

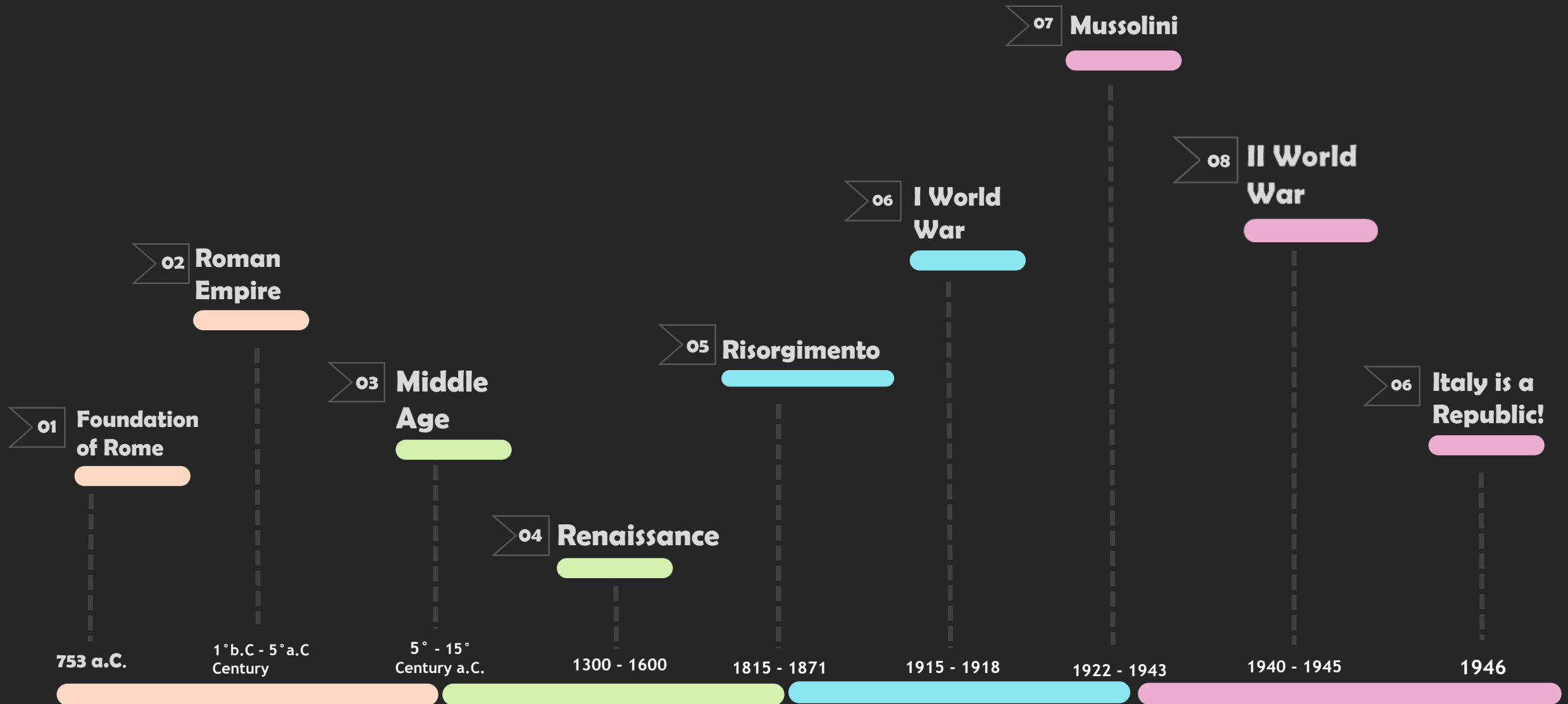


Culture Is Our Wings

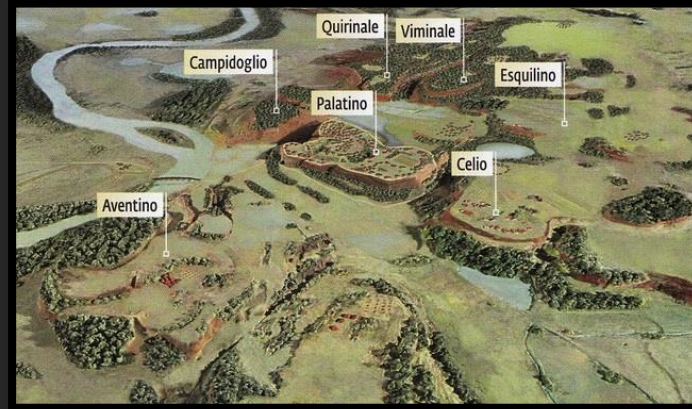
2019-1-NL01-KA229-060531

*Instances of History
Let's learn from our forefathers*

THE 8 MOST IMPORTANT HISTORICAL EVENTS IN ITALY



01 Foundation of Rome



Rome was founded in the mid-8th century b.C.

Rhea Silvia, daughter of Numitor, king of Alba Longa was dethroned by her brother Amulius, she married the god Mars and gave birth to twins: Romulus and Remus. Amulius, fearing they would overthrow him from the throne, abandoned the twins on the banks of the Tiber. The twins, however, survived thanks to the intervention of a wolf. Having grown up and having discovered their origin, Romulus and Remus returned to Albalonga and killed Amulius. They then obtained permission to found a new city. Romulus wanted to call it Rome and build it on the Palatine, while Remo wanted to call it Remora and found it on the Aventine. A quarrel broke out between the two brothers and eventually Remo died. Thus Romulus could found his new city, becoming the first of the 7 Kings of Rome.

