Contents

1 Introduction: Coming Out of the War—Entering Fascism 1
The Last Year of War 1
The Seizure of Power 13
Toward a Totalitarian State 25
The New Allies: the Church and the Army 36
Repression 44

2 The Italians and the Fascist Party 49
The National Fascist Party 49
The Fascist Leading Class 61
A Party of only Men 69
Mussolinism 75

3 Men and Women in Fascism 87
Men or Soldiers? 87
The Fascist Model of Family 95
The Body of Italians 105
The Fascist Woman 108

4 A Fascist Country 115
A Modern Country? 115
One Nation on the Move 119
The "New Frontier" 122
De-urbanization and Appeal to a New Rural World 130

The "Beautiful Country" 137
Confined Lands: confine/confino 141

5 Growing Up Under Fascism 145
Making Young People the Real Fascists 145
Assisting, Controlling, and Punishing Childhood and Youth 154
Education 159
Higher Education and Universities 163

6 Leisure Time and Mass Culture Under Fascism 167
Sports and Nation 167
Popular Culture 178
Press, Information, and Entertainment 184
An Art at the Service of the Masses 191
A Culture in the Service of the Regime? 196

7 The Great Fascist Nation 203
The Fascist Idea of Fatherland and Nation 203
One Nation = One Language 212
Fascistizing Italian Communities Abroad 215

8 Italians and Non-italians 227
Italians by Force 227
Colonialism and Racism 235
Racism, Homophobia, and Sexism in the Motherland 241
Antisemitism and Italian Jews 249

9 Epilogue: From Great Adventure to Great Catastrophe 255
A Foreign Policy Serving the Domestic 255
The War in Spain 262
Italians Again at War 267

References of the Book 271

Index 279