

# *Fantastic Beasts and the Fear of Fascism*



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## Abstract

I denne opgave er der lavet en redegørelse af Benito Mussolini og hans vej til magten i Italien i 1920'erne. Der er ligeledes lavet en redegørelse over fascisme ved hjælp af flere forskellige teoretikere, som hver især har skrevet bøger om, henholdsvis fascisme og Benito Mussolini. Redegørelsen vil bestå af hans barndom, hans ungdom og hans politiske karriere. Der vil ikke blive redegjort for hans tid efter han blev premierminister i Italien, da det er hans vej til leder af det fascistiske parti, der er vigtigt i forhold til Gellert Grindelwald og sammenligningen af disse to.

I opgaven vil der ydermere være en beskrivelse af J.K. Rowlings karakter, Gellert Grindelwald, som hun skabte i 1990'erne, da hun skrev de første bøger om Harry Potter. Grindelwald er muligvis baseret på Mussolini. Han har flere træk, der minder om Mussolini og dette gælder både med hans personlighed, hans måde at komme til magten og hans måde at tale til sine følgere på. Alt dette vil blive analyseret i opgaven for på denne måde at komme frem til om Grindelwald er baseret på Mussolini og om forfatteren selv har haft en begrundelse for denne sammenligning.

Der er flere ledere rundt omkring i verden, som har nogle fascistiske egenskaber og tanker og derfor vil der blive analyseret på, om Grindelwald er i fokus som karakter nu, for at advare verdenen om denne type leder.

Det er ikke første gang, at Rowling har skabt en karakter, som har nogle af de samme egenskaber, som en politisk leder. I Harry Potter bøgerne, er der fokus på en anden skurk end Grindelwald. Dette er Lord Voldemort, som let kan sammenlignes med Adolf Hitler, som førte Tyskland ind i Anden Verdenskrig. Dette vil der blive kommenteret på i diskussionen og der vil blive set på, om der derfor er større sandsynlighed for, om Grindelwald er baseret på Mussolini, når nu muligheden tidligere har været der med andre karakterer i hendes storslåede univers fyldt med fabeldyr, hekse og troldmænd. Der vil også være en redegørelse for, hvem Hitler var, så der bedre kan blive kommenteret på, hvorfor Lord Voldemort muligvis er baseret på ham.

Rowling har gennemtænkt sit univers og hun overlader ikke ting til tilfældighederne, så der er en mulighed for, at flere af hendes karakterer er baseret på virkelige personer. Dette er normalt film og litteratur. I opgaven vil der blive kommenteret på, hvilke karakterer, der faktisk er blevet sammenlignet med Mussolini, selvom de blev skrevet før han blev født.

## Introduction

For more than twenty years, the magical universe created by J.K. Rowling has enchanted children and adults and made them believe in more than meets the eye. Seven books in the original series have been written and since the seventh was published in 2007, fans have been craving for more information about the universe and its beloved characters. This led to a play about Harry Potter's son, Albus Severus Potter, which is performed in several countries around the world and two films about well-known characters from the universe have been released and three more are coming.

In this project, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* and *Fantastic Beasts and the Crimes of Grindelwald*, will be the focus, because of the main character that is Gellert Grindelwald. There are some similarities between him and Benito Mussolini, who was Italy's dictator and a Fascist. There will be an explanation of what Fascism is and how Mussolini came to be the leader of the Fascists in Italy and how he inspired other countries in Europe. The theory will contain an explanation on Fascism, but also a biography on Mussolini, because it is important to look at who he was to understand why he became the man that people think of, when they hear the term Fascism.

The biography and the information about Mussolini will be used to analyse the similarities between him and Grindelwald from the Harry Potter franchise. It will be examined how much they actually do have in common and how they both managed to get so many people to follow them and why. There will not be accounted for Mussolini's time as a dictator, since Grindelwald never became the leader of the wizarding world. It is their way to power that is important in this thesis.

In the Harry Potter books, there are several similarities when one is looking at the characters and the real world and therefore there will be looked at more than one character in this project, to determine whether or not it is likely that Grindelwald is based on Mussolini. If this is something that Rowling has done before, it is not unlikely of her to do so again.

