

NEWS LETTER

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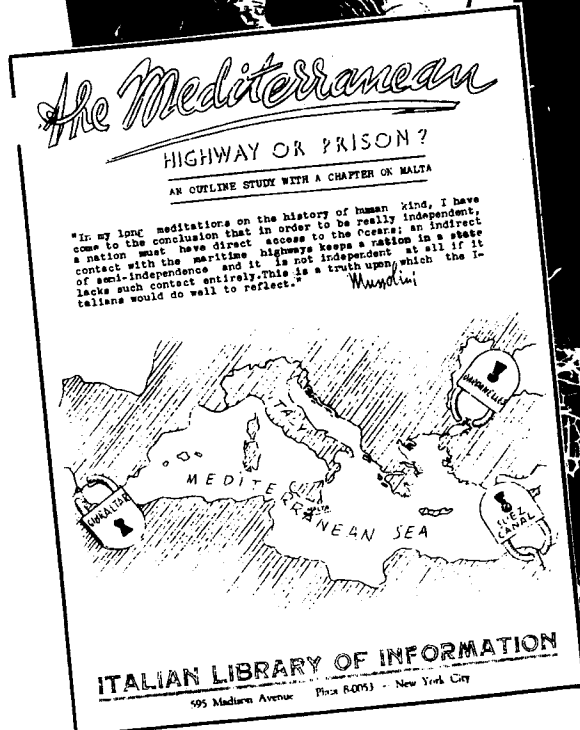
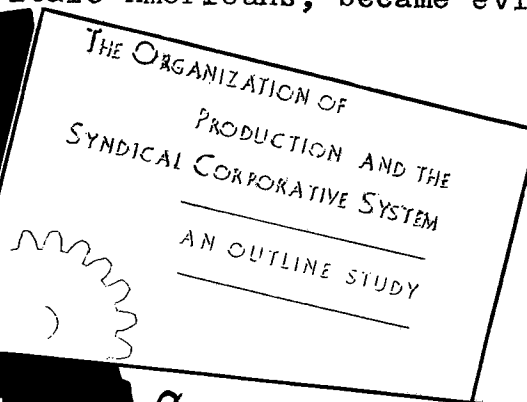
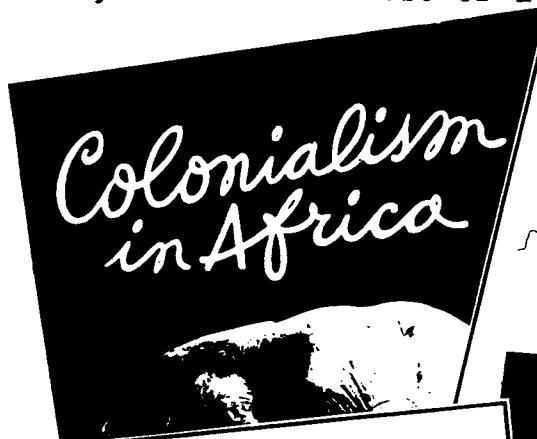
THAT FINE ITALIAN HAND....

Although Nazi propaganda absorbs public attention to a dominant degree, Fascist propaganda of the Mussolini brand is by no means dormant in the United States. Indeed, it is forging to the front more and more, to the same extent that Rome's technique apes the Berlin pattern.

That extraordinary efforts are now under way in the camps of Americagermans, as well as those of Italo-Americans, became evident during, and especially since, Wendell L.

Willkie's sojourn in Great Britain. On one hand, German-Americans subscribing to such periodicals as the Portland, Oregon, weekly, *Nachrichten* (illustration on page 2) revile the '40 presidential candidate of the G.O.P. as "not only a rather shabby character but also a kind of fool. We German-Americans are ashamed of him". On the other hand, leading Italian papers, such as *Il Progresso Italo-Americano* on the East Coast and *L'Italia* on the West Coast, considered Willkie's trip sufficiently threatening to the Axis to devote to it important front page space.

