Mass media

• An Italian invented the radio, mainly for political use. Families assemble to listen to it due to the high levels of illiteracy in the country.
• Cinema in the 20th century is a form of mass culture. Mussolini has Cine Città built in Rome. *Cinema is the strongest weapon.* Italian films become very popular.
• Italians dominate in cycling, football and boxing (particularly with the victories of famous boxer Primo Carnera but they were fixes). They try to invent a new sport, Volata, which is a mix of volleyball and football. Italy win the World Cup twice in the 1930s. Both of these wins were a fix.
• **Dopolavoro** - centres around the country that are like after-work clubs for adults. The creation of the ‘Fascist Saturday’, a day for trips and games.

World War Two

1940 - 1945

• There are currents of anti-fascism that returns people from exile to get rid of fascism.
• The Italians were meant to join Germany in 1939, but Mussolini was not ready.
• **Italy joins the war in 1940**, causing a rise in persecution of Scots-Italians living in Glasgow.

Things go bad for Italy in 1943

• Italy is central to the outcome of the war.
• Germany up and out.
• There are massive landings in Sicily, and bombings of Rome by the Allies.
• This all leads to questions about Mussolini’s stability.
• **Mussolini is asked to resign in 1943** to be replaced by the war hero Pietro Badoglio.

There is a period of uncertainty known as ‘The 45 Days’.

• During this time Germany is uncertain of Italy’s actions and move troops into the country.

Italy changes sides on the 8th September 1943.

• This is declared over the radio.
• Immediately German soldiers round up Italians to be sent to labour camps.
• Many Italian soldiers manage to escape by ditching their weapons and uniforms.
• Mussolini is imprisoned, but the German troops break him out.
• Hitler encourages Mussolini to create a fascist army, the RSI (The Italian Social Republic).
• Soldiers join up with the antifascist to create a resistance movement.