Many characters in literature and films are based on real people and there is therefore a possibility that J.K. Rowling had some inspiration from the real world, when she came up with a character such as Grindelwald. In this project, these questions will be analysed:

**Is Gellert Grindelwald based on Benito Mussolini and how can one see the fascist ideology in the newer films in the Harry Potter Franchise?**

## Theory

### Biography

Benito Mussolini is the man that many people think of when they hear the term, Fascism in Europe and therefore he is an important person to introduce in this project. In this paragraph there will be an introduction of Mussolini and there will be an exposition of his childhood and him as an adult.

Madeleine Albright was the Secretary of State from 1997 to 2001, when Bill Clinton was President of the United States of America. She wrote a book about the fear of Fascism after Donald Trump became president and she write about Benito Mussolini (Albright, 2018). Both her and Martin Clark, who is a British historian, who has written a book about Mussolini and his life, will be used in this paragraph to determine what kind of man, Mussolini was and how he rose to power.

Benito Mussolini was born in 1883 in a small town forty miles northeast of Florence in Italy. He and his family lived in a small cottage attached to the school where his mother worked as a teacher. His father was a blacksmith and a socialist. They were not a wealthy family, but they did have enough money to get by. Mussolini got a taste of their economic situation, when he went to school, and he had to sit at a different table than the wealthier children. This made him frustrated and it was “an indignity that kindled in Mussolini a lifelong rage against injustice (to him).” (Albright, 2018: 15-16). Mussolini was not the nicest child in school, according to Albright and her knowledge of him, and when he was eleven he got expelled, because he stabbed another child in the hand and when he was fifteen, he was suspended for knifing another classmate (Albright, 2018: 16).

Mussolini was an intelligent boy. He loved to sit by himself and read newspapers and thick books. “From his father he inherited a liking for bold action; his mother taught him patience - the twig bent his father’s way.” (Albright, 2018: 16). He never had trouble stating his opinions and he could easily make people do what he wanted (Albright, 2018: 16).

Later on he received his teacher’s certificate, but because of his lack of discipline, he did not become a teacher. He went to Switzerland and worked, but he was sent to prison several times for vagrancy. He became active in the local union while he worked as a bricklayer. “This was a period in Europe when labor politics tilted sharply to the left and Socialist firebrands preached anger toward the government, contempt for the Church, and militancy on behalf of workers’ rights.” (Albright, 2018: 16).

He went back to Italy where he wrote for a popular magazine about a lecherous cardinal and he edited Socialist newspapers and eventually he started to develop a following. He talked in

smoke-filled halls about how revolution was essential and how the elite classes would never give up their privileges without a fight. He stated that violence was the way to go (Albright, 2018: 16-17).

Even though Mussolini was a highly charming man who knew how to make people believe in him and his cause, he was also a violent man. He was erratic and it was not a liability for him to betray a colleague or a cause (Clark, 2014: 3). Mussolini was insecure and that was his real problem. "It made him very susceptible to flattery but unable to abide criticism, let alone disparagement. He distrusted virtually everybody, perhaps a necessary condition for political success but also a handicap once in office." (Clark, 2014: 3).

Being insecure was not his only problem. Mussolini was impatient and as so many other born journalists, "he over-simplified complex issues rather than analysing them fully or reflecting seriously upon them." (Clark, 2014: 3). This did help him win power, but it did not help him when it came to run a country (Clark, 2014: 3).

## Fascism

In this paragraph the rise of Fascism and Mussolini's way to power will be explained.

The Italian Fascism was founded in 1919, right after the war, and it was followed by imitations in many other countries in Europe the following years. Imitations of Fascism could be found in east-central Europe and in Spain and therefore: "many historians refer to the entire generation before World War II as the fascist era in Europe." (Payne, 1980: 4).

A precise definition of Fascism does not exist, but all the fascist movements did have many things in common.

What the fascist movements did have in common was the aim of a new structure and functional relationship for the social and economic systems, eliminating the autonomy (or in some proposals, the existence) of large-scale capitalism, altering the nature of social status, and creating a new communal or reciprocal productive relationship. (Payne, 1980: 10).

