

Chapter 1 : A History of Italy in Brief - Life in Italy

This history of modern Italy began in March when Count Camillo Cavour proclaimed a united Italian kingdom with the goal of creating a prosperous, liberal new power in Europe.

Enjoy the Famous Daily The Mediterranean peninsula Italy, meaning the entire peninsula south of the Alps, is known as such from about the 1st century BC. Several centuries earlier, when the name first appears, it is used only of the area in the extreme south - the toe of the peninsula. In the 1st century BC Italy is under the control of a single power, Rome, and it will remain so until the 5th century AD. The peninsula again becomes a political entity, as the modern nation of Italy, in In all other periods of prehistory and history this most desirable of territories has been shared and fought over by numerous rival groups. Around BC the majority of the tribes in Italy are relatively recent arrivals, either by land from the north or by sea across the Adriatic. They are Indo-Europeans, speaking the subgroup of languages known as Italic. But the dominant group at this time, the Etruscans, are of some different origin. Where they have come from remains a subject of much scholarly debate, but by about BC they control much of central Italy. At this time the southern part of the peninsula, together with Sicily, is dominated by Greek colonies - settled in coastal regions from about BC onwards. With great skill the Romans gradually extend their rule through Italy on a stick and carrot basis, offering the benefits of Roman citizenship to those who have suffered the effects of Roman military power. For the next few centuries the history of Italy is that of Rome. But by the 5th century AD the western Roman empire is so weakened that even Italy itself is not safe. The threat comes from powerful German tribes. In earlier centuries they have been kept at bay beyond the Rhine and the Danube. From about AD they begin to infiltrate the empire - sometimes as allies whose help is needed against other barbarians, sometimes as invaders who breach the defences and rampage through Roman provinces. Three times, in the 5th century, Italy is exposed to the barbarians. Alaric and the Visigoths reach Rome in ; Attila and the Huns turn back from northern Italy in ; Gaiseric and the Vandals reach Rome again, this time from Africa, in But the decisive blow comes in Odoacer, king of Italy: AD German mercenaries by now form an important part of any Roman army, and Roman armies play a major role in the making and breaking of emperors. This is the case in a fairly normal putsch of AD, but it is followed by an unusual demand from the mercenaries. They want to settle in Italy. The suggestion is not as unreasonable as it sounds. Roman soldiers have in the past been rewarded with land, and barbarian tribes have been settled in provinces of the empire as federates. But it is a shocking thought to Romans that this provincial system might apply to Italy itself. There is an immediate mutiny. The tribesmen elect one of their number, Odoacer, as their king. He leads them to a rapid victory, but immediately makes it clear that his intention is not to destroy the western empire. He wants to be part of it. Zeno reluctantly agrees, subject to certain points of protocol. The senate in Rome accepts the fait accompli with better grace, for Odoacer proves an effective ruler within the traditional Roman system. He even finds land for his German tribesmen without causing undue upheaval. The end of the Roman empire? AD The acceptance of Odoacer as king of Italy in causes this year to be seen as the end of the Roman empire. And in a real sense it is. Kings and popes, neither of them part of Roman imperial tradition, will henceforth wield power in the Italian peninsula. But this is the perspective of hindsight. To historians Constantinople is by this time the capital of the young Byzantine empire. To Europeans in the 5th century it is still the centre of the very ancient Roman empire. In imperial terms there is nothing new about chaos and upheaval in the west, and Roman emperors in Constantinople will continue to take active steps to reassert their authority. In this is done with the help of the Ostrogoths. AD The Ostrogoths have as yet intruded less than the Visigoths upon the imperial territories of Rome and Constantinople. In recent times, in their region north of the Black Sea, they have been subdued by the Huns. But after the collapse of the Huns, in the mid-5th century, the Ostrogoths press down across the Danube into the Balkans. In, under the leadership of Theodoric, they almost succeed in capturing Constantinople. The Byzantine emperor, Zeno, finds a brilliant short-term solution to this immediate problem. Theodoric arrives in Italy in AD In the twelve months from August his Ostrogoths confront Odoacer in three separate battles. In each they are victorious, but they fail to dislodge Odoacer from his stronghold at Ravenna.

