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### **A contribution on one of the main myths of fascism**

This paper analyzes the way in which fascism used and abused the national sport, football, to emphasize national values and exalt the regime by inventing a perfect society. The glory of the Italian football team, which began with the victory in the World Cup in Rome in 1934 and was then crowned in the World Cup in Paris in 1938, was used not only to establish the thesis that Italy was a perfect country, the best in the world, as supposedly proven by its extraordinary successes in sports, but also as a cover to hide the political, economic and military difficulties and obstacles that the Kingdom of Italy was going through during the thirties of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The strategic decision to use sport for political purposes was made by the very leadership of fascism, led by Benito Mussolini, who, at least from a formal point of view, legally took power more than a decade before the World Cup in Rome, although from the very beginning of his rule he openly admitted the responsibility for the violent abolition of the multi-party system and the murder of political opponents.

*Key words:* fascism, history of Italy, sport, football, myth.