The fascist movements aimed for a new kind of society. They wanted to end capitalism and move away from the Enlightenment and start a new system, where the public had to work for Italy and for the leader. They wanted to make their country the center of the world.

A definition that comes close to all the fascist movements is: "an extreme right-wing political system or attitude which is in favor of strong central government and which does not allow

any opposition.” (Oxford Learner's Dictionary). The fascist movements all had one leader and in Italy's case the leader was Benito Mussolini. In Spain the leader was Francisco Franco and in Germany the leader was Adolf Hitler, though he went on becoming a Nazi and not a Fascist.

Mussolini and the fascists in Italy thrived for greatness and they used their people's yearning for it as well as their own. Fascists around Europe had the same main ideas, but some took it further. Adolf Hitler is today mostly known for being a National Socialist and not a Fascist. “The National Socialists worked hard to make the German people believe that the regime was doing the people's work in crushing communism, in going to war to gain *lebensraum* (living space) in the east, and in ridding the country of Jews and other “non-German” elements.” (Fogarty, 2018: 6).

‘Italy against all enemies’ was the ideology of thousands of Italians and they started the fascist movement with Mussolini as their leader. The movement grew because millions of Italians were afraid of what would happen to their beloved country and they hated what they were seeing already. Things had to change (Albright, 2018: 20). The movement was called the Fascist movement and it was newer and more original than the Russian Communism, because it was the product of WWI, whereas the Russian Communism was a product of the Nineteenth century European Marxist and the Russian revolutionary theory (Payne, 1980: 3): “Neither a fascist party nor a fascist doctrine existed as such before 1919.” (Payne, 1980: 3).

Brian E. Fogarty, who is Professor Emeritus of Sociology at St. Catherine University in St. Paul, Minnesota, wrote a book called: *Fascism: Why not here?* Where he argues how Fascism came to Germany and considers the possibility of a fascist regime in the United States of America. He gives his take on Fascism and uses Germany as an example. Even though Adolf Hitler took it further, Fascism in Germany started almost as it did in Italy with Mussolini:

Rather, fascism is a particular form of totalitarianism, one that enlists the citizens themselves to cooperate in their own oppression. A fascist regime - the National Socialists are the model here - is a genuine populist movement that derives its power from the people's yearning for national greatness, cultural purity, intense solidarity, and bold, authoritarian leadership to make it all happen. (Fogarty, 6).

Just as his father was before him, Mussolini became a well-known Socialist. He found influential friends and he found supporters. One of those supporters was the Russian Marxist,

Angelica Balabanova, and besides becoming his mistress, she became his mentor in Socialist politics (Clark, 2014: 12).

In 1909 Mussolini moved to Trent "where his anti-clerical reputation and his knowledge of German secured him the posts of secretary of the local labour union and editor of *L'Avvenire del Lavoratore*." (Clark, 2014: 13). Mussolini worked alongside the leader of the Trent Socialists, who aimed for the region to become a part of a united Italy. Mussolini agreed with the Trent Socialists on many different issues. One of those issues were that they wanted some sort of autonomy within Austria-Hungary. "On the other hand, Mussolini was far more 'revolutionary' and anti-clerical than they were, and with his speeches and above all his journalism he shook up the sleepy world of Trent Socialism. He became a well-known 'personality' and he also learned a great deal about the politics of nationalism in Austria-Hungary." (Clark, 2014: 13).

Mussolini was not the greatest believer in God and anything spiritual: "Like many others, Mussolini rejected God but then had to find another ideal: first Socialism, then the nation. In both cases he tried to impose it on others, and force people to worship it." (Clark, 2014: 14). He wrote books and in the preface in one of them, he hoped that the readers would hate any form of spiritual or secular tyranny (Clark, 2014: 14).

Mussolini moved to Forlì and he got married to a local girl who turned out to be strong minded and she supported her husband (Clark, 2014: 15). Forlì was a great place for Mussolini because: "Local politics meant disputes between Republicans, mostly landless labourers, often over control of threshing machines." (Clark, 2014: 15). Mussolini became undisputed leader for the Socialists, and he campaigned against the Republicans and against the 'reformists' who he thought dominated his own party at a national level. He wished for them to be expelled from the party, because he thought of them as charlatans (Clark, 2014: 15).

