



11 Nov 1918 - World War 1 ends. **Revolutionary upheavals** in Germany (incl. soviet republics in Bavaria Apr 1919), Hungary (soviet republic Mar-Jul 1919), and across Europe.

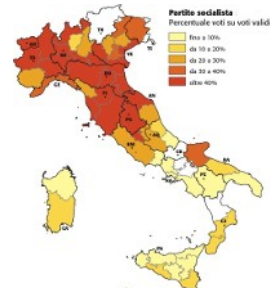


Early 1919 - in Italy: big wave of strikes. Socialist Party (PSI) grows hugely, votes immediately to affiliate to 3rd Int'l. PSI-linked union confederation CGL grows hugely; so, though less so, does anarcho-syndicalist USI. Leftish veterans' movement. Catholic peasants' party, PPI, founded.



21 Jun 1919 - Weekly **Ordine Nuovo**, launched 1 May by young PSI members in Turin, the most industrial city of Italy, **starts campaign to transform factory "internal commissions" into councils of "workshop commissars"**. **Councils flourish from late August; win support from local metalworkers' union (1 Nov 1919), local PSI (11 Dec 1919), local camera di lavoro (15 Dec 1919).**

15 Nov 1919 - general election. PSI wins 32% of vote, mostly in north and centre, PPI 21%, much in the south, but the government remains a coalition of small liberal groups, as ever.



11 Jan 1920 - PSI National Council adopts a bureaucratic scheme for workers' councils across Italy. It is a dead letter. Amadeo Bordiga, leader of PSI left, develops critique both of Bombacci scheme and of the "factory-ism" of the Ordine Nuovo approach.



13 Apr 1920 to 24 Apr 1920 - Industrialists lock out workers to try to break power of factory councils. Workers respond with **11-day general strike in Turin and surrounding areas. PSI does nothing to spread the strike. Factory councils survive, but much weakened.**

8 May 1920 - In Ordine Nuovo, Gramsci launches call **"For a renewal of the Socialist Party"**, acclaimed by Lenin at 2nd congress of Third Int'l. But in Turin he becomes isolated as other Ordine Nuovo people ally with PSI majority.





21 Aug 1920 - metalworkers' federation FIOM launches work-to-rule over pay. Bosses respond with lockouts. Workers respond with **occupations, continuing production, which spread all across Italy; form "red guards" inside factories.** Government refuses calls from industrialists to send troops against occupations, and pushes for a deal.

10-11 Sep 1920 - PSI and CGL (PSI-linked union federation) meet in conference. Vote on whether to go for revolution or continue movement with demand for union control in industry goes narrowly against revolution, thanks to votes of land workers' unions. The metal workers (FIOM, led by Bruno Buozzi, right) abstain.



24-30 Sep 1920 - occupations end after agreement endorsed by referendum of metalworkers for wage rises and promises (which prove null) to work out a scheme of union control, and local agreements for payment of wages for time of the occupations.



Around the same time there were large land seizures by peasants in southern Italy. But no connection at all was made between the land seizures and the factory occupations.

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**The anarchist veteran Errico Malatesta has said: "If we let this favourable moment pass we shall later pay with tears of blood for the fear we have instilled in the bourgeoisie". Antonio Gramsci has written similarly.**

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From Nov 1920 - fascist squads smash up and burn union offices and socialist newspaper offices, and murder trade unionists, across Italy.

The Communist Party finally emerges in a split from the PSI in January 1921, but it is small and unable to beat the fascists.

**October 1922: the fascists take power.**