02 The Roman Empire

The Roman Empire was the Roman State consolidated in the Euro-Mediterranean area between the 1st century b.C and the 5th century a.C.

The empire was divided into the empire of the West and of the East. The Roman Empire of the West ended in 476 when Odoacer laid down the last legitimate emperor, Romulus Augustus. The life of the Roman Empire of the East continued until the conquest of Constantinople by the Ottomans in 1453.

Roman Empire is considered the most important in terms of management and quality of the territory, socio-political organization, and for the impact it had in the history of humanity. It is certainly the most long-lived one. In all the territories on which the Romans extended their borders, they built cities, roads, bridges, aqueducts and, at the same time, they assimilated populations in such a deep way that for centuries, after the end of the Empire, these people continued to call themselves Roman. The civilization, born on the banks of the Tiber, grown and spread in the Republican period, is at the basis of the current western civilization.



Scene from the movie: THE GLADIATOR



03 The Middle Ages

The Middle Ages are referred to as the historical period that began in 476 a.C. with the fall of the Holy Roman Empire of the West and ended with the discovery of America in 1492. This period was full of important events. It is considered, as a matter of fact, a long phase of transition between the ancient and modern ages. In this period Italian Literature was born with several great writers: Dante, Petrarca, Boccaccio...



04 The Renaissance

The Renaissance is an artistic, cultural, philosophical and literary movement that has brought about numerous changes. The main themes of the Renaissance are love, human freedom, nature, the study of books and ancient classical writers and the creativity of the human intellect. We remember Pico della Mirandola, Leonardo da Vinci, Leon Battista Alberti and Lorenzo De' Medici known as "The Magnificent".



05 Risorgimento



Italian unification, also known as Risorgimento, was the political and social movement that consolidated different states of the Italian peninsula into the single state of the Kingdom of Italy in the 19th century. The process began in 1815 with the Congress of Vienna and it was completed in 1871 when Rome became the capital of Italy.

The term, which also designates the cultural, political and social movement that promoted unification, recalls the romantic, nationalist and patriotic ideals of the Italian Renaissance through the conquest of a unified political identity.

The first World War took place between 1914 and 1918 and, in four long years, involved all the greatest powers in the world. Initially, Italy attempted diplomatic approaches with Austria in order to obtain the lands of Trentino and Venice, but Austria refused. In 1915, secret agreements were made with the Treaty of London which assured that in case of victory, Italy would obtain the so called “unredeemed lands” and the Balkan territories of Istria and Dalmatia. In 1917 the Austrians broke through in Caporetto (“defeat of Caporetto”) and the Italian army was forced to retreat to Piave. In this period, however, a climate of distrust was spreading in all armies: there were many desertions, escapes, fraternizations with enemies, self-mutilation. General Cadorna was replaced by Diaz, who succeeded in overcoming this crisis, establishing a more open relationship with the troops, promising advantages and distribution of lands. In 1918 the Italian army defeated the Austrians at Vittorio Veneto, and on November 4th, Austria signed the armistice, and after a few days also Germany signed it, thus ending the conflict.





With the signing of the Steel Pact, Italy had declared itself to be non-belligerent. However, faced with Germany's first military successes, Mussolini decided to intervene: on June 10th 1940 Italy declared war on France and England. The leaders of Fascism believed that Italy could lead a "parallel war" to Nazis' one. On June 21st 1940, Italy attacked France in the Alps. Italy also intervened on the North African front: in Egypt its troops were rejected, and about 100,000 men died. Italy lost Eritrea, Somalia and Ethiopia. At this point, to demonstrate the independence of the Italian army from the German one, Mussolini gave orders to invade Greece and Albania: the Greek resistance was overcome through the intervention of Hitler. In 1942 the Axis forces pushed the English to Alexandria in Egypt, but on 23rd October, the counteroffensive, led by General Montgomery, brought to the breakthrough of the Italian-German lines. In Italy, on July 10th 1943, the Allies landed in Sicily and bombed Rome heavily. On 25th July Mussolini was dismissed, and the government was entrusted to Pietro Badoglio. The allies kept on advancing; on September 3rd Italy secretly signed an armistice of surrender with them, which was announced on September 8th. The country plunged into chaos: the Allies landed in Salerno and the Germans, to take revenge, invaded Italy. About 600,000 Italian soldiers were captured and 7,500 Italian Jews lost their lives in the extermination camps. On 12th September the Nazis freed Mussolini who established the Republic of Salò, directly controlled by the Germans. Italy was divided into two parts, and on 11th October 1943 war was declared against Germany; with the birth of the National Liberation Committee, the Partisan movement, allied with the Americans, managed to free Rome on June 4th, forcing the Germans to retreat along the Apennines. On April 25th 1945 the LNC proclaimed the national insurrection against the fascists, on April 28th Mussolini was killed by a group of partisans while he was trying to escape.

Scene from the movie: «ROMA CITTA' APERTA»



09 Italy is a Republic!



After the end of the Second World War a referendum (women voted for the first time) chose between Republic government or Monarchy.

Elections took place on 2nd June and the Italians chose the Republic. King Umberto II left in exile.

The Republican Constitution, composed of 139 articles, was signed on January 1st 1948 by the President of the Republic Enrico De Nicola and countersigned by the Prime Minister Alcide De Gasperi.



THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



"This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein."