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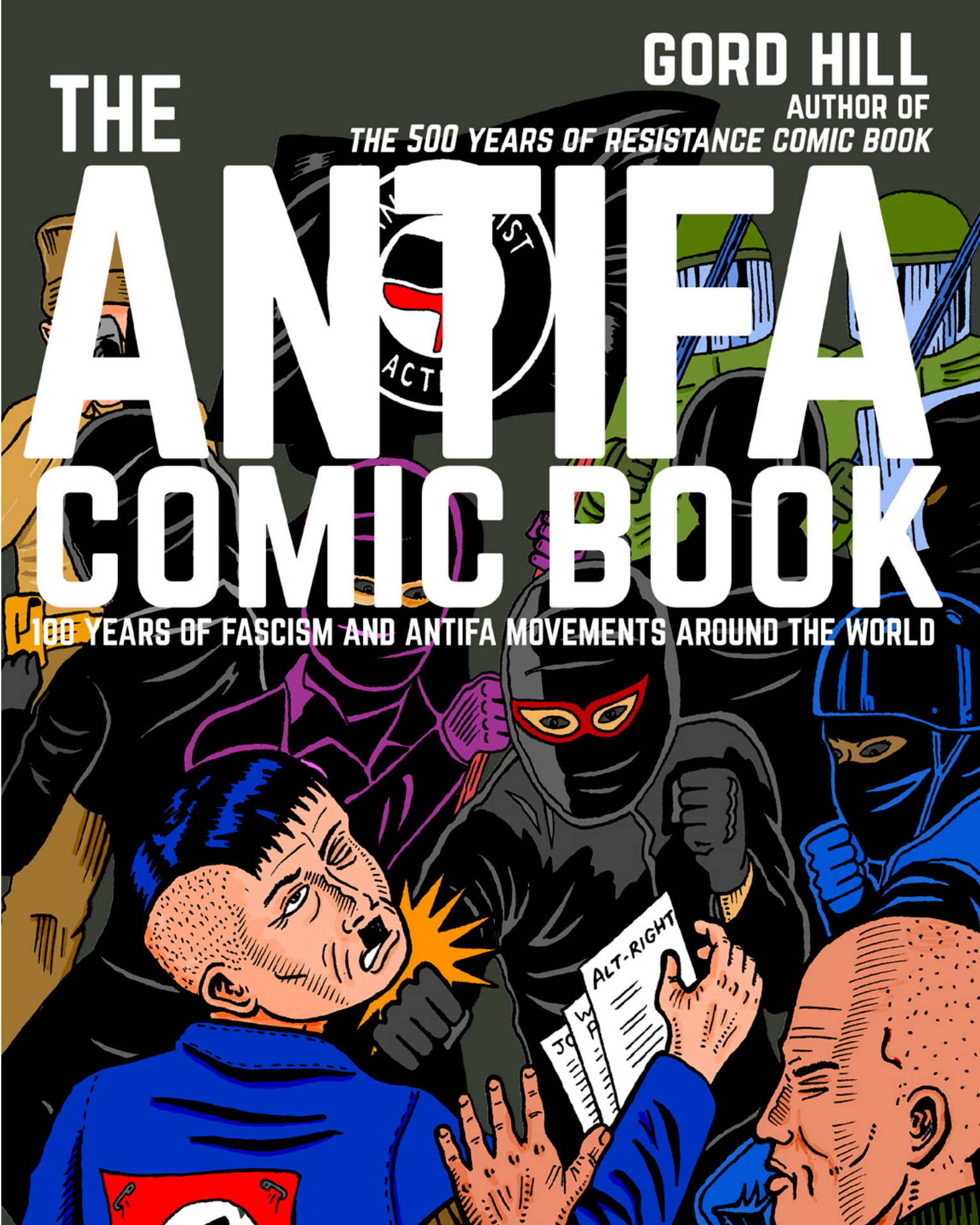
GORD HILL

AUTHOR OF

THE 500 YEARS OF RESISTANCE COMIC BOOK

ANTIFA COMIC BOOK

100 YEARS OF FASCISM AND ANTIFA MOVEMENTS AROUND THE WORLD



WHAT IS ANTIFA?



