Does Memory Matter?
The role of fascist memory in Italy and Germany

Mark Turpin & Ashley Litzenberger
Memory

“National Memory is shared by people who have never seen of heard of one another, yet who regard themselves as having a common history.”

-J. Gillis

• National memory contributes to National Identity

• Selective memory and collective amnesia contribute to the formation of national memory
Sites of Memory & National Symbols

• Unite the physical presence of a state with the imaginary collective community
  • Monuments
  • Metaphorical Monuments
Identity

- Factors for defining identity
  - Family
  - Gender
  - Territory
- National Identity
- Homeland
- Symbols and institutions
Identity

- Problems with national identity
  - Italy and Germany
  - Homeland
  - Symbols
  - Ethnicity
Architecture

- Fascist architecture in Italy
  - Combining ancient and modern elements
- Foro Italico
  - Built by the fascist party
  - Formerly known as Foro Mussolini
  - Recreational center for fascist youth organizations
Does Memory Matter?
Does Memory Matter? 8
Architecture

- Architecture in the Third Reich
  - Rejection of modern architecture
  - Neoclassical elements
- Olympia stadium Berlin
  - Built 1934 – 1936
  - Representation of national socialist power
Hitler

1933-45
  • Mobilized social fears and hopes
  • “führer” ”Volksgemeinschaft”

1945-1980s
  • Ideology broke down after loss of WWII
  • Collective Guilt
  • Hitler's Legacy: unmentioned, but not forgotten

1980’s
  • Dealing with History in order to move on

Present
  • Strengthening of Neo-Nazi Party
Mussolini

1922-1943
   • Leader/ideal
   • Mussolinismo

1945-1993
   • Antihero/scapegoat
   • Italiani Brava Gente

1993- Present
   • Rise of neo-fascist party
   • Human/neutralized


