

THE RISE OF FASCISM IN THE INTER-WAR YEARS
Humanities 324, April 17
Professor McClain

“One might consider Fascism a method...” (1928)
“From this fundamental character of Fascist philosophy derives those qualities that are spoken of as Fascist *style*—a style of literary expression and a style of practical conduct...” (1928)

-- Giovanni Gentile, Minister of Education

Introduction: “F” ascism and “f”ascism
image: Mussolini, 1932 political poster, Ferrara
music: “I can’t get started, “ by Bunny Berigan
1932: the world over...



I: Fascism in Italy: 1932

Fascist Fashion and Style: (film clip, “Amarcord”)
Mussolini: words, ideas and image
Fascist Practice at home (film clip, “1900) . . .
and abroad: (Ethiopia, Spain)
The Pact of Steel, Germany

II: fascism and modernity?

Bureaucracy, via Max Weber Mussolini bust by Bertelli

III: Philip Johnson: life, works, and words...

“politics makes strange bedfellows...”

IV: The Absurd (film clip, “Seven Beauties”)



Philip Johnson (continued)

4. *"I'd work for the devil himself"* (Conversations with Architects, 1973, p. 36).
5. *"Whoever commissions buildings buys me. I'm for sale. I'm a whore. I'm an artist"* (ibid, p. 37).
6. *"Life is absurd – life is chaos, there are no rules – enjoy it ---"* (Writings, 1962, p. 248).

Mr. Richard Washburn Child, American Ambassador to Italy, 28th June 1923:

1) *"During the last eight months Italy has made an extraordinary contribution to the whole world by raising ideals of human courage, discipline, and responsibility. I would be unfaithful to my beliefs and to those of hosts of Americans if I failed to acknowledge the part played by your President of Council, Mussolini, with the people of Italy, in giving to all mankind an example of courageous national organization founded upon the disciplined responsibility of the individual to the state, upon the abandonment of false hopes in feeble doctrines, and upon appeal to the full vigorous strength of the human spirit."* (ibid, p. 336)

2) *"When one makes the **fasces** the first requirement is to find the individual rods, straight, strong and wiry, such as you have found, Mr. President, and so skillfully bound together in the strength of unity. But if they had been rotten sticks you could not have made the **fasces**. Unity in action would have been impossible. The rotten sticks would have fallen to pieces in your fingers."* (ibid, 338)