ANTIFA IS AN ABBREVIATION OF **ANTIFASCHISTISCHE AKTION**, ORIGINALLY SET UP BY THE **GERMAN COMMUNIST PARTY** IN 1932 TO OPPOSE THE **NAZIS**.



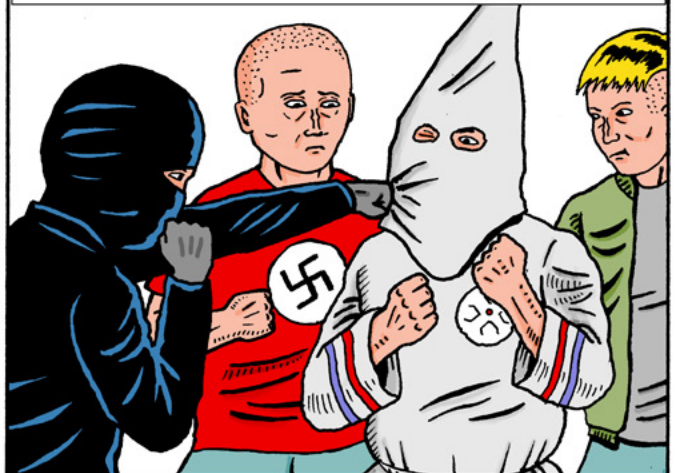
IN THE **1980S**, THE **ANTIFASCHISTISCHE AKTION** WAS REVIVED BY **AUTONOMISTS** AND **ANARCHISTS** IN **WEST GERMANY** TO COUNTER A **GROWING** FAR RIGHT, WITH NO CONNECTION TO THE ORIGINAL COMMUNIST PARTY ORGANIZATION. TODAY, **MANY** GROUPS USE VARIATIONS OF THE **ORIGINAL ANTIFA** LOGO DESIGNED BY **MAX KIELSON & MAX GEBHARD**.

BY THE **1990S**, **ANTI-FASCIST ACTION** GROUPS WERE ESTABLISHED ACROSS **EUROPE** AND **INTERNATIONALLY**.



ANTIFA IS CHARACTERIZED BY **MILITANT DIRECT ACTION** AGAINST THE FAR RIGHT AND A **RADICAL ANTI-CAPITALIST** ANALYSIS. ORGANIZED AS **AUTONOMOUS** AND **DECENTRALIZED** GROUPS, ANTIFA SEE IT AS NECESSARY TO **CONFRONT** FASCISTS BOTH **IDEOLOGICALLY** AND **PHYSICALLY**. THEY ALSO WORK TO CREATE **ANTI-FASCIST** AND **ANTI-RACIST CULTURE**.

ANTIFA NOT ONLY **MOBILIZES** AGAINST **FASCIST** AND **NEO-NAZI** GROUPS BUT ALSO FAR RIGHT MOVEMENTS THAT SHARE MANY OF THE SAME **GOALS** AS FASCISTS (SUCH AS THE **KU KLUX KLAN**, FOR EXAMPLE).



TODAY, **ANTIFA** IS STILL USED AS AN ABBREVIATION FOR **ANTI-FASCIST ACTION** GROUPS BUT ALSO REFERS TO **MILITANT ANTI-FASCISTS** IN GENERAL.

THE FASCI OF ROME AND ITALY:

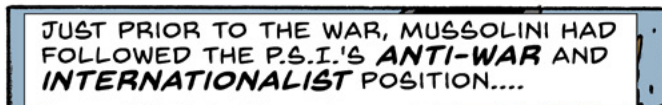
THE FIRST FASCIST AND ANTI-FASCIST MOVEMENTS



THE FIRST **FASCIST** GROUPS AROSE IN ITALY DURING WW1. THEIR SUPREME LEADER WOULD BE **BENITO MUSSOLINI**. HE WAS REFERRED TO AS "IL DUCE" (THE LEADER).