In 1913, there was a general election and Mussolini stood as a Socialist candidate. He became a councilor the next year, but at the election, he did not impress. He had a dull speech and he was easily beaten. Parliament never interested Mussolini and his powers lay elsewhere: "He soon became particularly famous for denouncing official repression of popular demonstrations, especially in southern Italy." (Clark, 2014: 19). Mussolini believed that massacres were good for him and his mission. There were several incidents where the police had shot people and Mussolini wrote about it in a newspaper. He did not have anything nice to say and if anything like it happened again, he would write about it. It made him feel like a hero and that is why he believed that



massacres could help him and his party. He wished for a revolution and massacres was the way to go, in his opinion (Clark, 2014: 20).

Mussolini wished for a revolution in Italy and his wish came true in 1914. There were several protests and it spread around throughout northern and central Italy. The party Directorate called on a national general strike and they were supported by the reformists. Chaos had come to Italy and people wanted change: "Tax records were burned, churches sacked, shops looted, railway lines blocked and mayors taken hostage. Here, at last, was the revolution or the opportunity for revolution, and it had indeed been triggered by a massacre." (Clark, 2014: 20). Mussolini got his way and the revolution had started with massacres, where several people had died. The strike stopped a few days later and Mussolini was highly unsatisfied that it had ended so soon. Some riots did continue for a few more days, but more troops were sent to stop them, and it ended in mid-June (Clark, 2014: 20). At age 31, Mussolini was already an important national figure, but he still did not have any influence on political manoeuvres. Shortly after the revolution, where the demonstrations stopped after a few days, the Austrian Archduke, Francis Ferdinand, was assassinated, and Europe was about to face the First World War. The first step had been taken and four years of terror was about to begin (Clark, 2014 21).

In 1914 when WW1 had begun, Mussolini forgot about the revolution and he founded an independent newspaper and wrote articles about how Italy should enter the war. He had his own reasons to why he wanted to push Italy into the battle against Germany and Austria-Hungary. Some of his French business interests pushed him for it and several weapon manufacturers helped finance his newspapers, which was not cheap (Albright, 2018: 17).

Italy entered the war in 1915 and Mussolini fought alongside them. He was promoted corporal and he kept on writing pieces for the newspaper. Even though Italy were a part of the winning side of the war it was not easy for the country to rise afterwards. "The heavy casualties were difficult to absorb, but the pain became even worse when the country's partners in Paris and London failed to deliver on secretly promised territorial concessions. They neglected even to invite Italy's head of state, King Victor Emmanuel III, to the peace conference." (Albright, 2018: 18).

Italy was about to fall apart, and their leader could not do the job right so the country was in need of a real leader who could save Italy and once again make it the centre of the world (Albright, 2018: 19).

At first, Mussolini spoke against the war and it was assumed that Italy would join the alliance between Germany and Austria-Hungary. Mussolini spoke against the war on the German

side, against Russia and France. The government in Italy decided to stay out of the war and be neutral “arguing that Italy was not obliged to join as she had not been consulted.” (Clark, 2014: 21).

In the end Mussolini did not agree on Italy being neutral in the war, because what would Italy become afterwards? He wanted Italy to join and they ended up joining the Franco-British side. Italy would not have much influence after the war if they did not fight in it, and therefore they joined after a while (Clark, 2014: 22). Mussolini wanted a revolution and he had a feeling that the feeble Socialists would never make one in a thousand years. He had been unhappy with them for some time. They were in his eyes tedious and their policy on all issues was inertia. “Now was the time to seize the party and make it patriotic, like its European counterparts. If it meant a split, so be it: Mussolini was never afraid of splits.” (Clark, 2014: 22).

Mussolini did end up being thrown out of his own party because they did not see eye to eye and in the end of 1914, he threw away his Socialist career. He could not forgive or forget, and he felt highly humiliated in the process (Clark, 2014: 24). Mussolini had many faults and he was not after money, but after power, which he later in life received. He began to commit to the war, and he was not the only one. Several highly respected and intelligent men were committed to the war and Mussolini was sure that it would benefit him and Italy to be on the winning side (Clark, 2014: 25).