It is noteworthy that, just at this juncture, the Italian Library of Information, 595 Madison Avenue, New York City -- counterpart of the identical German institution -- is constantly increasing its output of propaganda material. Extraordinary emphasis has been added to its activ-



Home-made propaganda volumes, put out via the mimeograph route by The Italian Library of Information.

ities ever since the Lend-Lease (H. R. 1776) Bill came under consideration. Arousing grave apprehension in the hearts of "Mussolitalians", wherever these hyphenated "Americans" congregate in the United States -- either in such strictly "coordinated" club rooms as those of the "Sons of Italy in America" or in unorganized "spaghetti joints" -- fear for the future of Fascismo is expressed. These Mussolini adherents reason that if the United States renders effective material aid to Great Britain and Greece, Il Duce's dream to make the Mediterranean *Mare Nostrum* (Our Sea) is doomed. It is under the pressure of such considerations that German-Americans and Italo-Americans -- with no real love lost between them -- remain united for the present in order to stem the American tide.

Nazi propaganda in the United States is offensively aggressive, marching, as it were, to the thud of hobnailed goose-steppers. Contrariwise, Italian

THE MOST PROGRESSIVE ITALIAN DAILY WITH THE LARGEST CIRCULATION OF ALL FOREIGN LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS WEST OF CHICAGO

L'ITALIA
THE ITALIAN DAILY NEWS

Chicago, Quaderno, Capogio dell'Estremo della Cornice Italiana alla Casa del Pubblico

NEW YORK, N. Y., 42 E. 37 St., Second Floor, New York 17, N. Y.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1941. L'ITALIA, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF., MERCURIO, 11 FEBBRAIO 1941

Willkie dichiara indispensabile ed urgente l'aiuto all'Inghilterra

Afferma che "il rischio nell'approvare il bill che conferisce vasti poteri al Presidente, è nulla rispetto al disastro prevedibile se l'Inghilterra sarà battuta"

WASHINGTON, 11 Febb. — Wendell L. Willkie, reduce da una personale visita in Inghilterra, dove ha insistito per la fornitura delle navi

IL PROGRESSO ITALO-AMERICANO

THE FIRST AND GREATEST ITALIAN DAILY NEWSPAPER IN THE UNITED STATES

NEW YORK, N. Y., 42 E. 37 St., Second Floor, New York 17, N. Y.

Willkie ritorna da Londra: deporrà domani alla Commissione del Senato

Wendell L. Willkie è tornato a New York col Clipper dal suo giro d'ispezione in Inghilterra

Nachrichten
für den Nordwesten

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Der Fall Willkie

Der Mann Willkie enthüllt sich immer unerfreulicher.

Im Wahlkampf hat er die Gefährlichkeit Roosevelt's betont, dessen Machtgelüste, und daß er das Land in den Krieg treibe. Jetzt hilft er ihm in beiden Dingen nach Kräften mit.

Er war von den Demokraten zu den Republikanern übergegangen; jetzt fällt er sich die Republikaner an.

lunedì. Egli annunciò che si sarebbe mosso immediatamente in comunicazione col Chairman del comitato Senatore George per pigliare gli accordi definitivi circa la sua deposizione.

Con Willkie arrivarono ieri i suoi due amici che hanno fatto il viaggio con lui, John Cowles presidente del Minneapolis Star Journal e Landon Thorne, banchiere di New York.

Erano anche a bordo dell'aeroplano quattro dirigenti della Pan American Airways tra i quali Juan Talone presidente della grande

Reproductions from editorial page of Portland, Ore., "Nachrichten", and from front pages of "Il Progresso Italo - Americano" and "L'Italia", indicate that Willkie's plea for aid to Britain alarms German - Americans as well as Italo-Americans.

publicity is carried on with little emphasis but more fawning, and generally lives up to the well-known allusion of "that fine Italian hand". It puts its greatest stress on an Italy which actually achieved certain economic improvements during the Fascist Era and, at the same time, painstakingly avoids ascribing these advances to Mussolini personally. Indeed, in all propaganda publications, a clearly discernible effort is made to credit to the system per se all such progress as Fascismo might have produced.

Italian publicity experts in the United States, unlike their Nazi colleagues, are not bent on cramming their teachings down the throats of unwilling prospects; they are well aware that many of their compatriots love their homeland and are gratified by the advances made during the Mussolini Era. At the same time, these very compatriots want to put as much distance as possible between themselves and Il Duce, since the latter, far from reflecting credit on contemporary Italy, is considered a decided detriment when it comes to capturing foreign recognition.

The fact that Mussolini's personal aims are just as aggressive as those of Hitler was recently proclaimed by so authoritative a mouthpiece as Virginio Gayda, propounding in his latest book, "What Does Italy Want?":

Ten million Italians live outside Italy. With all these nationals of hers, Italy has the right and the duty to keep up spiritual contact and to provide, if necessary, for their defense.