AT THE TIME, MUSSOLINI WAS A MEMBER OF THE **ITALIAN SOCIALIST PARTY** (P.S.I.). A SKILLED WRITER AND SPEAKER, HE WAS THE EDITOR OF THE P.S.I.'S MAIN NEWSPAPER, **AVANTI!**



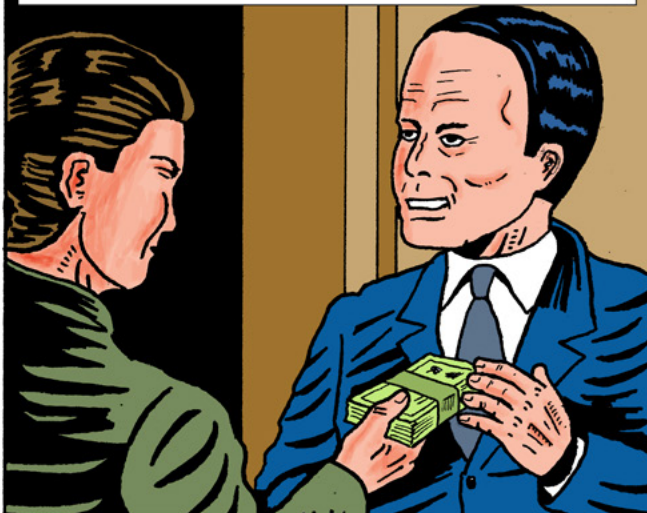
JUST PRIOR TO THE WAR, MUSSOLINI HAD FOLLOWED THE P.S.I.'S **ANTI-WAR** AND **INTERNATIONALIST** POSITION....



BUT WHEN THE WAR BEGAN IN 1914, HE BECAME A **NATIONALIST** AND CALLED FOR ITALY'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE **CONFLICT**.



THAT YEAR, HE WAS **KICKED OUT** OF THE P.S.I. HE SET UP A **FASCIST GROUP** IN MILAN AND BEGAN PUBLISHING HIS OWN NEWSPAPER.



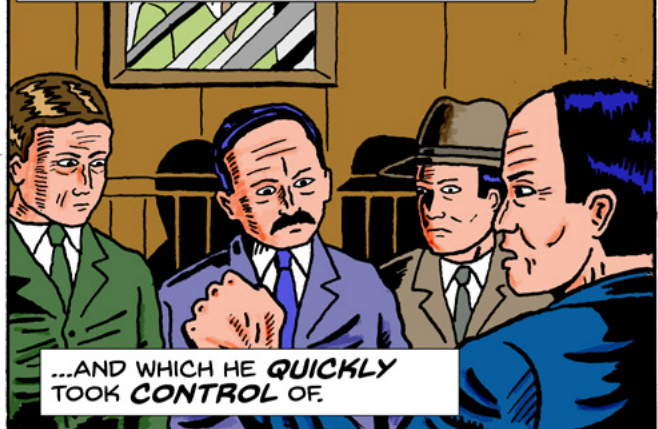
AT THIS TIME, BIG INDUSTRIALISTS AND BANKS BEGAN TO FUND MUSSOLINI FOR HIS **PRO-WAR** AND **NATIONALIST** AIMS, INCLUDING **FIAT, ANSALDO, PIRELLI,** AND **BANCA DI SCONTO** (ALL INVOLVED IN **ARMS PRODUCTION**).

MANY LEFTISTS SAW THE WAR AS HAVING THE POTENTIAL FOR **REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE**, AND IT CREATED A **MAJOR DIVISION** IN THE LEFT.



IN OCTOBER 1914, SOME TRADE UNIONISTS LEFT THE ANARCHIST **UNIONE SINDICALE ITALIANA** OVER ITS SUPPORT FOR ITALIAN **NEUTRALITY** IN THE WAR.

THESE MEMBERS FORMED THE **FASCI D'AZIONE RIVOLUZIONARIA INTERNAZIONALISTA**, A GROUP WHICH MUSSOLINI JOINED SOON AFTER...