It was not an entirely bad thing for Mussolini to get away from the Socialists. He found a new group of people that shared his opinions about the war and on other topics. This group, which was more like an organisation, was called *Fascio di Azione Rivoluzionaria* and by February 1915, they had about 9.000 members. This was exactly the kind of group that Mussolini needed in his life and on his mission “to rouse public opinion to favour the war.” (Clark, 2014: 26). This organisation was later to become the ‘Fascist’ movement. Mussolini’s political crisis and his personal crisis, had a happy outcome, because he had a new group of people who had the same opinions as him and it had forced him to leave the people he actually despised. He respected this new group compared to the old one (Clark, 2014: 26).

Mussolini was active in this organisation and he was passionate about the cause. He attended many meetings and they often ended in violence (Clark, 2014: 26). Mussolini had enemies in other parties and some of his former allies from the Socialist organisation, but he had something that they did not have. He had his newspaper, where he could write about the war and why he thought it was necessary. He made himself the spokesman for this cause and the radicals could not change that (Clark, 2014: 27). He was convinced that the war was the people’s war and that it would transform Italy in the end.

He denounced the forces of conservatism and parliamentarianism - the Catholics, the Liberal supporters of Giovanni Giolitti, above all the cowardly official Socialists - who kept Italy neutral. He denounced the Nationalists as well even though they favoured war, because they were right-wing authoritarians who wanted to acquire Adriatic territory. (Clark, 2014: 27).

Mussolini even threatened the king and the government because he wished for Italy to go into the war. He did not attack the government, because he believed that they were Italy's best hope for going into war and he was right. In 1915, the government "signed the secret Treaty of London with the *entente* powers of Britain, France and Russia, committing Italy to joining the war a month later." (Clark, 2014: 27). Italy declared war against Austria-Hungary, but not Germany until later on (Clark, 2014: 28).

Mussolini believed that war was the only way to "truly mobilise the people and create a true 'Italian nation' at long last." (Clark, 2014: 29). These were the ideas and the assumptions that the interventionist, Mussolini, wove together in 1914-15 and these were the assumptions of Fascism (Clark, 2014: 29).

Italy joined the war and once they were in the war, Mussolini wanted to join his old regiment, but he was not called in, when he thought, he would. He was spending his time in Milan and he complained about how Italy did not declare war against Germany (Clark, 2014: 29). Mussolini waited to go to war, while his fellow interventionists went. His enemies called him a coward and a hypocrite, but he wanted to fight for his country, but could not. He was told to wait until his age group was needed. Mussolini was at that time 31 years old (Clark, 2014: 29). Finally, his turn came and "By mid-September he was in the war zone above the upper Isonzo river, with the 11th Regiment." (Clark, 2014: 29). Mussolini had expected more from the war. It turned out to be extremely boring for him despite the excitement of the 'interventionist' campaign. He spent a lot of his time playing cards (Clark, 2014: 29).

Mussolini experienced many things in the war. He was put in danger when he came under direct fire, but the thing that threatened his life the most, was his political opinions. His fellow soldiers knew who he was, and they blamed him for Italy's participation in the war. They did not hurt him, but he was lucky that they did not (Clark, 2014: 30). Mussolini was a brave soldier and in March 1916, he was promoted to corporal and in August, he became a senior corporal (Clark, 2014:

30). He was later asked to write the regiment's history, which was far away from the front line and Mussolini had to decline this offer, because he knew what people would think of him (Clark, 2014: 30). Later in 1916, he was exhausted, and he made an effort in trying to get all men over 30 transferred from the front line, but that did not happen. Some of his friends tried to get him away from the front line but that did not happen either (Clark, 2014: 29). Mussolini kept a diary, because he was used to writing every day, and he wrote about how brave the soldiers were and how close they were. The comradeship was important. He also wrote about those who did not fight. Mussolini admired the other soldiers and their courage, but he did not have much in common with them. He did not think of them as highly intellectual and the feeling of patriotism was rare. Even his friends who was also at the front line, was not that patriotic (Clark, 2014: 30). It surprised Mussolini that it was so rare and "At the end of 1916 the anti-clerical Mussolini praised an army chaplain for his sermon, 'the first truly enthusiastic patriotic speech that I have heard in 16 month of war.'" (Clark, 2014: 30).