This is eventually achieved by negotiation, with the bishop of Ravenna as the intermediary. It is agreed that Theodoric and Odoacer will rule Italy jointly. On 5 March the gates of the city are opened to Theodoric. Ten days later Theodoric invites Odoacer to a banquet. His thirty-three years on the throne bring a period of calm to turbulent Italy, justifiably earning him the title Theodoric the Great. He is the first barbarian king from the Germanic tribes of northern Europe to establish a settled and civilized rule - to which his buildings in Ravenna still bear witness. His achievements win him a lasting place in legend, as Dietrich von Bern. Theodoric never deviates from his arrangement with Constantinople. Theodoric has the good sense to leave the administration of Italy virtually unchanged and in the hands of Romans. They are prevented from serving as soldiers, but similarly Goths may not join the bureaucracy. The arrangement suits even the papacy. Though himself an Arian, Theodoric makes no attempt to interfere in Roman Catholic affairs. Indeed he is so much trusted that when there are two rival claimants to the papal see, in 526, he is invited to choose between them. Nevertheless the rule of a barbarian Arian in Italy is unacceptable in the longer term. The recovery of Byzantine Italy: The campaign is under the command of Belisarius, hero of the recent African successes. He begins his task in the south, capturing Sicily in 535 and moving north to take Naples and Rome in the following year. Once again the fortified capital city, Ravenna, proves the hardest place to subdue. The Ostrogoths hold out against him here until 540. When Ravenna finally falls in that year, the task seems complete. Belisarius returns to Constantinople. But Byzantine confidence is premature. Within a few years the whole of Italy has been recaptured by the Ostrogoths, apart from three well guarded enclaves on the east coast Ravenna, Ancona and Otranto. A long campaign by a eunuch general, Narses, eventually restores Byzantine control over the entire peninsula but this is not achieved until 554 - less than a decade before the arrival on the Italian scene of yet another Germanic tribe. The Lombards, invading in 568, rapidly overrun the rich north Italian plain, from which the Byzantines never again shift them. Their arrival introduces the many centuries in which a united Italy will be nothing more than a dream, based on nostalgic memories of imperial Rome. From there, in 568, they enter northern Italy. By this time they are already Christians, but of the Arian variety - like other Germanic tribes. By the whole of Italy north of the Po is in their hands a disaster with one positive result, in the foundation of Venice. The Lombards rule at first as an occupying force, from armed encampments, but gradually Pavia emerges as their capital city. Their presence has an immediate effect on Byzantine ambitions in Italy. The imperial territory becomes much more clearly circumscribed. In command of the entire region is an exarch - a provincial governor with absolute power over both military and civilian affairs. At first the exarch governs most of Italy south of the Po, together with the coastal strip round the north Adriatic - including the modest settlements on the islands of the Venetian lagoon, recently established by refugees from the advancing Lombards. Corsica and Sardinia come under another exarch, ruling from Carthage. Sicily becomes linked more directly with Constantinople. This swathe of territory soon proves impossible to hold. During the 7th century the Lombards steadily extend their territory in the north, and local dukes take possession of much of the south of Italy. In the 8th century ancient cities such as Naples and papal Rome show increasing signs of independence. In even upstart Venice begins to choose its own dukes, or doges. By the middle of the 8th century the Lombards have seized much of the territory inland from Ravenna, and in 751 they take Ravenna itself. Byzantine influence on places such as Venice will remain strong. But Italy can no longer be said to be part of the old Roman empire.

Chapter 2 : Modern Italy: A Political History by Denis Mack Smith

This history of modern Italy began in March when Count Camillo Cavour proclaimed a united Italian kingdom with the goal of creating a prosperous, liberal new power in Europe. For a country whose ancient heritage had placed it at the center of western culture, this late entry into nationhood and.

Mafia formation occurred under conditions of abrupt and rapid capitalist development for which mafiosi were useful adjuncts. So long as they enjoyed a certain degree of consensus mafiosi, were in a good position to weave the braid-like intrecci that enhanced their power. During the mids, Jane Schneider and I conducted anthropological fieldwork in an agro-town of the Sicilian interior that had a mafia cosca and, over the course of a two-year sojourn, we came to know several of its members. During the s, I had occasion to participate in a series of such banquets. I will describe and illustrate these events with photographs that I made during the festivities. The banquets were not only stupendously convivial; they also enabled outsiders to participate in their exclusivity â€” to be insulated in cultural and psychological space from regular ties to, and reciprocal obligations with, others. They incarnate specific pop music celebrities viz. However, an analysis of their respective products and programs shows their proximity. Straffi and Don Pigni each meld avocation and vocation. Straffi is an entrepreneur whose global success roots in a Catholic vision and Don Pigni is a priest whose vocation catalyzed his entrepreneurial inclinations, which have flourished under Vatican dispensation. These affinities are not simply discursive symbolism or interpretation. We offer a thick contextualization of the framework of contemporary industry in the Marche and how this has conditioned and expanded local and global Catholic social agendas. The use of Tosca in the film helps turn what was supposedly a straightforward melodramatic tale of good and evil into a non-committal, watered-down depiction of one of the most critical times in the history of modern Italy. The decline is not only general, but it is also geographical. Using GDP and PI data for the twenty Italian regions, this paper shows that two historically prominent models describing regional economic inequalities, the standard Northern core--Southern periphery hypothesis as well as the more recent and formerly widely accepted Three Italys paradigm no longer accurately reflect important shifts in income inequality that have occurred throughout Italy since the onset of the millennium. By generating regional clusters based upon the income data and comparing our results with the longstanding hypotheses, we find the Third Italy macro-region in the Three Italys model composed of central-northeastern regions has dissolved: The area experiencing the least variation in relative income levels by our two measures compared with the rest of Italy over time is the standard southern periphery; it has only grown. These findings have significant implications for not only the direction of the Italian economy, but likely add to our understanding of major shifts in political representation now occurring. The written paper for circulation will include discussion of the regional economic theories of Italian development since the sixties, providing genealogies of their impact on several generations of social science research on Italian economic inequality. The oral presentation will include easy-to-follow maps illustrating the two key past regional economic geographical hypotheses as well as our findings. Rehabilitating War-Stricken Children to Prevent War Erica Moretti, Fashion Institute of Technology, SUNY Abstract Abstract Though the Italian educator Maria Montessori was a well-known pacifist in her day, her writings on peace have generally been considered secondary to her pedagogical workâ€”a side intellectual project for a woman more concerned with the practical goal of educating youth. I redefine the terms of Montessori pedagogy; the educational project was never about an individual childâ€”or even about the children of a single nationâ€”but instead about the mission for global peace. A year later, the educator started planning a new humanitarian organization that would assist children distressed by war, an entity she called the White Cross. Next, it investigates her efforts to collaborate with the papacy, one of the major entities that provided relief efforts for civilians, especially children, and her attempts to foster international conversation to end the conflict. Popular travel literature in turn provides the prism from which tourists interpret those realities. Adopting a transnational approach, the paper analyzes tourist materials produced in Italy directed towards American travelers as well as American guidebooks and popular travel accounts to Italy. Does the movie studio cease to be a studio once a POW camp, or a DP camp, occupies it in

