-the continued violence in the country, and the lack of ability or will of the authorities to stamp it out once and for all further heightened public dissatisfaction with the existing order

-although militant activity by the left was in decline by the spring of 1922, the attempted one day general strike on 21 July 1922 helped to discredit the left: poor turnout by strikers; successful Fascist orchestration of volunteers to cover essential services made the socialists look ridiculous and the Fascists responsible

-on the back of the July 1922 success, Fascists took over the municipalities of Genoa and Milan, and sacked the Avanti! offices for a second time; the Fascists soon took over other northern and central Italian cities, establishing de facto control of much of the country

The March on Rome; bases of support

dissatisfaction with the liberal’s weakness, and fear of the left drove many moderate Italians to look to the Fascists as a solution to the country’s problems; they didn’t necessarily subscribe to Fascist ideology

-the King was increasingly concerned that his cousin the duc d’Aosta, well liked in the armed forces, could depose him; made Vittorio Emanuele III offer to contemplate other solutions to Italy’s practical instability. It was made easier when Mussolini publicly retracted any residual pro-communism during speech in Udine on 20 September 1922

-conservatives within Church began to suspect that a Fascist-run government might have advantages.

-in September and early October, Mussolini approached leading liberals (Giolitti, Orlando, Salandra, Facta) to see who would offer the Fascists most influence in return for their support in forming a government; but became convinced that he could seize power and achieve more than cabinet seats for his supporters; Mussolini was principally interested in his personal leadership position

The March on Rome

-expecting leading liberals and the King to compromise, Mussolini decided to threaten a coup

-on 24 October at a rally in Naples, Mussolini stressed his readiness for government and reiterated his acceptance of the monarchy

-from Milan, Mussolini organized columns of armed Fascists to converge on Rome; Fascists took over smaller towns and cities in northern and central Italy

-Facta responded to this threat by asking on 28 October 1922 that the King impose martial law; but fearful that the army (full of officers who sympathized with Fascists, who included prominent military men in their ranks) as well as plunging Italy into civil war or triggering a leftwing backlash, Vittorio Emanuele refused

-Facta resigned; Salandra declined to form a government; on 29 October Vittorio Emanuele decided to ask Mussolini to form a new ministry; as the Fascists