This statement by Gayda is especially interesting when compared with an identical pronunciamento made by Colin Ross, international Nazi propagandist. In his volume, *Unser Amerika*, he declares:

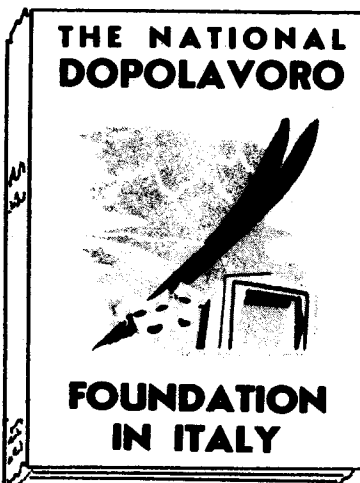
Just as a father proudly speaks of a son who attained gold and glory as "My Son" without claiming a share of his wealth, so we, without fear of criticism, may justifiably say of the New World across the Atlantic created by us: *Unser Amerika!*

America for the Americans....No?

With German-Americans and Italo-Americans laying claim to these United States, both are now one in their desire to hamper, as much as possible, American help for the Axis foes. Special measures to this end taken by the Italian propaganda in the United States include the output in New York of a number of mimeographed handbooks (illustration on page 1). These publications, ostensibly improvised as emergency releases, were produced to reinforce other propaganda material of wide variety. To mention only four of these home-made volumes: "The Mediterranean, Highway or Prison? An Outline Study with a Chapter on Malta"; "Development of Italian East Africa"; "The Organization of Production and the Syndical Corporative System"; and "Colonialism in Africa". All these mimeographed handbooks are crowded with statistical material; in their general conception, they follow the style set for similar publications by the German Library of Information.

As a rule, all other books and pamphlets which the Italian Library of Information distributes throughout the United States are received from Italy in English translation and in quantities almost as enormous as those which the German Library of Information regularly funnels into this country. Roughly analyzed, Italian propaganda publications can be classified as (a) Youth propaganda, (b) Labor propaganda, (c) Strength-Through-Joy propaganda and (d) Autarchic-Economy propaganda.

Youth Propaganda



Imitating Hitler's Strength-Through-Joy movement, Italy has developed her own "Dopolavoro Foundation".

The most important manual to ensnare American high school youths is a volume by Renato Marzolo called "The Youth Movement in Italy" (illustration on this page). Richly illustrated, it describes the life of the totalitarianized *bambino* from the time he is seven years old and joins the *Ballilla*, comparable to the Hitler Youth. The introduction to this book proclaims:

Fascism is both doctrine and action; and it is therefore able to exercise an immediate influence over the young. This is proved by the innumerable examples of young lads and boys who have died fighting for the Cause.



Front cover of an Italian propaganda handbook, especially designed to impress American high school youth.

The handbook furnishes a step-by-step description of the ways by which Italy's youth is moulded into full-fledged Fascists. It minutely describes "academies, colleges and courses of instruction for the leaders", outlining in detail curricula analogous to those which Nazi Germany instituted for *Führerschulen* (schools for leaders).

Taking another leaf out of the experiences of German propaganda as foisted on English-speaking countries, the Italians, too, make wide use of quoting from authoritative sources, especially playing up such opinions as emanated in hostile countries. Adopting this technique, an article, "What Italy Does for Her Mothers and Children" by J. Halford, O.B.E., was reprinted from "Mother and Child", a London publication. Despite, or just because of, Italy's being at war with Great Britain, these reprints are now widely employed by Italian propagandists in the United States, thus painstakingly imitating *Herr Doktor Goebbels'* trick of deliberately confusing friend and foe.

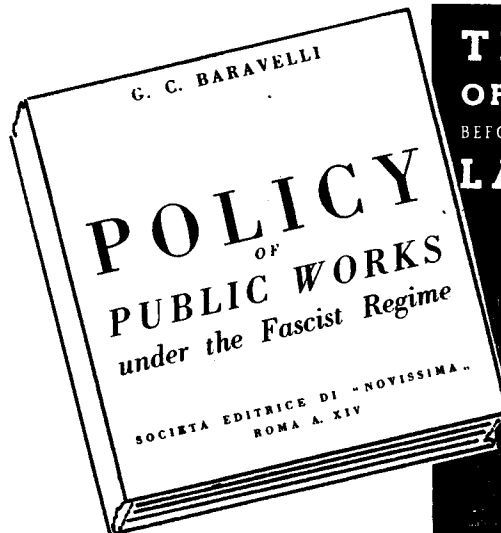
Labor Propaganda

Still adhering to the Goebbels formula, the Italians strain every effort to convince Labor that the totalitarian system is superior to any other. Among leaflets (illustration on this page) currently broadcast by the Italian Library of Information is especially one, entitled "The Protection of the Worker in Italy". While this leaflet is necessarily in the nature of a mere digest, two additional and far more comprehensive pamphlets furnish detailed information.