whole or part? How is the reality of wartime violence and deprivation, of displacement and confinement, itself affected by such a setting – or indeed by the set in which it finds itself, and some of whose functions it absorbs? The studio emerges as a microcosm that condenses and reflects, as in a convex mirror, a vast panorama of wartime and postwar events – some stranger than fiction. All of them impacted the very possibility of realizing a more equitable social democracy. In this paper, I intend to explore three nodes of the Italian philosophical tradition:

Chapter 3 : Italian politics and political history/government documents | Stanford Libraries

Modern Italy: A Political History by Denis Mack Smith This history of modern Italy began in March when Count Camillo Cavour proclaimed a united Italian kingdom with the goal of creating a prosperous, liberal new power in Europe.

History of the post-war political landscape[edit] Campaigners working on posters in Milan, Main article: History of the Italian Republic First Republic: After the first democratic elections with universal suffrage in which the Christian Democracy and their allies won against the popular front of the Italian Communist and Socialists parties, the Communist Party never returned in the government. The system had been nicknamed the "imperfect bipolarism", referring to more proper bipolarism in other western countries the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, France and the like where right-wing and left-wing parties alternated in government. Entrance of the Socialists to the government[edit] The main event in the First Republic in the s was the inclusion of the Socialist party in the government after the reducing edge of the Christian Democracy DC had forced them to accept this alliance; attempts to incorporate the Italian Social Movement MSI , a right party, in the Tambroni government led to riots and were short-lived. Aldo Moro , a relatively left-leaning Christian Democrat, inspired this alliance. He would later try to include the Communist Party as well with a deal called the " historic compromise ". However, this attempt at compromise was stopped by the kidnapping and murder of Moro in by the Red Brigades , an extremist left-wing terrorist organization. The Communist Party was at this point the largest communist party in Western Europe and remained such for the rest of its existence. Their ability to attract members was largely due to their pragmatic stance, especially their rejection of extremism and to their growing independence from Moscow see Eurocommunism. The Italian communist party was especially strong in areas like Emilia-Romagna and Tuscany , where communists had been elected to stable government positions. This practical political experience may have contributed to their taking a more pragmatic approach to politics. The Years of Lead[edit] See also: Strategy of tension On 12 December , a roughly decade -long period of extremist left- and right-wing political terrorism, known as The Years of Lead as in the metal of bullets, Italian: Neofascist Vincenzo Vinciguerra later declared the bombing to be an attempt to push the Italian state to declare a state of emergency in order to lead to a more authoritative state. A bomb left in a bank killed about twenty and was initially blamed on anarchist Giuseppe Pinelli. Their guess proved correct, but only after many years of difficult investigations. The strategy of tension attempted to blame the left for bombings carried out by right-wing terrorists. Fascist "black terrorists", such as Ordine Nuovo and the Avanguardia Nazionale , were in the s and s found to be responsible for several terrorist attacks. On the other extreme of the political spectrum, the leftist Red Brigades carried out assassinations against specific persons, but were not responsible for any blind bombings. The Red Brigades killed socialist journalist Walter Tobagi and in their most famous operation kidnapped and assassinated Aldo Moro , president of the Christian Democracy , who was trying to involve the Communist Party in the government through the compromesso storico "historic compromise" , to which the radical left as well as Washington were opposed. It is worth noting that the Red Brigades met fierce resistance from the Communist Party and the trade unions ; some left-wing politicians nonetheless used the sympathetic expression "comrades who are mistaken" Italian: Compagni che sbagliano to refer to the Red Brigades. This was found to be a neofascist bombing, in which Propaganda Due was involved. In , a Parliament Commission report from the Olive Tree centre-left coalition concluded that the strategy of tension followed by Gladio had been supported by the United States to "stop the PCI and, to a certain degree, the PSI [Italian Socialist Party] from reaching executive power in the country".

