



Ordinary Violence in Mussolini's Italy

By Professor Michael R. Ebner

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Between 1926 and 1943, the Fascist regime arrested thousands of Italians and deported them to island internment colonies and small villages in southern Italy. *Ordinary Violence in Mussolini's Italy* analyses this system of political confinement and, more broadly, its effects on Italian society, revealing the centrality of political violence to Fascist rule. In doing so, the book shatters the widely accepted view that the Mussolini regime ruled without a system of mass repression. The Fascist state ruled Italy violently, projecting its coercive power deeply and diffusely into society through confinement, imprisonment, low-level physical assaults, economic deprivations, intimidation, discrimination, and other quotidian forms of coercion. Moreover, by promoting denunciatory practices, the regime cemented the loyalties of "upstanding" citizens while suppressing opponents, dissenters, and social outsiders. Fascist repression was thus more intense and ideological than previously thought and even shared some important similarities with Nazi and Soviet terror.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Michael Ebner has written an engaging book on violence in Fascist Italy that focuses primarily on the internal exile of individuals accused of political crimes. It will appeal to students of Fascist Italy and also to those with a more general interest in the workings of a police state." -Carl Ipsen, *The Journal of Modern History*

"Just when we had become accustomed to viewing the Italian Fascist regime in the soft focus of its consensual and consent-building cultural policies and its version of aestheticized politics, along comes this excellent book..." -Philip Morgan, *European History Quarterly*

Review

'Michael Ebner's excellent study of the Mussolini era gives a convincing account, based on much original research in the archives, of how the dictator and his followers deployed systematic violence over a period of more than 20 years.' *Financial Times*

From the Back Cover

"Michael Ebner's exploration of Fascist violence provides a long-overdue corrective to the dominant historical scholarship on Mussolini's regime, which has focused on the issue of popular consensus and tended to portray the dictatorship as a rather benign system of rule. Ebner makes a compelling case that violence, intimidation, and coercion remained central features of Italian fascism from its inception in 1919 to its demise in World War II. At the same time, his vivid case studies make an important contribution to the history of everyday life in interwar Italy. Its broad temporal and geographical coverage make it of interest to scholars of Nazi and Soviet history and social scientists involved in debates about totalitarianism."

-- Anthony Cardoza, Loyola University of Chicago

"This important book is beautifully written and argued and is based on an impressive array of archival and published sources that allow the author to combine local and national histories in an engaging way. Ebner exposes, as no study has done before, the ways that the Fascist regime ruled through violence, arguing that Fascism's deadly effects were felt not only through direct physical violence, but also through myriad deadly forms of discrimination and intimidation that marked Italian public and private lives for more than twenty years."

-- Ruth Ben-Ghiat, New York University

"The hardest of many legends about Fascist Italy is that the many atrocities it committed in its frequent wars were mild and its domestic excesses deplorable but limited. Michael Ebner, however, argues that even at home, despite sporadic scrutiny by the international press and the anxieties of Mussolini's conservative-monarchical allies, pervasive surveillance and lovingly calibrated terror were the order of the day. As Ebner shows with a wealth of trenchant detail and anecdotes from the Italian archives, Fascist Militia beatings, police surveillance and warnings, concentration camps, internal exile, long spells in prison, and the occasional quiet murder or highly publicized execution were notably effective throughout the regime's twenty years in enforcing outward conformity to the "Fascist style," and even in altering inner convictions. This is a deeply researched, well-constructed, and highly readable work that breaks new ground - a splendid contribution to our understanding of the Italian dictatorship."

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Brian Andres:

Now a day folks who Living in the era everywhere everything reachable by talk with the internet and the resources within it can be true or not need people to be aware of each details they get. How individuals to be smart in receiving any information nowadays? Of course the solution is reading a book. Looking at a book can help men and women out of this uncertainty Information specially this Ordinary Violence in Mussolini's Italy book because this book offers you rich facts and knowledge. Of course the information in this book hundred per-cent guarantees there is no doubt in it you know.

Melissa Conner:

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