The first of these propaganda releases is rather elementary in nature. Entitled "Labour in Italy", it is quoted from the pen of Miss Muriel Currey, O.B.E., and comprises a popularized elucidation of the Fascist platform as far as Labor in Fascist Italy is concerned. The second volume, authored by G. C. Baravelli, bears the title: "Policy of Public Works under the Fascist Regime"; it is more along the lines of an advanced course on Fascism in all its branches, but particularly stressing the Labor angle. To make this volume more palatable, it is profusely illustrated in such a manner as to permit Fascism to put its best foot forward.

Strength-Through-Joy Propaganda

Again copying the Goebbels pattern, a third series of Italian propaganda pamphlets concentrates on "The National Dopolavoro Foundation in Italy" (illustration on page 3). This organization, also officially known as The National Leisure Hours Organization, is the Italian replica of Hitler's *Kraft durch Freude* (Strength-Through-Joy). It is given a send-off by Mussolini himself in the form of a motto as follows: *The Dopolavoro is a work of peace pursuing a sublime measure of brotherhood, love and civilization.*



American Labor is to be influenced by such Fascist publications as these. -- Note that one of them is from the pen of a British author.

THE PROTECTION
OF THE WORKER IN ITALY
BEFORE AND AFTER THE ENACTMENT OF THE
LABOUR CHARTER

THE CORPORATE STATE
AND ITS ORGANIZATION

LABOUR IN ITALY
by
MURIEL CURREY, O.B.E.

This particular volume is all the more absorbing as it contains comprehensive indices in addition to a large number of impressive photographs. In every detail, the Italian Strength-Through-Joy pamphlet presents itself as a successful runner-up to Dr. Robert Ley's propaganda publications.