A political history of modern Italy, tracing events from when Count Camillo Cavour proclaimed a united Italian kingdom, to the formation of a Second Republic after the revolt of the electorate.

Constitutional framework Constitution of The Italian state grew out of the kingdom of Sardinia-Piedmont , where in King Charles Albert introduced a constitution that remained the basic law, of his kingdom and later of Italy , for nearly years. It provided for a bicameral parliament with a cabinet appointed by the king. With time, the power of the crown diminished, and ministers became responsible to parliament rather than to the king. Although the constitution remained formally in force after the fascists seized power in , it was devoid of substantial value. A Constituent Assembly worked out a new constitution, which came into force on January 1, It is upheld and watched over by the Constitutional Court, and the republican form of government cannot be changed. The constitution contains some preceptive principles, applicable from the moment it came into force, and some programmatic principles, which can be realized only by further enabling legislation. The constitution is preceded by the statement of certain basic principles, including the definition of Italy as a democratic republic, in which sovereignty belongs to the people Article 1. Other principles concern the inviolable rights of man, the equality of all citizens before the law, and the obligation of the state to abolish social and economic obstacles that limit the freedom and equality of citizens and hinder the full development of individuals Articles 2 and 3. Many forms of personal freedom are guaranteed by the constitution: There is no press censorship, and freedom of speech and writing is limited only by standards of public morality Article The constitution stresses the equality of spouses in marriage and the equality of their children to each other Articles 29 and One special article in the constitution concerns the protection of linguistic minorities Article 6. The constitution establishes the liberty of all religions before the law Article 8 but also recognizes the special status granted the Roman Catholic Church by the Lateran Treaty in Article 7. That special status was modified and reduced in importance by a new agreement between church and state in Because of these changes and the liberal tendencies manifested by the church after the Second Vatican Council in the s, religion is much less a cause of political and social friction in contemporary Italy than it was in the past. The constitution is upheld by the Constitutional Court, which is composed of 15 judges, of whom 5 are nominated by the president of the republic, 5 are elected by parliament, and 5 are elected by judges from other courts. Members must have certain legal qualifications and experience. The term of office is nine years, and Constitutional Court judges are not eligible for reappointment. The court performs four major functions. First, it judges the constitutionality of state and regional laws and of acts having the force of law. Second, the court resolves jurisdictional conflicts between ministries or administrative offices of the central government or between the state and a particular region or between two regions. Third, it judges indictments instituted by parliament. When acting as a court of indictment, the 15 Constitutional Court judges are joined by 16 additional lay judges chosen by parliament. Fourth, the court determines whether or not it is permissible to hold referenda on particular topics. The constitution specifically excludes from the field of referenda financial decisions, the granting of amnesties and pardons, and the ratification of treaties. The legislature Parliament is bicameral and comprises the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. All members of the Chamber of Deputies the lower house are popularly elected via a system of proportional representation , which serves to benefit minor parties. Most members of the Senate the higher chamber are elected in the same manner, but the Senate also includes several members appointed by the president and former presidents appearing *ex officio*, all of whom serve life terms. In theory, the Senate should represent the regions and in this way differ from the lower chamber, but in practice the only real difference between them lies in the minimum age required for the electorate and the candidates: Deputies and senators alike are elected for a term of five years, which can be extended only in case of war. Parliamentarians cannot be penalized for opinions expressed or votes cast, and deputies or senators are not obligated to vote according to the wishes of their constituents. Unless removed by parliamentary action, deputies and senators enjoy immunity from arrest, criminal trial, and search. Their salary is established by law, and they qualify for a pension. Both houses are officially organized into parliamentary

