

Suggestions for Aspiring Year 12 A Level Historians

Italian History 1896-1943

We will start the course with a sweeping survey of Italian history culminating in the creation of Italy in the middle of the c.19th. A process known as the Risorgimento. It would be good for you to understand why this happened and who was responsible.

Listen or watch at least one of the following:

Risorgimento

BBC Podcast on Garibaldi and Risorgimento

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b083qx9j>

BBC Podcast on the 'Invention of Italy' episodes 2 and 3

Episode 2: Looks at the relationship between Garibaldi (the revolutionary) and Cavour (the Prime Minister of the state of Sardinia). Suggesting that Italy had a civil war after unification – which the North blamed on the Mafia. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b03dfpir>

Episode 3: Looks at Italy's involvement in World War One. The desire for the unredeemed lands (*terre irredente*). <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b03f97nz>



Rise of Fascism

Massolit Website

<https://www.massolit.io/courses/the-rise-of-italian-fascism-1911-39>

Italy's Road to War Overview of Mussolini's regime

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8xCkNDad1I>

Impact of First World War on Creation of Fascism – a very good video by David Reynolds acknowledged expert in this area.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=54GJXMqat8s>

Reading

The relevant parts of these two books have been placed on the Moodle

<https://moodle.poolegrammar.com/mod/folder/view.php?id=3720>

Clark, Martin

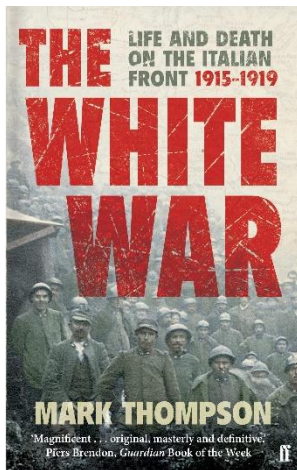
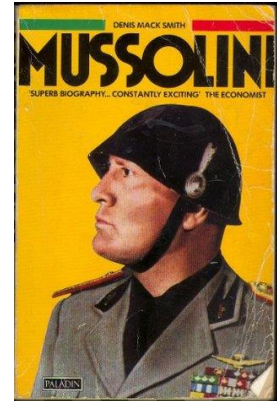
Modern Italy

Duggan, Christopher

A Concise History of Modern Italy

Other books worthy of your attention:

Blinkhorn, Martin	Mussolini and Fascist Italy
Bosworth, Richard	Mussolini
Bosworth, Richard	Mussolini's Italy
Boxer, Andrew	The Rise of Italian Fascism
Clark, Martin	Modern Italy
Duggan, Christopher	A Concise History of Modern Italy
Dunnage, John	Twentieth Century Italy
Eatwell, Roger	Fascism
Levi, Carlo	Christ Stopped at Eboli



Mack Smith, Denis	Mussolini
Mack Smith, Denis	Italy and Its Monarchy
Robson, Mark	Italy : Liberalism and Fascism 1870-1945 (ISBN 945.09)
Pollard, John	The Fascist Experience in Italy
Thompson, Mark	The White War (brilliant book on Italy's experience of WW1)
Ones in BOLD really recommended.	



Churchill and Britain 1930-1997

The first half of the course is devoted to assessing the significance of the role of Winston Churchill between 1930 and 1950. He was and remains a controversial figure.

Watch this video to understand why this might be (the postings beneath also point up that Churchill is far from a hero to many:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h8Ers8gw_W4

Optional TASK: Why is Churchill still so controversial?

Churchill the Wilderness Years 1929-39 BBC documentary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWSoxhCZbNE>

Optional TASK: Why was Churchill in the wilderness for nearly ten years?



Churchill's Reputation

Allen Packwood Director of the Churchill Archives Centre on Churchill – Film and Reality

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPC95u-ndgs>

Optional TASK: How accurately do you think films of Churchill have presented him?

Then look at this rather more reverential biography from the USA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RWqKD1duBPM>

Marr's modern Britain - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b00brnr1/andrew-marrs-history-of-modern-britain-1-advance-britannia>

COMPULSORY TASK: Write a brief (c.300 words) account of why you think Churchill was significant enough to have half of the British course devoted to him.

Reading

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| Jenkins, Roy | <u>Churchill</u> (a large but well-written and easily accessible biography of the main figure you will be studying) |
| Marr, Andrew | <u>A History of Modern Britain</u> |
| Heywood, Andrew | <u>An Introduction to Political Ideologies. Chp on Nationalism.</u> (For your gender equality chapter the section from his book on the growth of the feminist ideology might also be of use) |

Films

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <u>Young Winston</u> (1972) | Somewhat dated but dramatic telling of Churchill's early life as a swashbuckling man of action – owes much to what he wanted to show of his character. |
| <u>Gathering Storm</u> (2002) | Years before the War – showing Churchill as prescient outcast – plays very much to the gathering myth! |

Darkest Hour

Questionable in detailed fact but atmospheric reconstruction of Churchill's persona at the critical moments of May 1940 as Britain faced defeat at Dunkirk.

Churchill (2017)

Portrayal of Churchill prior to D-Day.

TV

Churchill and his Generals (1979)

BBC series telling the tale of his relationship with his generals

The Crown (Netflix)

Gives something of a grounding in the period



Thatcher: A Very British Revolution - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0005brf>

Other General Tasks you may wish to consider:

Using any novel written before the c.20th discuss its relevance as an historical text.

Choose two TV/film programmes one which shows a good use of historical context and one which shows poor use of historical context. Explain the difference between them.



“Those who do not study the past are condemned to repeat it.” Research and investigate two historical events from different periods to prove or disprove this statement.

Should there be a Martin Luther King Day? Research the context - the 1960s Civil Rights Movement. Prepare arguments for and against. Try not to be biased toward any one view. Debate.

Should we ever use feature films as historical texts? Illustrate with examples.

Visit a museum or museum website and assess how well it exhibits the past.

“Historians explode the myths created by politicians”. Assess how true this statement is in either Britain or America.

Watch Andrew Marr's History of Modern Britain.

Give an example of where counter-factual history might help explain the past.

Should leaders apologise for the historical past?

Choose TEN objects which could adequately explain the c.20th to an historian in five hundred years' time.

Conduct an 'Oral History' interview with a member of your family. Record it for posterity.