

YEAR 11-12 TRANSITION

“IT IS BLOOD THAT MOVES THE WHEELS OF HISTORY!”

-Benito Mussolini

History is essentially the study of people, and should be considered alongside subjects like anthropology (the study of human behaviour), psychology (the study of behaviour and mental processes), sociology (the study of societies) and law (the study of the rules that govern society). All of these subjects give us a fascinating insight into why humans do the things they do – and it is rarely random. Behaviour happens for a reason.

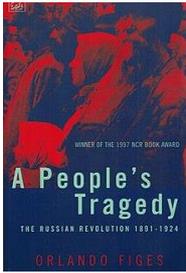
In Year 12 history, we look at two periods of time where societies make unprecedented choices – choosing to have brutal, fascist dictators to rule over them. Why did Italy turn to Mussolini? Why did the German people go along with Hitler – and what were the long-term consequences of this? We look to answer these questions. We look to explain that what motivated them, and how their own understanding of history governed their actions. The ‘reading’ list below does not cover the course content we will look at in Year 12 but does provide background that will help us understand the reason why these men and women took the actions they did.

Origin stories				
Understanding how a country came to exist is often romanticised. Presented as a story of heroism, those responsible are often heralded through time. Mussolini and Hitler both liked to glorify their country’s past but did so in different ways. As a result, it is good to understand the origin story of their countries.				
	How to invent a country – BBC Podcast			
	Italy Part 1	https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06fks26	Germany Part 1	https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p068kf6x
	Italy Part 2	https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06ghkfm	Germany Part 2	https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p068ksy9
	Italy Part 3	https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06h03m2	Germany Part 3	https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p069243g
	Garibaldi’s Grand Scheme #1	https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06xfntp		
	Garibaldi’s Grand Scheme #2	https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06xg0fq		

Oversimplified history explains WW1 and WW2	
Understanding the outcomes of WW1 and WW2 was important at GCSE – to understand both the Treaty of Versailles and the Cold War – however, one of the real shames is that we do not get to study the wars themselves in any great detail. Fortunately, some excellent videos exist explaining how the wars were fought.	
	<p>Oversimplified history: These are good succinct explanations of how the both world wars were fought, and how the Allies eventually managed to win both wars. The videos are also pretty funny.</p> <p>WW1 Part 1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHSOAEam2yc WW 1Part 2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MunldKkc_As WW2 Part 1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_uk_6vfqwTA WW2 Part 2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fo2Rb9h788s</p>

The Russian Revolution

The Russian Revolution is crucial in understanding the world after the First World war, and sadly is not something that we studied a great deal during our GCSEs. Fear that similar revolutions could break out across Europe can partly explain why people were prepared to turn to extreme nationalism. Read/watch some of the following to help understand what happened during the Russian Revolution

			
<p>A People's Tragedy by Orlando Figes</p> <p>Generally considered a masterpiece, this 800-page epic book is a wonderful guide to the Russian Revolution – covering details from the life of peasants in Russia at the time, to the mysterious Rasputin, advisor to the Russian Royal family</p>	<p>The Russian Revolution</p> <p>A good one-hour documentary that gives details and events of the Revolution.</p>	<p>Simple History</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOKITMSyKcM</p> <p>A 3 minute explanation of how the Revolution unfolded</p>	<p>History.com</p> <p>https://www.history.com/topics/russia/russian-revolution</p> <p>A simple explanation of the Russian Revolution that provides a good background.</p>

Cultural background – Italy

Italy had been the most important country in the world at two points in its history: the Roman Empire, which dominated Europe and the Mediterranean, and; the Renaissance, when Italy was seen as the centre for an intellectual enlightenment that lifted the world out of the dark ages. Understanding these two periods is important in understanding Italy as a country.

			
<p>Gladiator</p> <p>While the story is very much fiction, the film presents both the scale and grandeur of the Roman Empire extremely well – as well as romanticising the ideals that underpinned Rome.</p>	<p>Meet the Romans</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01ghsjx</p> <p>Mary Beard is a wonderful historian who looks at everyday life in ancient Rome.</p>	<p>Rome (behind a pay wall)</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=ELbp6LNPS4GZQ</p> <p>An extremely popular (and raunchy – so get parental permission) series that looks at the lives of both illustrious and ordinary Roman citizens in the last days of the Roman Republic.</p>	<p>The Renaissance</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fl1OeMmwYjU</p> <p>A short background video on the origin of the Renaissance.</p>



