

Orson Welles' Interpretation of Julius Caesar

Fascism timeline

Key: ■ = Italy ■ = Germany ■ = Russia

1917	March	■	Revolution in Russia overthrows the Russian Empire and institutes democracy.
	October	■	The October Revolution gives power to the Communists led by Lenin.
1918	November	■	End of the First World War and the defeat of the Alliance powers – Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy. Fall of the monarchy in Germany and founding of the German Republic.
1919	January	■	Elections in Germany for a new National Assembly.
	February	■	National Assembly elects Ebert first President of the Republic and decides new constitution. Universal suffrage and elections of President and Reichstag (Parliament) every seven years.
	September	■	Adolf Hitler joins the German Workers' Party – an extreme right wing, anti-semitic organisation with around 50 members.
	March	■	Mussolini founds the 'Fasci di Combattimento' in Italy. The new party adopts a military style uniform with black shirts.
1920	February	■	German Workers' Party changes its name to 'Nazionalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei, or NSDAP – acquiring the nickname 'NAZI' party. 2,000 people attend their first rally.
	June	■	Treaty of Versailles demands punitive damages. Is paid by Germany as 'reparation' for the war. Germany's army, navy and air force are to be disbanded or drastically reduced in size. The German Empire and its colonies are to be dismantled under the mandate of the League of Nations. The Rhineland is to be occupied by Allied troops.
1921	July	■	Adolf Hitler becomes leader (Führer) of the NAZI party.
	November	■	Members of the NAZI party charged with 'maintaining order' at meetings become officially known as the SA or Sturmabteilung (translated as 'Stormtroopers').
1922	October	■	Mussolini's party seizes power in Italy, and begins to dismantle the structures of democracy.

Key: ■ = Italy ■ = Germany ■ = Russia

- 1923 **January** ■ Mussolini sets up the 'Fascist Grand Council' that will eventually replace the elected parliament.
- French troops occupy the German industrial region of the Ruhr, leading to unrest and instability.
Collapse of German economy leads to disastrous government decision to print money that dramatically escalates the problem of inflation.
- February** ■ Mussolini's private army of 'Blackshirts' become the 'Militia for National Security'
- June** ■ Mussolini enacts law (the Acerbo law) that changes the electoral rules to ensure a fascist victory in the next General Election.
- November** ■ One US dollar is worth 42,000,000,000,000 German Marks.
The NAZI party stages an attempt to overthrow the democratic government (The Munich Beer Hall Putsch) that fails. Hitler is sentenced to 5 years in prison.
- 1924 **April** ■ A fractured and disparate opposition enables the fascist party to a comfortable victory in the General Election in Italy.
- August** ■ The Dawes Plan provides for US loans to Germany to ease the financial crisis.
The National Bank introduces a new unit of currency – the Reichsmark – that stops inflation.
- December** ■ Adolf Hitler is released from prison after serving one year of his sentence. While in prison, he has written 'Mein Kampf'.
- 1925 **January** ■ Mussolini assumes dictatorial powers in Italy.
- 1926 **November** ■ All non-fascist political activity in Italy is prohibited.
- 1928 **December** ■ The Fascist Grand Council becomes the elected body of government, with candidates proposed by fascist organisations and selected by the Council itself.
- 1929 **June** ■ The Young Plan establishes the total amount of reparations to be paid by Germany, and suggests that the Allies withdraw from the Rhineland in 1930, five years ahead of the date specified in the Treaty of Versailles.
- June** ■ The Lateran Treaty creates a Vatican Sovereign State independent from the rest of Italy. The Pope will be politically neutral. Catholicism is the State religion of Italy.

Key: ■ = Italy ■ = Germany ■ = Russia

1930	September	The NAZI party gets 6 million votes in the General Election, making them the second largest party in Germany.
1931	May	Unemployment in Germany reaches 4 million.
	July	Bank Crisis in Germany
1932	April	Hitler gets 37% of the vote in the elections for Reichspräsident.
	July	Reichstag elections. NAZI party are now the largest party in parliament.
1933	January	President Hindenburg appoints Hitler Chancellor of a coalition government.
	March	General Election gives Hitler's coalition slim majority in the parliament. Enabling Act gives all legislative powers to the Chancellor.
	July	All political parties banned.
1934	June	Night of the Long Knives – Hitler conducts purge of his rivals and enemies.
	August	Death of President Hindenburg. Hitler assumes Presidential powers. In a plebiscite, an overwhelming majority of the electorate approve the move.
	September	Hitler proclaims 1000 year Reich.