parties. Each house also is organized into standing committees, which reflect the proportions of the parliamentary groups. However, the chairmanship of parliamentary committees is not the exclusive monopoly of the majority. Besides studying bills, these committees act as legislative bodies. All these features explain why the government has a limited ability to control the legislative agenda and why parliamentarians are often able to vote contrary to party instructions and to avoid electoral accountability. The abolition of secret voting on most parliamentary matters at the end of the 19th century did not significantly change this situation. Special majorities are required for constitutional legislation and for the election of the president of the republic, Constitutional Court judges, and members of the Superior Council of the Magistrature. The two houses meet jointly to elect and swear in the president of the republic and to elect one-third of the members of the Superior Council of the Magistrature and one-third of the judges of the Constitutional Court. They may also convene to impeach the president of the republic, the president of the Council of Ministers, or individual ministers. Each year, the annual budget and the account of expenditure for the past financial year are presented to parliament for approval. The budget, however, does not cover all public expenditure, nor does it include details of the budgets of many public bodies, over which, therefore, parliament has no adequate control. International treaties are ratified by means of special laws. The most important function of parliament is ordinary legislation. Bills may be presented in parliament by the government, by individual members, or by bodies such as the National Council for Economy and Labour, various regional councils, or communes, as well as by petition of 50,000 citizens of the electorate or through a referendum. Bills are passed either by the standing committees or by parliament as a whole. In either case, the basic procedure is the same. All bills must be approved by both houses before they become law; thus, whenever one house introduces an amendment to the draft approved by the other house, the latter must approve the amended draft. The law is then promulgated by the president of the republic. If the president considers it unconstitutional or inappropriate, it is remanded to parliament for reconsideration. If the bill is, nevertheless, passed a second time, the president is obliged to promulgate it. The law comes into force when published in the *Gazzetta Ufficiale*. The presidential office

The president of the republic is the head of state and serves a term of seven years. The prosecutorial immunity that applies to members of the legislature does not extend to the chief executive, and the president can be impeached for high treason or offenses against the constitution, even while in office. The president is elected by a college comprising both chambers of parliament, together with three representatives from every region. The two-thirds majority required guarantees that the president is acceptable to a sufficient proportion of the populace and the political partners. The minimum age for presidential candidates is 50 years. If the president is temporarily unable to carry out his functions, the president of the Senate acts as the deputy. If the impediment is permanent or if it is a case of death or resignation, a presidential election must be held within 15 days. Special powers and responsibilities are vested in the president of the republic, who promulgates laws and decrees having the force of law, calls special sessions of parliament, delays legislation, authorizes the presentation of government bills in parliament, and, with parliamentary authorization, ratifies treaties and declares war. However, some of these acts are duties that must be performed by the president, whereas others have no validity unless countersigned by the government. The president commands the armed forces and presides over the Supreme Council of Defense and the Superior Council of the Magistrature. Presidents may dissolve parliament either on their own initiative except during the last six months of their term of office, having consulted the presidents of both chambers, or at the request of the government. They may appoint 5 lifetime members of the Senate, and they appoint 5 of the 15 Constitutional Court judges. They also appoint the president of the Council of Ministers, the equivalent of a prime minister. Whenever a government is defeated or resigns, it is the duty of the president of the republic, after consulting eminent politicians and party leaders, to appoint the person most likely to win the confidence of parliament; this person is usually designated by the majority parties, and the president has limited choice. The government

The government comprises the president of the Council of Ministers and the various other ministers responsible for particular departments. Ministerial appointments are negotiated by the parties constituting the government majority. Each new government must receive a vote of confidence in both houses of parliament within 10 days of its appointment. If at any time the government fails to maintain the confidence of either house, it must resign.

Splits in the coalition of two or more parties that had united to form a government have caused most of the resignations of governments. According to the constitution, the president of the Council of Ministers is solely responsible for directing government policies and coordinating administrative policy and activity. In reality, the president tends to function as a negotiator between government parties and factions. The government can issue emergency decree laws signed by the president of the republic, provided such laws are presented to parliament for authorization the day they are issued and receive its approval within 60 days. Without such approval, they automatically lapse. The government and, in certain cases, individual ministers issue administrative regulations and provisions, which are then promulgated by presidential decree.

Chapter 5 : MODERN ITALY: A POLITICAL HISTORY : Denis Mack Smith :

Power and Politics in Early Modern Italy Robert Oresko examines the changing views historians are developing of Italy between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries and finds a society far more vibrant and complex than tradition suggests.