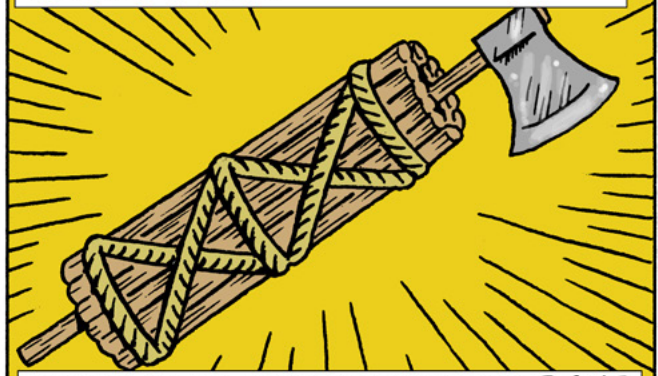
...AND WHICH HE **QUICKLY TOOK CONTROL** OF.

IN ANCIENT ROME, THE **FASCES** (LATIN) WAS A BUNDLE OF WOODEN RODS WITH AN AXE HEAD PROTRUDING. IT WAS CARRIED BY **LICTORS**, THE BODYGUARDS TO ROMAN MAGISTRATES...



IT WAS USED AS A SYMBOL OF THE **AUTHORITY OF THE STATE**--THE POWER OF **PUNISHMENT AND EXECUTION**.

DURING THE 19TH CENTURY, THE **FASCIO** WAS ADOPTED BY RADICAL DEMOCRATS IN SICILY AS A SYMBOL OF **STRENGTH AND UNITY**. IT BECAME A COMMON TERM FOR A **GROUP OR LEAGUE** IN ITALY...



BY W.W.1, IT WAS USED EXCLUSIVELY BY **RIGHT-WING NATIONALISTS** DEMANDING ITALY JOIN THE WAR.

AFTER GAINING **CONTROL**, MUSSOLINI TRANSFORMED THE FASCI INTO A **RIGHT-WING NATIONALIST** GROUP, DENOUNCING **MARXISM** AS A FAILURE BUT STILL ALLUDING TO **ANTI-CAPITALIST** AND **SOCIALIST** BELIEFS.



IN 1915, HOWEVER, MUSSOLINI WAS **DRAFTED** INTO THE ARMY AND SENT TO THE **FRONT**.

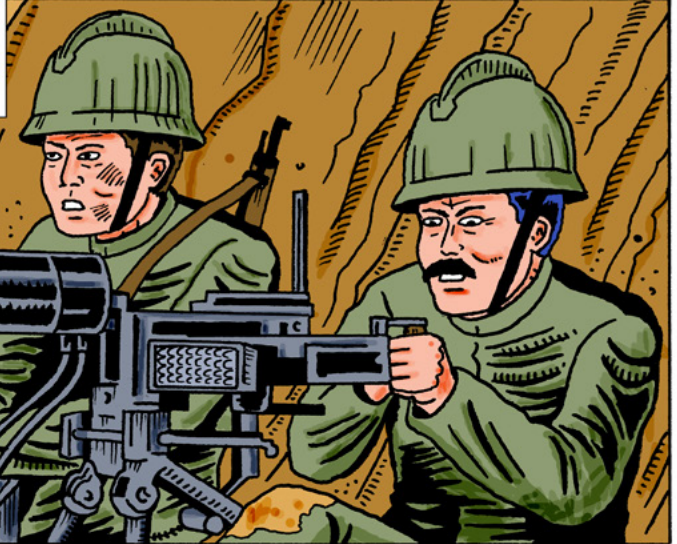


HE SERVED IN AN **INFANTRY REGIMENT** AND SAW **COMBAT** ALONG THE ITALIAN AND AUSTRIA-HUNGARIAN BORDER.

ITALY HAD **ENTERED** THE WAR ON THE SIDE OF THE BRITISH AND FRENCH, AND HAD BEEN PROMISED **TERRITORIAL GAINS** IN EXCHANGE...

