Mussolini's Foreign Policy

- Historically Italy and Germany have been enemies

1. Locarno Treaty 1925
   a. Italy, Britain and France agreed to defend France's border with Germany

2. Lateran Pact 1929
   a. Recognized the Holy See and Vatican City as being completely sovereign from the Italian state, still like this today.

3. Austria 1934
   a. Mussolini sent 3 tank divisions to border with Austria
      i. Bullied Hitler, he backed down – provides evidence that Germany was not ready for a war

4. Stresa Front 1935
   a. Italy, Britain and France agreed to stop German rearmament even if force was needed

5. Abyssinia (Ethiopia) 1935
   a. Imperialism
      b. League of Nations brought in trade sanctions against Italy = angered Mussolini, Hitler was still willing to trade with Italy = angered the Italian population – Allies now the enemy of Italy.

6. Spanish Civil War 1936
   a. Italy and Germany supported Franco (semi-fascist) against the Republicans (support from international community and the USSR) = Mussolini saw it as an opportunity to show his country's strength, backfired on him.