

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.