) of the 'Comando Supremo'. Italian armed forces in general, how they were perceived by the enemy and their actual performances.
- Essays on the Italian Air Force and Navy should be welcome, along with essays revising the myths of Italian cowardice and incompetence on the battlefield (at sea as well, as in the case of the human torpedoes and assault crafts admired by friend and foe).
- The war in Italy and the invasion of the country. The bombing, the Allied landings and above all Mussolini's downfall and his 'Repubblica Sociale' puppet government under German control. The partisan war and whether it should be considered a civil war or not (a historiographical matter).
- The Fascism at its end and its offspring, such as the Italians in the German Waffen-SS.
- Fascism after Fascism. Postwar implications and ramifications of Fascism, the historiography and how the Italians have looked (and are looking) at their past. Sources in Italy and abroad.