Small Greek colonies dotted the southern coast and the island of Sicily. While the Etruscans, a group originally hailing from somewhere in western Turkey, settled in central Italy, establishing a number of city-states, including what is now modern-day Bologna. Little is known about the Etruscans except that they thrived for a time, creating a civilization that would pass down a fondness for bold architecture stone arches, paved streets, aqueducts, sewers to its successor, Rome. The Capitoline she-wolf, symbol of Rome wikimedia According to legend, Rome was founded on April 21, BC by Romulus and Remus, twin brothers who claimed to be sons of the war god Mars and to have been raised as infants by a she-wolf. Romulus saw himself as a descendant of the defeated army of Troy, and wanted Rome to inherit the mantle of that ancient city, if not surpass it. When Remus laughed at the notion, Romulus killed his brother and declared himself the first king of Rome. Rome went through seven kings until BC when the last king was overthrown and the Roman Republic was formed. Rome then came to be ruled by two elected officials known as consuls , a Senate made up of wealthy aristocrats known as patricians , and a lower assembly that represented the common people plebeians and had limited power. This format of government worked well at first, but as Rome expanded beyond a mere city-state to take over territory not just in Italy, but overseas as well, the system of government came under severe strain. Spartacus, a slave, led the common people in a revolt against the rule of the aristocratic patricians. Rome was able to put down the rebellion, but at great cost, as the Republic dissolved into a series of military dictatorships that ended with the assassination of Julius Caesar. The Roman Empire was born. For the next two hundred years, Rome thrived, ruling over a vast territory stretching from Britain and the Atlantic coast of Europe in the north and west to North Africa and the Middle East in the south and east. A combination of economic problems, barbarian invasions, domestic instability, and territorial rebellions, combined with a lack of strong leadership, resulted in the slow and gradual decline of Rome. In AD, after three hundred years of persecution, Christianity became the one and only official religion. The East, based out of the newly-built capital of Constantinople, in what is now Turkey, thrived, eventually becoming the long-lasting Byzantine Empire. Rome, capital of the West, continued to decline. In AD, Rome itself was sacked by barbarian hordes. The Eastern Empire invaded but failed to restore order and had to withdraw. For the next thousand years, Italy once again became a patchwork of city-states, with Rome, home to the Catholic Church, being the most powerful. This long period of quiet stagnation was known as the Dark Ages. Funded by wealthy patrons, figures such as Leonardo Da Vinci , Michelangelo , Dante , Machiavelli , and Galileo, among others, revolutionized the fields of art, literature, politics, and science. Italy remained a center of power until the 16th century, when trade routes shifted away from the Mediterranean and the Protestant Reformation resulted in the Catholic Church, which was based in Rome, losing influence over much of Northern Europe. Weakened, the various Italian city-states became vulnerable to conquest by Spain, France, and Austria. Italy remained a patchwork of principalities controlled through proxy by various European powers until the 19th century, when the French leader Napoleon supported the unification of Italy as a way of creating a buffer state against his many enemies. In , frustrated that Italy had received few gains despite having been a victor in the First World War , a politician named Benito Mussolini launched a movement that called for the restoration of Italy as a great power. In , impatient with electoral politics, Mussolini led his supporters, known as Fascists, on a march on Rome to seize power directly through a coup. Spooked, the Italian king did not put up a fight and allowed Mussolini to become supreme ruler of Italy. Mussolini spent the next twenty years consolidating power and building up the Italian economy, but he never gave up on the idea of restoring Italy as a great power. In the s, he indulged his dreams of conquest, by invading Ethiopia and Albania. When the Second World War broke out, Italy remained neutral at first. However, once it appeared through the Fall of France that Germany would win, Mussolini eagerly joined Hitler, a fellow Fascist and longtime ally, in the war effort and

rushed to invade Greece, the Balkans, and North Africa. Overextended and unprepared for such a large-scale effort, Italy quickly found that it could not maintain its military position and had to ask Germany for help. Before long, Mussolini saw himself losing control of North Africa, the Mediterranean, and eventually his very own country to the Allies. Fleeing Rome, Mussolini tried to set up a puppet state in Northern Italy but failed. Abandoned by a disgusted Hitler, Il Duce and his mistress were captured and executed by Italian partisans. After the Second World War, Italy abolished the monarchy and declared itself a republic. With the strong support of the United States, Italy rebuilt its economy through loans from the Marshall Plan, joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and became a strong supporter of what is now the European Union.

Chapter 6 : Studies in Modern Italy | The University Seminars

This seminar is concerned with political, social, cultural, and religious aspects of Italian life from to the present. In recent years, the seminar has stressed an interdisciplinary approach to Italian studies, increasing the participation of anthropologists and scholars of art, film, and literature.

In archaic times , ancient Greeks , Etruscans and Celts established settlements in the south , the centre and the north of Italy respectively, while various Italian tribes and Italic peoples inhabited the Italian peninsula and insular Italy. In 27 BC, Augustus established the Roman Empire and inaugurated the Pax Romana , two centuries of stability and relative peace in which Italy flourished as the leading political and economic centre of the known world. The death of the last of the good emperors , Marcus Aurelius , and the crisis of the third century marked the beginning of the decline of Rome. The Empire went through major changes in the following centuries, including the establishment of a tetrarchy in under Diocletian and the end of the persecutions of Christians with the Edict of Milan of under Constantine. The Bishop of Rome was granted religious primacy with the Edict of Thessalonica in and the West collapsed amid barbarian invasions in , when Odoacer deposed Romulus Augustus. The Roman Pontiff and the German Emperor became the universal powers of Italy and Europe, but then entered in conflict for the investiture controversy and the clash between their factions: The crusades launched by Pope Urban II and his successors proved to be successful for the maritime republics: Italy first experienced the Commercial Revolution , which caused the European economy to shift from agriculture to trade, and became the birthplace of banking and universities. Venice entered in control of the mediterranean trade routes and consolidated a maritime empire after the Sack of Constantinople of the Fourth Crusade and the Venetian-Genoese wars. Furthermore, Frederick of Sicily made Italy the cultural and strategic centre of a large reign that included Imperial Germany and, following the Sixth Crusade , the Kingdom of Jerusalem. These socio-economic factors paved the way for the beginning of the Renaissance in Florence, Tuscany, in the 14th century. Renaissance philosophy , art , science and exploration marked the transition to the modern era and notable figures such as Leonardo , Dante , Giotto , Marco Polo , Machiavelli , Michelangelo , Columbus , Amerigo Vespucci , and Galileo made important contributions in their fields between the Trecento and the Seicento. The period was also characterised by the activities of the condottieri in the Italian Renaissance Wars , a long conflict that broke the Peace of Lodi maintained by Lorenzo de Medici and began a period of domestic disputes and foreign invasions. Meanwhile, the Papacy reached its zenith of political power by reacting to protestantism with the Catholic Reformation , a movement that resulted in: The 17th and 18th centuries were a period of decline in much of Italy, except for the cultural impact of Baroque and Neoclassicism. Following a series of wars of succession in Europe, Lombardy went to Habsburg Austria , who later acquired also Tuscany and Venice, and the South passed to the Spanish Bourbons. Following the Congress of Vienna in , the Risorgimento movement emerged to unite Italy and liberate it from foreign control. After the unsuccessful attempt of , the Italian Wars of Independence against Austria in the North, the Expedition of the Thousand against the Spanish Bourbons in the South, and the capture of Rome in , resulted in the formation of the nation-state. In World War I , Italy joined the Entente with France and Britain, despite having been a member of the Triple Alliance with Germany and Austria-Hungary , and gave a fundamental contribution to the victory of the conflict as one of the principal allied powers. Nevertheless, Italian nationalists considered World War I a mutilated victory and that sentiment led to the rise of the fascist dictatorship of Benito Mussolini in

Chapter 7 : Modern Italy: A Political History - Denis Mack Smith - Google Books

Italy - Government and society: The Italian state grew out of the kingdom of Sardinia-Piedmont, where in King Charles Albert introduced a constitution that remained the basic law, of his kingdom and later of Italy, for nearly years.

A Brief History Of Italy Attempting to put together a brief history of Italy is a challenge, because, due to its location at the center of the Mediterranean trading routes, Italy has had a lengthy and tumultuous history. Italy and the Mediterranean Both the Mediterranean and overland trade routes were also used as military and expansionist conduits over the centuries, as well as channels for the dissemination of culture and knowledge. As a result, Italy was subject to the most brutal of invasions, as well as serving as a focal point for creativity and learning. For the sake of simplicity we can divide our brief history of Italy into seven distinct eras: The 20 Regions of Italy Pre-History Evidence of civilization has been found on the Italian peninsula dating far into pre-history. Thousands of rock drawings discovered in the Alpine regions of Lombardy date from around 8, BC. Over the next several centuries, Rome expanded its territories into what became known as the Roman Empire. Italia flourished under the Roman Empire, which ended in AD with the death of the emperor Augustus. The Italian peninsula was later divided into separate kingdoms, with reunification only achieved in In , the Ostrogoths, an eastern Germanic tribe, conquered the Italian peninsula. The resulting Gothic War led to the Lombards, another Germanic tribe, establishing a kingdom in northern Italy and three regions in the South in Subsequently, the popes began building an independent state. In , when the Franks French defeated the Lombards, they granted the popes authority over central Italy, and the Papal States were created. By the end of the 11th century, the worst of the invasions was over and trade began to flourish once again. In the twelfth century the Italian cities ruled by Holy Roman Empire campaigned for autonomy. The result was that northern Italy became a group of independent kingdoms, republics and city-states. The Renaissance 14th to 16th Century At this point in our brief history of Italy, the disparity among the regions was extreme. In contrast to the prosperous northern states, central and southern Italy were economically depressed. The Papacy temporarily relocated to Avignon in France, returning to Rome in Naples, Sicily, and Sardinia were controlled by foreign powers. The Italian Renaissance was a cultural movement that began in Tuscany in the 14th century, spreading from Florence to Siena. A number of factors contributed to its emergence, including the influx of Greek scholars following the second invasion of Constantinople by the Ottoman Turks in The patronage of the arts afforded by the Medici family was another contributing factor. The invention of the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg in the s also contributed to a freer flow of information. Reaching southwards to Rome, the Renaissance inspired the Italian popes to rebuild their city and Rome flourished once again. The movement also spread to Milan, Venice, and further north into Europe, influencing art, literature, philosophy, politics, science, religion and other intellectual arenas. Within Italy, the dominance of Tuscan culture led to the Tuscan dialect later becoming the official Italian language. In , France invaded northern Italy and many of the city-states collapsed. In Spain and Germany attacked Rome. Spanish control of Italy lasted until During the era of domination by Habsburg Spain to and Habsburg Austria to , Italians enjoyed a long period of relative peace. During the Napoleonic era to , Italy was briefly united by Napoleon as the Italian Republic and later the Kingdom of Italy, becoming a client state of the French Republic. After the defeat of Napoleonic France in , the Congress of Vienna divided Italy into eight parts, most under foreign rule: This abysmal condition was the impetus behind the Italian unification movement. Unification to Our brief history of Italy culminates in unification. Two prominent figures in the unification movement were Giuseppe Mazzini and Giuseppe Garibaldi. A native of Genoa, Mazzini was imprisoned in for his role in the Carbonari secret society. From his exile in France and later England, he mounted a series of unsuccessful uprisings in Italy, but eventually worked with Garibaldi to achieve their dream of unification. His funeral in attracted , people. Giuseppe Garibaldi was born in Nice Nizza , and, like Mazzini, was a member of the Carbonari secret society. He fled Italy in after a failed insurrection, but returned in to continue his campaign. Italy was officially unified in , with Rome and Latium annexed in and the Trieste region after World War 1. Present Day Italy Since unification, Italy has experienced a tumultuous period that saw a mass exodus of her people and the disastrous