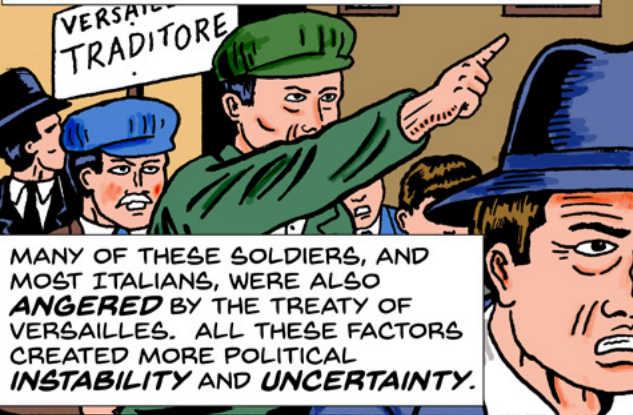
ITALY SUFFERED **600,000 DEAD**, AND OVER **900,000 INJURED**.

BUT AFTER THE WAR ENDED, IN **NOVEMBER 1918**, ITALY WAS **DENIED** MOST OF THE LAND PROMISED. THIS WAS FORMALIZED IN THE **TREATY OF VERSAILLES** (JUNE 1919).



POST-WAR ITALY FACED A SOCIO-ECONOMIC **CRISIS**: MASSIVE **DEBT**, HIGH **UNEMPLOYMENT**, **POVERTY**, AND **3 MILLION DEMOBILIZED SOLDIERS**.

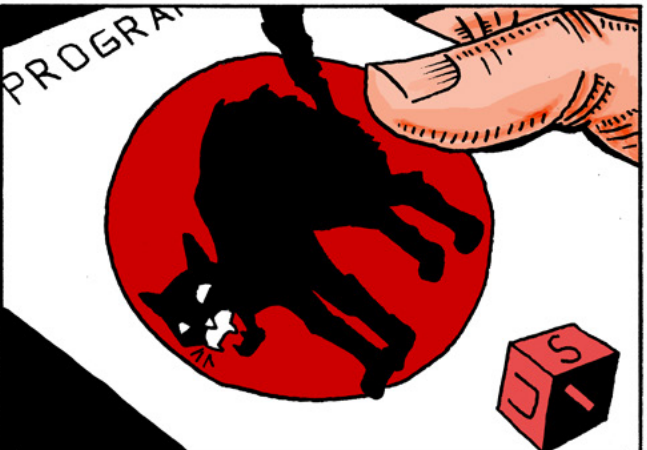
INSPIRED BY THE **1917 RUSSIAN REVOLUTION**, RADICALS ACROSS EUROPE SAW THESE CRISES AS OPPORTUNITIES FOR **REVOLUTIONS**.



MANY OF THESE SOLDIERS, AND MOST ITALIANS, WERE ALSO **ANGERED** BY THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES. ALL THESE FACTORS CREATED MORE POLITICAL **INSTABILITY** AND **UNCERTAINTY**.

MILLIONS OF WORKERS JOINED COMMUNIST, SOCIALIST OR ANARCHIST GROUPS. A WAVE OF **REBELLION** SWEEPED ACROSS EUROPE.

THE SOCIALIST PARTY GREW FROM **50,000** IN 1914 TO OVER **200,000** IN 1919. DURING ELECTIONS IN 1919, THE P.S.I. WON **1.8 MILLION** VOTES (32%). IF NOT FOR THE INABILITY TO FORM A COALITION, THE P.S.I. WOULD HAVE **WON**.



