

Program of the Italian Fascist Movement 6/1919

ITALIAN FASCI DI COMBATTIMENTO
CENTRAL COMMITTEE
MILAN—VIA PAOLO DA CANNobbIO, 37—TELEPHONE 7156

Italians!

This is the national program of a movement that is soundly Italian.

Revolution, because it is antidogmatic and antidemagogic; strongly innovating because it ignores a priori objections.

We regard the success of the revolutionary war as standing above everything and everybody.

The other problems—bureaucracy, administration, judiciary, school system, colonies, etc.—we shall consider after we have created a new ruling class.

Consequently, WE INSIST UPON:

For the political problem:

(a) Universal suffrage with a system of regional voting by list, with proportional representation, and woman suffrage and eligibility for office.

(b) Reduction of the age of voters to eighteen years; and that of eligibility for membership in the Chamber of Deputies to twenty-five years.

(c) Abolition of the Senate.

(d) Convocation of a National Assembly to sit for three years, its primary task to be the establishment of a new constitutional structure for the state.

(e) *Formation of National Technical Councils* for labor, industry, transportation, public health, communications, etc., to be elected by either professional or trades collectivities, and provided with legislative powers and the right to elect a Commissioner General who shall have the powers of a Minister.

SOURCE: Translated by permission of Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc., from Renzo De Felice, *Mussolini il rivoluzionario, 1883-1920* (© 1965 by Giulio Einaudi editore, Turin), pp. 744-745.

For the social problem:

WE INSIST UPON:

(a) Prompt promulgation of a state law that makes compulsory for all workers an eight-hour working day.

(b) Minimum wage scales.

(c) *Participation of workers' representatives in the technical management of industry.*

(d) Transfer to such proletarian organizations as are morally and technically qualified for it the responsibility for operating industries and public services.

(e) Prompt and complete satisfaction of the claims of the railroad workers and all employees in the transportation industry.

(f) Appropriate revision of the draft law regarding insurance for sickness and old age, and reduction of the presently proposed age eligibility from sixty-five to fifty-five.

For the military problem:

WE INSIST UPON:

(a) *Creation of a National Militia*, with short periods of training, and designed purely for a defensive role.

(b) Nationalization of all arms and munitions factories.

(c) A foreign policy calculated to improve Italy's position in the peaceful competition of the civilized nations.

For the financial problem:

WE INSIST UPON:

(a) A heavy and progressive tax on capital which would take the form of a meaningful PARTIAL EXPROPRIATION of all kinds of wealth.

(b) *Confiscation of all the properties belonging to religious congregations* and abolition of all the revenues of episcopal sees, which at present constitute an enormous burden on the nation while serving as a prerogative for a few privileged persons.

(c) Revision of all contracts for supplying war matériel, and confiscation of 85 per cent of war profits.