The Open University

The Open University does run a couple of courses that cover elements of the Roman Empire and the Renaissance and are worth looking at:

Art in Renaissance Venice - 6 hours

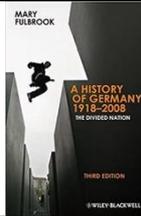
<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/visual-art/art-renaissance-venice/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab>

The Roman Empire: introducing some key terms – 14 hours

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/history/social-economic-history/the-roman-empire-introducing-some-key-terms/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab>

Background – Germany

Germany was a dominant power in Europe for much of the 20th century, playing an important role in many world events. Events including, but not limited to, both of the World Wars and the Cold War. Thus, finding out how Germany found herself in this position is vital.



World War One – Aims and Purposes of the Kaiser

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures-and-events/war-and-peace-in-europe-from-napoleon-to-the-kaiser-from-balkan-war-to-world-war>

Gresham college host lectures on many different subjects and topics. This lecture will provide useful background to Germany's role in World War One.

The end of World War One

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures-and-events/ending-wwi-11-november>

World War One ends in 1918 and that's where our course begins. However, we cannot understand Germany's position in 1918 without knowing how World War One Ends.

Mary Fulbrook - A History of Germany 1918-2008: The Divided Nation

This is an incredibly useful summary of Germany history. Our course covers 1918-1989 and this book covers the entire time period. The perfect book to get an idea of the 'bigger picture'.

Greatest Events of World War II: In Colour (Focus on Episodes I & 5)

A large part of our course focusses on Germany's entry into the Second World War, trying to answer the question 'Why did Hitler invade Poland?'. However, we do not study many of the key events of World War Two, instead we skip to Germany's defeat in 1945. It is very useful for you to know some of the key events that led to Germany's defeat.

Year 12 Plan of Study:

Germany and West Germany, 1918-1989

Lesson		Theme	Content to cover
Time Period – Weimar			
1		Politics	Introduction and course overview. Imperial constitution Revolution from above/below.
2		Politics	Weimar Constitution
3		Politics	Challenges to democratic constitution Overcoming the challenges.
4		Politics	The collapse of democracy.
5		Opposition	Political extremism and crises
6		Opposition	Controlling extremism
7		Opposition	Nature of support for Weimar constitution
8		Economics	Economic impact of WWI
9		Economics	Policies for recovery Great Depression
10		Economics	Changing living standards
11		Culture	Role and status of women Education in Weimar Republic Attitudes to ethnic minorities
Half Term			
VIMA 1 week			
Time Period – Nazi Germany			
12		Politics	Establishing a Dictatorship Nature of Nazi Government
13		Politics	The government in wartime
14		Opposition	Opposition and dissent in Nazi Germany
15		Opposition	Support for the Nazi Regime
16		Opposition	Nazi use of Propaganda
17		Economics	Introduction to Nazi Economics
18		Economics	Attempting Economic recovery
19		Economics	Creating a command economy
20		Economics	Changing living standards
20		Economics	Economic impacts of the War
21		Culture	The impact of the '3 K' policies The impact of WW2 on German women
22		Culture	Nazi Education Nazi Cultural Policies
Christmas Break			

The rise and fall of Fascism in Italy, c1911-1946

Topics	Content to cover
UNIT 1 – THE LIBERAL STATE	
1	Introduction to the Course Course Overview and Expectations The Unification of Italy
2	Political Ideologies and Introduction to Italian Political System
3	Giolitti's Government
4	Italy in the War
5	The War Economy
6	The Mutilated Victory
UNIT 2 – THE RISE OF MUSSOLINI	
7	Revision and VIMA I
8	The Biennio Rosso and Political Unrest and VIMA Feedback
9	Mussolini and the Rise of Fascism
10	Political Legitimacy and the Rise to Power
11	The March on Rome
12	The Creation of a Fascist Dictatorship
UNIT 3 - THE FASCIST STATE	
13	Beginnings of the Fascist State
14	Cult of Personality, Press, Propaganda and Culture
15	Repression, Terror and Anti-Semitism
16	Political and Economic Interests
17	The Fascist Economy
18	VIMA II
19	VIMA II Feedback
20	The Great Depression
21	Relations with the Catholic Church
UNIT 4 – THE END OF FASCISM	
22	Mussolini's Foreign Policy Aims
23	Abyssinia, The Spanish Civil War and moving towards Germany
24	Neutrality and World War 2
25	The fall of Mussolini and what came next?