



INTRODUCTION/METHODS

- The Italian Government, following the fall of Mussolini's regime, had to transition from a fascist system to a fully democratic one. This transition left many questions in the air which oftentimes captivated American journalists.
- American journalists, following the end of the Second World War, flooded back into Italy, specifically Rome, to report on life in the city.
- More importantly, Rome was the center of the new system of government for Italy, and American journalists were eager to report on the happenings.
- Many of the Anglophone journalists would focus heavily on the role that former fascist and now neo-fascist people and groups would play in the government.
- These reactions can help us better inform the history of the Italian government and the legacy of neo-fascism in Italy.



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ITALY'S NEW DUCE?

“BUT THE BIGGEST SURPRISE OF ALL WAS GIANNINI'S NEO-FASCIST PARTY... WHICH AMASSED... 30 SEATS IN THE NEW CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY — ONLY FIVE FEWER THAN MUSSOLINI WON IN THE LAST ELECTION BEFORE THE MARCH ON ROME IN 1922.”

- Lawrence W. Shenfield, *New York Daily Tribune* (1946)

1947, GROWTH AND ENDURANCE OF FASCISM

IN ROME:

- The new government of Italy would ultimately decide on a course of reconciliation with former fascist government members.
- This was partly pragmatic, seeing that to fire all associated with Mussolini's regime would create a massive workforce vacuum.
- Many of the fascist trials would also be held in Rome in 1947.
- For some anglophone journalists, these trials would be a symbolic transition of the Italian Government to come to grips with their fascist past. Yet, fascism would still be prevalent in Roman society, with their new Mayor being backed by the Common Man's Party and a new neo-fascist party, the Italian Social Movement (MSI).

ITALY WILL REHIRE FASCIST EMPLOYEES

Cabinet Votes Reinstatement of Government Workers Dismissed at War's End

Rightists Elect Rebecchini as Mayor of Rome

Pro-Fascists Join Coalition in City Council's Choice of Catholic Party Member

1948, AN ELECTION YEAR FOR ROME AND THE

FUTURE OF ITALIAN POLITICS

- 1948 saw an important election year, the full emergence of the MSI as the strongest neo-fascist organization in Italy, and the Italian Constitution taking effect.
- Anglophone journalists noted that the MSI and similar groups were a vocal minority now within the city. The average Roman was unconcerned with the neo-fascist movements.
- This year, we will also see a clear shift in focus on the PSI and PCI's actions during the election, but the MSI fail to garner much support.
- Anglophone journalists saw the MSI as a spoiler party, one that the Christian Democrats might have to ally with to beat the PSI/PCI.
- Now, actions by the MSI were framed as how they would affect the current government in Rome, especially after a fascist march through the Jewish Quarter in Rome.

CONTROL SURE, ROME ASSERTS

But Ex-Fascist Says His Party Is Ready For Civil War

1949; NEO-FASCISM AS A HUSK AND

CONCLUSIONS

- With the MSI lackluster electoral turnout, garnering 2% of the vote, anglophone journalists mostly wrote off the MSI as a political force.
- Yet, the MSI would continue to exist even today in modern politics.
- Cold War politics would overshadow Italian politics for the Anglophone journalists.
- Many anglophone journalists wrote that Rome had shed its fascist husk which Mussolini left.
- The influence of fascism in Italian politics is hotly debated, but the reporting of anglophone journalists on neo-fascism in Rome would show the early years of what would become an enduring part of Italian politics.

FASCIST ITALY

27th Anniversary Of Mussolini's March

ALMOST UNNOTICED

Except for an occasional, faded "Viva Il Duce" on a brown wall, usually smeared over by a fresher but, also fading hammer and sickle, it is almost as though Mussolini had not ruled for nearly 22 years until he fled in 1944, was captured and killed by Partisans in 1945.

1946: IMMEDIATE POST-WAR REACTIONS TO FASCISM

- 1946 would mark a contentious year for Italian politics, as it would be the first open election in Italy since 1924. It would elect a government that would write the new Constitution of Italy.
- The main three players were:
 - Christian Democratic Party:
 - Italian Socialist Party
 - Italian Communist Party
- The party that caught many anglophone journalists' eyes was the Common Man's Front Party, a distinctly neo-fascist/far-right party that held events in Rome. Rome would also be rocked by unrest.
- Anglophone journalists had real anxieties over the success of the Common Man's Front, and with food costs, inflation, and unemployment all on the rise in Rome, some feared a second fascist regime and the influence they would have in the capital city.

FIFTEEN DIE AS 30,000 WRECK ROMAN PALACE

Party Linked With Fascism Wins in Rome

Ex-Fascist in Italy Starts New Party

'Common Man' Movement Backed by 1,000,000

ROME, Oct. 9.—Italy's record-breaking unemployment erupted today in a three-hour attack on the headquarters of the government by a mob of 10,000 jobless. One man was killed and ninety-eight were injured.

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