

Mussolini and the Economy

1. Battle for Wheat:

- a. No need to import wheat (goal)
- b. By 1925, imports were down by 75%
- c. Wheat more expensive as it is difficult to grow in the climate

2. Battle for Land:

- a. More usable land (goal)
- b. Drained the Pontine Marshes (3 million acres)
 - i. Resulted in more land and a drop in the unemployment rate (1000s of workers needed to drain it = short-term jobs)

3. Battle for Lira (currency):

- a. Strengthen the currency
 - b. Powerful nations = powerful currency
 - c. Made exports expensive – decreased international demand for Italian products
 - i. Unemployment was 10 times higher than 1925 by 1932 = 1.1 million
 - d. Factories moved to 3 day work weeks due to lack of demand.
- Got rid of trade unions
 - Industry made up of 22 corporations = corporate state

- Italy did not have the natural resources to be a world power = needed colonies.