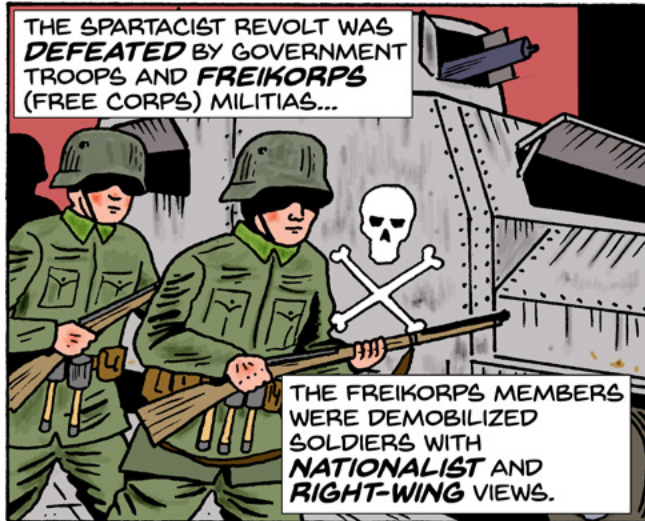
THE MAIN SOCIALIST TRADE UNION, THE GENERALE CONFEDERATION OF LABOUR, GREW TO **2 MILLION** MEMBERS. THE ANARCHIST UNIONE SINDICALE ITALIANA HAD UP TO **500,000** MEMBERS...

IN JANUARY 1919, THE COMMUNIST **SPARTACIST REVOLUTION** OCCURRED IN GERMANY.



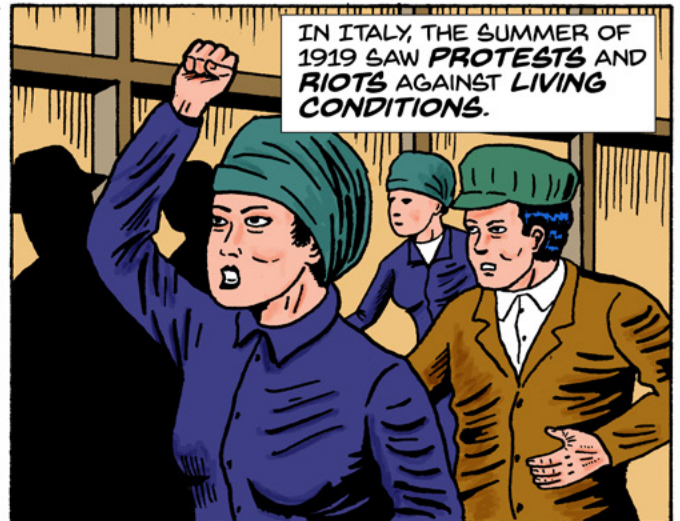
ARMED WORKERS TOOK **STREETS, RAILWAYS, POST OFFICES,** AND OTHER **VITAL POINTS** IN CITIES AND TOWNS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

THE SPARTACIST REVOLT WAS **DEFEATED** BY GOVERNMENT TROOPS AND **FREIKORPS** (FREE CORPS) MILITIAS...



THE **FREIKORPS** MEMBERS WERE DEMOBILIZED SOLDIERS WITH **NATIONALIST** AND **RIGHT-WING** VIEWS.

IN ITALY, THE SUMMER OF 1919 SAW **PROTESTS** AND **RIOTS** AGAINST **LIVING CONDITIONS**.



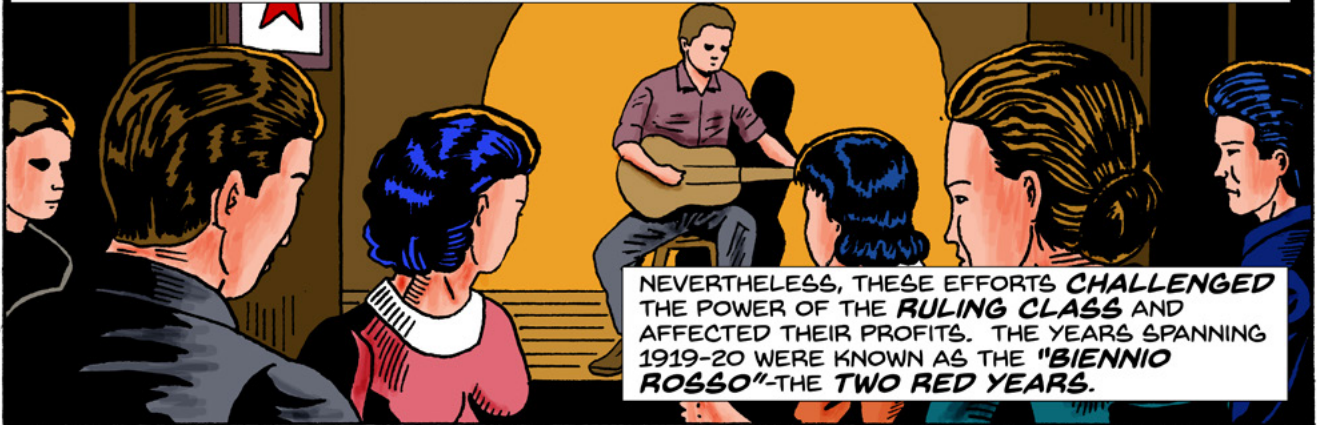
AFTER A WAVE OF **WORKER'S STRIKES** IN 1919, THE SPRING OF 1920 SAW **FACTORY OCCUPATIONS** ACROSS ITALY, ESPECIALLY BY STEEL WORKERS.



