

Mussolini was the dictator of Italy. When he was a young man he was often arrested for his political activities. He believed that the only way to change society was through the use of violence.

After the First World War, many people were scared that there would be a revolution in Italy, as there had been in Russia. In 1919 they gave Mussolini money to set up the Fascist Party to oppose the Socialists and Communists.

Mussolini's men attacked trade unionists. **He organised his "March on Rome" in 1922.** He and his party promised the Italian people glory and greatness. The king asked Mussolini to be prime minister and Mussolini gradually took more power for himself. By 1927 he was known as "il Duce" (the Leader). **He had become a dictator.** He invested a lot of money in the army. He intended to create a new Roman Empire.



In 1935, to increase Italy's power and his own glory, Mussolini invaded and conquered Ethiopia, a weak African country. **His great friend in Europe was Hitler. They formed an alliance, which they called "Pact of Steel".** This alliance took Italy into the Second World War on Germany's side in 1940.

However, Mussolini's armies suffered many defeats. The Italian government arrested him. German special forces rescued him and put him back in power in northern Italy. But the end was not far away. **When Mussolini tried to escape to Switzerland, he was captured and shot by partisans.** They took his body to Milan where it was hung upside down for public viewing.

involve: verwickeln
violence: Gewalt
to be scared: Angst haben
trade union: Gewerkschaft
gradually: nach und nach
leader: Führer
intend: beabsichtigen
create: erschaffen

increase: erhöhen
glory: Ehre
invade: eindringen
conquer: erobern
alliance: Bündnis
steel: Stahl
suffer: leiden
defeat: Niederlage

rescue: retten
escape: entweichen
capture: gefangen nehmen
body: Leiche
upside down: verkehrt
public: öffentlich

Write RIGHT or WRONG:

Mussolini was the King of Albania. ... **WRONG**...

Mussolini was the dictator of Italy.

Mussolini didn't like violence.

Mussolini gave money to the trade unions.

Mussolini was a friend of Hitler.

Mussolini arrested Hitler.

The Pact of Steel was between Germany and Italy....

Mussolini created a new Roman Empire.

Italian armies invaded Germany in 1940

Translate:

Er wollte die Gesellschaft (society) durch den Gebrauch von Gewalt ändern.

Er wurde oft verhaftet.

Er eroberte ein afrikanisches Land.

Sie bildeten eine Allianz.

Die Armee erlitt viele Niederlagen.

Er versuchte, in die Schweiz zu entweichen.