



My Rise and Fall

Benito Mussolini , Max Ascoli (Editor) , Richard Lamb (Introduction) , Richard Washburn Child (Foreword)

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Here, for the first time in one volume, are two rare autobiographical works by Benito Mussolini (1883?1945), founder of Fascism and Italian dictator for twenty-one years. The first volume (published in English in 1928 as *My Autobiography*) describes Mussolini's youth, years as an agitator and journalist, experiences in World War I, the formation and revolutionary struggles of the Fascist Party, the March on Rome, and his early years in power. The second volume (published in English in 1948 as *The Fall of Mussolini*) was written during the brief period between his rescue by the Germans in September 1943 and his execution by Italian partisans in April 1945. Here the Duce recounts his last year in power and the coup d'état that deposed him. *My Rise and Fall* allows readers to view the dictator from two unique vantage points: Il Duce, eyes on the horizon, chin thrust forward, as he nears his political zenith; and Mussolini at his nadir, a desperate, powerless, sawdust Caesar, soon to be shot and hanged, head down, for all to scorn.

My Rise and Fall Details

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Author : Benito Mussolini , Max Ascoli (Editor) , Richard Lamb (Introduction) , Richard Washburn Child (Foreword)

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From Reader Review My Rise and Fall for online ebook

Brian says

This book is a combination of several primary sources related directly to Benito Mussolini. The first "My Rise" was Mussolini's account of how he came to power in Italy. It has its uses but the reader should be aware that it does omit several parts of his rise to power and it is worth keeping a good Mussolini biography close at hand to compare the account with. "My Fall" is a compilation of about a dozen articles penned by Mussolini about the time that occurred from the Grand Council meeting to the establishment of the Salo Republic. Overall these provide an interesting look into Mussolini's mind and a chance to understand what he considered important in his life. The accounts are well written and Mussolini does an excellent job of recounting the parts he feels are relevant. It is with an eye towards revisionist history but despite that the documents can still be useful. All of the preface and introductions are done by top notch historians and do an excellent job of putting things in perspective.

Pat Schakelvoort says

Surely an other view on Mussolini. Seems he wasn't such a George W. Bush-like bonehead I once thought. I don't think it's really arrogantly written, in "My Fall" he wrote the chapters anonymous, so he referred to him in the third person.

Kent says

so far so good

Chris Langer says

The book was filled with obvious biases, especially once he was deposed, but it provided a fascinating look into the man that was Mussolini. From his hatred of material value and his love of the violin to his conspiratorial look at his fall from grace, the book was quite the interesting read.

Matt Buchholz says

If you're looking for some hard history or insight into the Mussolini's perspective, getting through the transparent propaganda and into anything substantial is tough going all around. Possibly someone familiar with Italian history/politics could find the cartoonish arrogance and skewed view of how things really happened amusing and perhaps even telling. If you know nothing, like me, this just feels like a waste of a time. Lots and lots of time.

sh'dynasty says

It's quite amazing to read two autobiographical accounts of Fascist Italy by its Duce. The first, the Rise, presents itself as an autobiography but it is really Mussolini explaining his roots, but also his about-face from socialism to fascism. He then goes on to defend everything he did and skewing things to the point where you almost start cheering for his accomplishments. The second part, the Fall, is a compilation of articles published by *Corriere della Sera*, penned by Mussolini, explaining how he had his power taken away from him. It's interesting, because again, the story becomes not Italy's, but Mussolini's and Mussolini's alone. In some ways, this is correct. He blames everything on everyone else, and sticks to his guns. It took me a while to read because it's heavy both physically and also in the sense that there is so much information in it that covers a very long period of time. He also fancied inserting various speeches and articles within the story. There were a few typos, but I can overlook that because this book is a real gem to anyone interested in history, Italy, WWII and/or megalomaniacs.

Patricia Roberts-Miller says

Kind of fascinating in a train wreck way. He's completely unreliable on most things, and yet whinges about other people lying. When he's successful, that's proof that he's great, but failure is not proof that he's a loser-- it means he's a victim.