SOME FACTORIES WERE **SELF-MANAGED**, WITH THEIR OWN **ARMED GUARDS**. IN TURIN, WHERE THE MOVEMENT WAS STRONGEST, UP TO **500,000** WORKERS PARTICIPATED.

RAILWAY WORKERS **REFUSED** TO MOVE TROOPS SENT TO CRUSH THE OCCUPATIONS. PEASANTS BEGAN **OCCUPYING** LAND AND ESTATES. ITALY WAS **PARALYZED**, BUT AFTER **NEGOTIATIONS** AND **CONCESSIONS** TO WORKERS, THE MOVEMENT CAME TO AN END IN **NOVEMBER, 1920**.

ALONGSIDE **STRIKES** AND **OCCUPATIONS**, RADICALS **GAINED CONTROL** OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS, LABOUR EXCHANGES, AND PEASANT UNIONS. THEY ALSO SET UP CO-OPS, SPORTS CLUBS AND TAVERNS. DESPITE SOME **STREET FIGHTING**, ALMOST ALL THESE ACHIEVEMENTS WERE MADE THROUGH **LEGAL MEANS**.



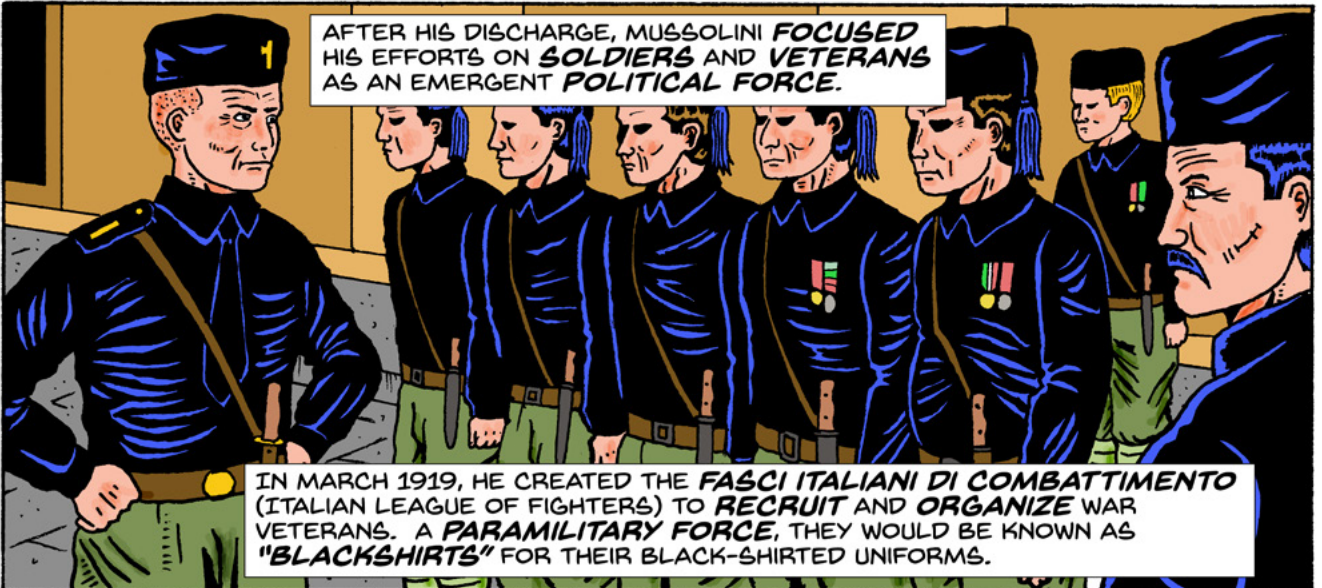
NEVERTHELESS, THESE EFFORTS **CHALLENGED** THE POWER OF THE **RULING CLASS** AND AFFECTED THEIR PROFITS. THE YEARS SPANNING 1919-20 WERE KNOWN AS THE "**BIENNIO ROSSO**"—THE **TWO RED YEARS**.