consequences of two World Wars. Yet over the past 60 years the country has reclaimed its position as a major social and cultural player in world affairs. Italian goods and services have excellent international reputations, and Italy remains one of the most popular tourist destinations in Europe. Italy was one of the founding members of the European Economic Community, and despite the turbulent nature of Italian politics, enjoys positive economic growth and a high standard of living. If history is your passion, there are many online sources for books on Italy. Here are three of the best from Amazon Books:

Chapter 8 : A Brief History Of Italy - Italian History Highlights

Early Modern Italy (to) The The 17th century was a tumultuous period in Italian history, marked by deep political and social changes.

See Article History Alternative Titles: Italia, Italian Republic, Repubblica Italiana Italy, country of south-central Europe , occupying a peninsula that juts deep into the Mediterranean Sea. Italy comprises some of the most varied and scenic landscapes on Earth and is often described as a country shaped like a boot. The western Alps overlook a landscape of Alpine lakes and glacier-carved valleys that stretch down to the Po River and the Piedmont. From the central Alps, running down the length of the country, radiates the tall Apennine Range , which widens near Rome to cover nearly the entire width of the Italian peninsula. South of Rome the Apennines narrow and are flanked by two wide coastal plains, one facing the Tyrrhenian Sea and the other the Adriatic Sea. Much of the lower Apennine chain is near-wilderness, hosting a wide range of species rarely seen elsewhere in western Europe, such as wild boars, wolves, asps, and bears. The southern Apennines are also tectonically unstable, with several active volcanoes, including Vesuvius , which from time to time belches ash and steam into the air above Naples and its island-strewn bay. At the bottom of the country, in the Mediterranean Sea , lie the islands of Sicily and Sardinia. Visitors today remark on how unlike one town is from the next, on the marked differences in cuisine and dialect , and on the many subtle divergences that make Italy seem less a single nation than a collection of culturally related points in an uncommonly pleasing setting. Across a span of more than 3, years, Italian history has been marked by episodes of temporary unification and long separation, of intercommunal strife and failed empires. Time-lapse video of Tuscany, Italy. The Etruscans were supplanted in the 3rd century bce by the Romans , who soon became the chief power in the Mediterranean world and whose empire stretched from India to Scotland by the 2nd century ce. That empire was rarely secure, not only because of the unwillingness of conquered peoples to stay conquered but also because of power struggles between competing Roman political factions, military leaders, families, ethnic groups, and religions. The Roman Empire fell in the 5th century ce after a succession of barbarian invasions through which Huns, Lombards, Ostrogoths, and Franksâ€”mostly previous subjects of Romeâ€”seized portions of Italy. Rule devolved to the level of the city-state, although the Normans succeeded in establishing a modest empire in southern Italy and Sicily in the 11th century. Many of those city-states flourished during the Renaissance era, a time marked by significant intellectual , artistic, and technological advances but also by savage warfare between states loyal to the pope and those loyal to the Holy Roman Empire. Italian unification came in the 19th century, when a liberal revolution installed Victor Emmanuel II as king. From the end of World War II to the early s, Italy had a multiparty system dominated by two large parties: In the early s the Italian party system underwent a radical transformation, and the political centre collapsed, leaving a right-left polarization of the party spectrum that threw the north-south divide into sharper contrast and gave rise to such political leaders as media magnate Silvio Berlusconi. The whole country is relatively prosperous, certainly as compared with the early years of the 20th century, when the economy was predominantly agricultural. Much of that prosperity has to do with tourism, for in good years nearly as many visitors as citizens can be found in the country. Each of those cities, and countless smaller cities and towns, has retained its differences against the leveling effect of the mass media and standardized education. Thus, many Italians, particularly older ones, are inclined to think of themselves as belonging to families, then neighbourhoods, then towns or cities, then regions, and then, last, as members of a nation.

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The Italian Consulate of San Francisco is the Bay Area's most immediate point of contact for all matters related to the Italian government, including information on obtaining visas, Italian cultural activities taking place in the Bay Area, language study, scholarships for study abroad, and laws and regulations governing living and working in Italy.