Italian Supper Roundtable- Let’s Talk Propaganda

IB History

**Instructions:** Now that you have reviewed the examples of Fascist propaganda in Italy, we are going to attempt to evaluate to what extent it was successful in shaping the minds of the people to support Mussolini and his totalitarian state. Here is the scenario:

*The year is 1937 and you are living Mussolini’s Italy. You have been invited to the home your great aunt Sophia’s house for Sunday dinner. Aunt Sophia has always been a focal point of your family and distant relatives from all over Italy join you. As usual, Aunt Sophia is still putting the finishing touches on dinner and you all need to wait “five more minutes” before dinner is ready. In order to kill time, you decide to have a discussion before the food arrives. After pleasantries about the weather, the conversation drifts towards politics.*

**Your Task**

1. Go around the table and “remind” your relatives who you are and a little about you so they can understand your worldview. (30 seconds per person)

2. Share your thoughts on Mussolini and his vision for the Italian state. Discuss which messages/methods resonate most with you. (Describe two-three examples per person)

3. Which elements of Mussolini’s propaganda program did you not find persuasive? (one example per person)

4. Aunt Sophia hears your discussion and chimes in, “the history of Fascist Italy is the history of propaganda”. Discuss to what extent you belief that the Italian state under Mussolini is defined by propaganda. How effective is it in uniting the people around fascist ideology?

**Homework Options**

1. Create/plan one example of propaganda that you feel embodies propaganda under Mussolini.

2. Short Answer (Thesis and 3 paragraphs or 2-3 minute verbal explanation):

*To what extent did Mussolini effectively use propaganda to instill fascism in the Italian people?*