Staging Injustice

Italian Art 1880 - 1917

1861
- The Kingdom of Italy is proclaimed. Vittorio Emanuele II is the first king of Italy. The capital is Turin. Only 1.9% of the population can participate in elections. The literacy rate in the country is approximately 25%

The American Civil War begins

1862
- Founding of Milan's Polytechnic School

1863

1864

1865
- Florence becomes the capital of Italy

The Union wins the Civil War against the Confederacy; Abraham Lincoln abolishes slavery in the United States

1866
- Founding of Upper Italian Railways

1867
- A proposal to extend the right to vote to women is rejected by the Italian parliament

1868

1869

1870
- **20 September** The Italian Army breaks into Rome, annexing the city to the Kingdom of Italy and ending the sovereignty of the Papal States

1871
- Rome is proclaimed the capital of Italy

1872
- Founding of Società Pirelli in Milan, a world-renowned manufacturer of industrial rubber products

1873

1874
- Women are legally admitted to enroll in grammar schools and universities

1875

1876
- Criminal anthropologist Cesare Lombroso publishes *L'uomo delinquente*, a positivist treaty on phrenological approaches to the control of crime

1877
- A parliamentary commission publishes a scathing investigation on the state of labor conditions in Sicily: child labor remains prevalent, while agriculture is dominated by large estates cultivated with extensive, inefficient methods. Compulsory primary schooling is only three years

1878

1879

1880
- Mass Italian emigration begins: between 1880 and the start of WWI, over 12 million Italian citizens emigrate, mostly to the Americas. The literacy rate in the country is around 38%
- Giovanni Verga, a *verista* writer who portrayed the conditions of the working poor in Sicily, publishes the collection of short stories *Vita dei campi*

1881
- First clandestine congress of Romagna's Revolutionary Socialist Party

Women's rights activist Anna Maria Mozzoni founds the League for the Advancement of Women's Interests in Milan

- Giovanni Verga publishes the *verista* novel *I Malavoglia*
- The Esposizione Nazionale Industriale Italiana, the first major industrial exhibition in the country, is held in Milan. It includes the Esposizione Nazionale di Belle Arti

1882

1883
- The first electrical power plant is built in Milan

1884
- Matilde Serao, a woman journalist and newspaper editor, publishes the social novel *Il ventre di Napoli*

1885

1886
- The Berti Law establishes that no child younger than 9 may work, and no child younger than 12 may take part in nocturnal work. Enforcement of the law remains scarce

George Seurat completes A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte

1887
- Undeclared war between Italy and Ethiopia: the Ethiopian Army defeats Italian troops at Dogali

1888

1889
- Italy establishes a protectorate in present-day Somalia and a colony in present-day Eritrea

Mother Cabrini, an Italian Catholic nun, arrives in New York and establishes a mission to care for the community of Italian immigrants and orphans

Exposition Universelle in Paris; the Eiffel Tower is inaugurated

1890
- The Italian Socialist Party is founded in Genoa
- Ruggero Leoncavallo's *verista* opera *Pagliacci* premieres at Milan's Teatro Dal Verme

1891
- Pietro Mascagni's *verista* opera, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, premieres at the Teatro Costanzi in Rome

1892
- *Camere del Lavoro* (local chambers of labor) are founded in cities across the country. Pope Leo XIII promulgates the encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, announcing the Church's social doctrine

First Italian celebration of International Workers' Day on 1 May

The sociologist Scipio Sighele publishes the international best seller *The Criminal Crowd*, a treaty on mass psychology and the supposed criminal instincts of large crowds

- First Esposizione Triennale di Belle Arti at the Accademia di Brera in Milan

1893

1894

1895
- First Italo-Ethiopian War. Italian anarchists emigrated to the United States found the periodical *La questione sociale* in Paterson, New Jersey

1896
- First Esposizione Internazionale d'Arte di Venezia, the *Biennale*

1897

1898
- Founding of the Socialist newspaper *Avanti!*. Ethiopian forces defeat the Italian Army in the Battle of Adwa
- First film screening in Italy

1899
- **6-10 May** Food riots and protests begun in Sicily and Tuscany in 1894 culminate in the Milan riots. Army General Fiorenzo Bava Beccaris orders the use of cannons against a crowd of protesters. At least 80 protesters killed, hundreds wounded

1900
- Founding of the Fabbrica Italiana Automobili Torino (FIAT) in Turin, Italy's largest automotive factory

1901
- The anarchist Gaetano Bresci assassinates King Umberto I in Monza in retaliation for the authorities' abuse of power during the 1898 Milan riots

The literacy rate in the country is around 50%

- Guglielmo Marconi announces the transmission of the first radio signals from Cornwall, England to Newfoundland, Canada
- Between 1901 and 1915, over 2 million Italians reach American shores at Ellis Island

1902
- The Italian Parliament promulgates a law to protect women and children from labor exploitation, limiting the work day to 12 hours for women, and imposing that no child younger than 12 might work
- Giuseppe Pellizza exhibits the monumental painting *The Fourth Estate*, which portrays farmworkers marching towards social justice, at the Esposizione Internazionale di Arte Decorativa Moderna in Turin

1903

1904
- **September** General strike throughout Italy. The Socialist Party doubles its votes in the general election, gaining 20% of the seats in the parliament

The age of compulsory education is raised to twelve

1905

1906
- The General Confederation of Labour, Italy's most important labor union, is founded in Milan

1907
- In Northern Italy, founding of additional automotive companies and steel mills (Alfa Romeo, Lancia, Dalmine, Società Acciaierie e Fonderie Lombarde)

1908
- *Picasso, Les Demoiselles d'Avignon*

1909
- Filippo Tommaso Marinetti publishes the *Manifesto of Futurism* on the Parisian newspaper *Le Figaro* and on many Italian newspapers
- Maria Montessori publishes her pedagogical method; it is quickly reprinted and translated around the world

1910
- Umberto Boccioni completes the futurist painting *The City Rises*

1911
- Between the 1881 and the 1911 census, the percentage of farm workers slightly decreases from 61.8% to 59.1%, while industrial workers increase from 20.5% to 23.6% of the workforce. Italo-Turkish War over the control of Tripolitania (present-day Libya) and the Dodecanese Islands in the Aegean Sea. First Italian feminist convention in Turin
- Carlo Carrà and Luigi Russolo complete politically-themed futurist paintings, *Funerals of the Anarchist Galli* and *The Revolt*
- The first Olivetti typewriter, the M1, is introduced at the Esposizione Internazionale delle Industrie e del Lavoro in Turin

1912
- Benito Mussolini becomes the director of the socialist newspaper *Avanti!*

1913
- Italian general election. All adult male citizens are granted the right to vote for the first time. The literacy rate in the country is around 60%

1914
- General strikes and unrest throughout the country. Beginning of World War I

Opening of the Panama Canal

1915
- **24 May** Italy enters World War I alongside the Triple Entente, declaring war on Austria

Albert Einstein: Theory of General Relativity

1916
- **27 August** Italy declares war on Germany

6 April *The United States enters World War I*

1917
- Mass protests in Turin due to war discontent and food scarcity. The Italian army suffers a dramatic defeat at the Battle of Caporetto, on the Northeastern Front

Lenin's Bolsheviks successfully lead the October Revolution in Russia and proclaim the Congress of Soviets the governing body in the country

The Great War continues to ravage Europe while doctors begin to observe severe influenza outbreaks in military camps: the Spanish Flu draws near

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