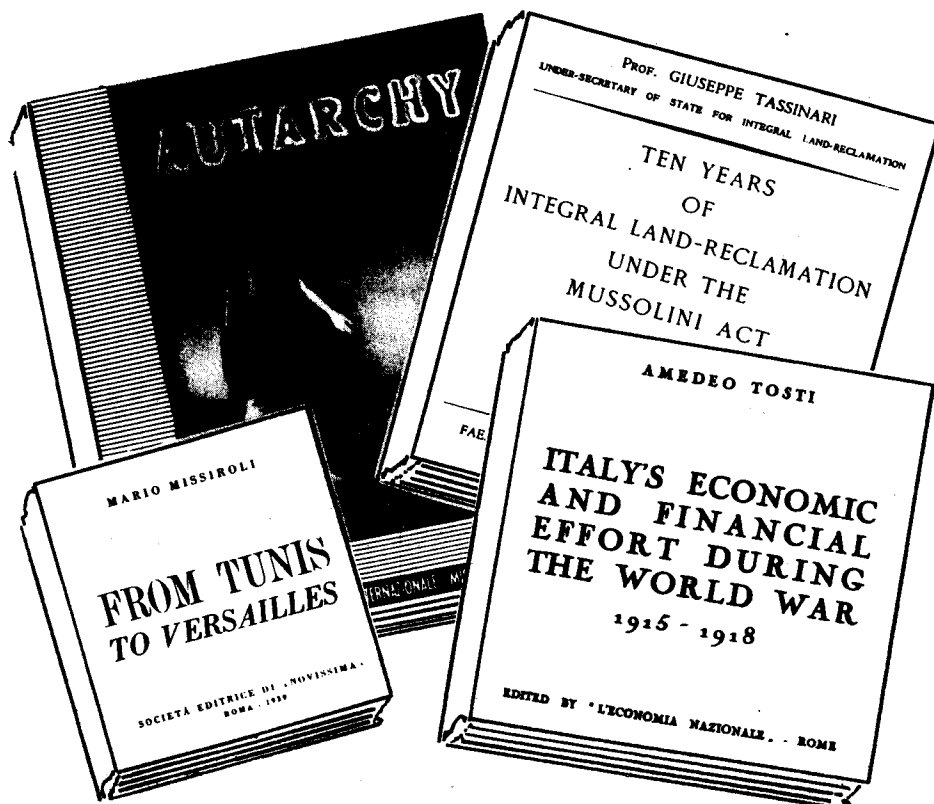
Autarchic Economy Propaganda

The most important releases (illustration on this page) by the Italian Library of Information are naturally pamphlets which deal with the economic aspects of totalitarian autarchic economy. A book by Mario Missiroli, entitled "From Tunis to Versailles", is used to lay the foundation for such imperialistic claims as Mussolini's Italy entertains. The book is in the nature of a most improbable apologia for utterly indefensible international highway robbery. In order to make his point, the author suitably twists pseudo-historical "facts", eventually arriving at the conclusion:

Is it remarkable that Italy considers herself a creditor nation -- and how vastly a creditor nation! -- both materially and morally, as regards her allies of the World War? Most certainly not. And the discontent of the Italians will never be eliminated until the accounts of the World War have been definitely closed by means of due reparation for their many grave acts of injustice.

Missiroli's pamphlet -- incidentally, of pocket size so that it can easily be dragged into any spur-of-the-moment argument -- is supplemented by a similar volume by Amedeo Tosti entitled "Italy's Economic and Financial Effort During the World War, 1915-1918". This treatise, too, harps on Italy's "just rights to get her share" and, in turn, is followed up by a study entitled "Autarchy", issued by the *Istituto per Gli Studi di Politica Internazionale -- Milano* (Institute for the Study of International Politics in Milan). In general, this very clever piece of work indicates to what extent autarchy may be employed for the purpose of political and military offensive armament. It contains very instructive graphs, and culminates in the statement:

But as it is certain that a country can only export when it imports, we can safely say that our exchanges with foreign countries will increase instead of decreasing.... Italian economic activities, strengthened by the independence of foreign supplies which they will have acquired, and organized for stability with the frame work of the guild system, will no longer be exposed to the danger of violent and pernicious shocks.



A handful of Italian propaganda books, specializing in autarchic economy.

To lay the foundation for an alibi which would excuse Roman rapacity, Italian

propagandists in the United States also circulate a book by Guiseppe Tassinari entitled "Ten Years of Integral Land-Reclamation Under the Mussolini Act". This volume is intended to prove to the world at large that Italy, like Hitler's Germany, has done everything in her power to create *Lebensraum* (economic elbow room) out of her own strength; if she didn't succeed, she could hardly be blamed for the ensuing explosion.

Brothers pro tem.

Propaganda volumes analyzed so far comprise but a negligible part of the arsenal of paper bullets which the Italian Library of Information stands ready to throw into the battle. Monthly surveys distributed by that office always carry the invitation:

Inquiries regarding industrial and economic conditions in Italy will be gladly answered and addresses of manufacturers for export supplied on addressing the Secretary: CONFEDERAZIONE FASCISTA INDUSTRIALI, Piazza Venezia, 11, or ASSOCIAZIONE FRA LE SOCIETA' ITALIANE PER AZIONI, Via Cesare Battisti, 121, Rome, Italy.

While Fascismo's propaganda thus tries to infiltrate the United States from outside, its internal emissaries are working industriously. They go even so far as to kowtow to organized American Nazidom as coordinated in Bund locals. Swallowing their Roman pride and their hereditary, intense dislike of everything *Tedeschi* (German), Los Angeles Mussolitalians fraternize with ex-citizen Hermann M. Schwinn's stormtroopers within the very confines of the *Deutsches Haus*. In turn, the Bundits will visit the Fascists in their own stronghold. Whenever these Brethren in Totalitarianism get together, there is an impressive display of swastikas and fasces. At times the leaders will even permit themselves to be photographed together, as shown in NEWS LETTER of June 19, 1940. To be sure, no genuine friendship prevails between the Hitlerites and the Mussolinites; their marriage is strictly one of convenience, similar to that which now ties Moscow to Berlin.

Racially, Nazis and Fascists despise one another, but politically they march together, especially in the United States and in other countries in the Western Hemisphere. With both following the identical will-o-the-wisp -- the Americagermans calling it *Unser Amerika!* and the Italo-Americans *Nostra America!* -- their propaganda efforts travel along the selfsame groove. This becomes all the more evident the more the propaganda plot thickens.

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Index to additional information on names and facts mentioned in NEWS LETTER will be furnished quarterly.