MUSSOLINI HAD SPENT MUCH OF HIS WAR SERVICE **HOSPITALIZED** (SOME WOULD SAY SUFFERING FROM **SYPHILIS**), UNTIL HIS **INJURY** DURING A TRAINING ACCIDENT AND HIS **DISCHARGE** IN 1917.



DESPITE THIS, HE SAW IN THE **TRENCHES** THE **BIRTH** OF A NEW **ELITE** THAT WOULD **RULE** ITALY, WHAT HE CALLED THE "**TRENCHOCRACY**".

AFTER HIS DISCHARGE, **MUSSOLINI** **FOCUSED** HIS EFFORTS ON **SOLDIERS** AND **VETERANS** AS AN EMERGENT **POLITICAL FORCE**.



IN MARCH 1919, HE CREATED THE **FASCI ITALIANI DI COMBATTIMENTO** (ITALIAN LEAGUE OF FIGHTERS) TO **RECRUIT** AND **ORGANIZE** WAR VETERANS. A **PARAMILITARY FORCE**, THEY WOULD BE KNOWN AS "**BLACKSHIRTS**" FOR THEIR BLACK-SHIRTED UNIFORMS.

THE **GORD HILL**
AUTHOR OF
THE 500 YEARS OF RESISTANCE COMIC BOOK

ANTIFA COMIC BOOK

100 YEARS OF FASCISM AND ANTIFA MOVEMENTS AROUND THE WORLD

The shocking images of neo-Nazis marching in Charlottesville, North Carolina, in the summer of 2017 linger, but so do those of the passionate anti-fascist protestors who risked their lives to do the right thing. In this stirring graphic non-fiction book by the author of *The 500 Years of Resistance Comic Book*, Gord Hill looks at the history of fascism over the last 100 years, and the concurrent antifa movements that have worked fastidiously to topple it.

Fascism is a relatively new political ideology, yet in its short history some of the greatest atrocities against humanity have been carried out in its name. Its poisonous roots have taken hold in every region of the world, from its beginnings in post-World War I Italy, through Nazi Germany, Franco's Spain, and the KKK in America. And today, emboldened by the American president, fascism is alive and well again. At the same time, antifa activists have proven, throughout history and again today, that the spirit of resistance is alive and well, and necessary.

In *The Antifa Comic Book*, Gord Hill documents these powerful moments of conflict and confrontation with a perceptive eye and a powerful sense of resolve.

INCLUDES A FOREWORD BY MARK BRAY,
AUTHOR OF *ANTIFA: THE ANTI-FASCIST HANDBOOK*.

GORD HILL

Gord Hill is an Indigenous writer, artist, and activist from the Kwakwaka'wakw nation. He is the author of *The 500 Years of Resistance Comic Book* and *The Anti-Capitalist Resistance Comic Book*. His art and writings have also been published in numerous periodicals, including *Briarpatch*, *Canadian Dimension*, *Redwire*, *Red Rising Magazine*, *The Dominion*, *Recherches Amérindiennes au Québec*, *Intotemak*, *Seattle Weekly*, and *Broken Pencil*. He lives in New Hazelton, BC.

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