In 1917, Mussolini almost lost his leg and his life in an explosion. He was sent to a hospital and both his life and his leg was saved by the surgeon, Dr. Piccagnoni, who was a professional and a patriotic Italian, which was important to Mussolini (Clark, 2014: 30-31). Mussolini came back home, because he could not fight, because of his leg. The war was not going well, and the morale of the Italian army was nearly non-existing.

In this situation, Mussolini had an opportunity. His talents could be of some use and he could take advantage of the situation: "His tasks were clear: to denounce the traitors, to stir the government into action at home, to boost morale, to 'sabotage the saboteurs'. In short, to make himself once more the spokesman for radical 'interventionism'." (Clark, 2014: 31).

In 1914-15 Mussolini had believed that "only war could bring about revolution." (Clark, 2014: 32), but later he believed that only his revolution could win the war (Clark, 2014: 32). On 24 October the war took a drastic turn for the Italians. The Austrians broke through the Italian's second army and it ended badly for the Italian soldiers. They fired blindly and tried to survive by running and trying to cross the river, Piave, but some of them did not manage to get away and they were taken prisoner. "It was not just a defeat but a humiliation." (Clark, 2014: 32). Thousands of refugees had to flee south and that even included Mussolini's brother. Italy had to fight for themselves after this if they wanted to be a country afterwards (Clark, 2014: 32). Mussolini was not happy with this result, as he had fought so hard for this war and it was a disaster. It did not change

Mussolini. He used the situation for his own good and he praised the brave soldiers and made sure to put the blame somewhere else than on him (Clark, 2014: 32).

Mussolini had to do something: “He embarked on a rerun of the glorious ‘interventionist’ campaign of three years earlier, this time to *keep* Italy in the war and to rouse her people to win it.” (Clark, 2014: 32). Mussolini became a big deal in Italy: he was a great journalist with his own newspaper, and he had proven himself on the battlefield, both as soldier and corporal. He met with the Prime Minister, he was flown in military aircraft and he was welcome in all kinds of circles, such as the Allied circle (Clark, 2014: 32). Mussolini became the man to revive Italy’s hope in this difficult situation. Morale came to the country and to the soldiers who were still at war. Their rations were increased and the same with their leave. The soldiers who came home from battle received better welfare. The morale was improved, and it was helped by propaganda units in every regiment (Clark, 2014: 33).

Mussolini’s propaganda was domestic. “He urged that all the national energies should be mobilised in a ‘national union’, for the common end. Many people agreed with him.” (Clark, 2014: 33). In December 1917, the year before the war ended, the pro-war senators and the deputies set up the group, Parliamentary National Defence Group, which in Italian was called Fascio Parlamentare di Difesa Nazionale. This was “a coalition of Nationalists, right-wing Liberals (followers of Salandra) and ‘democratic interventionists’ (Republicans and reformist Socialists) aimed initially at countering any effort at a comeback by Gioiotti.” (Clark, 2014: 33-34). Mussolini was seeking national union and he had to look at the different groups that was forming under WW1. He was careful, but he moved towards the Nationalist position in 1918, and he made sure to give it a more populist ‘social’ overtones (Clark, 2014: 34).

People in Italy, according to Mussolini, had to work to get the country back on track and be more patriotic than ever before. (Clark, 2014: 34). “The industrial workers, now commendably patriotic again, had a vital contribution to make, but needed to be disciplined within national unions, or ‘syndicates’.” (Clark, 2014: 34).

Mussolini supported the New Orlando government at this time, but he also thought that the country needed a dictatorship under a war like this. He argued that it was actually necessary because: “Italy could no longer afford anti-patriotic parties and a neutralist parliament.” (Clark, 2014: 34). He believed that Italy should in fact be ruled by ex-servicemen who was brave and “imaginative enough to bring in a new authoritarian regime that would crack down hard on the dissenters and defeatists.” (Clark, 2014: 34). In 1918, Mussolini changed his view on some things.

He thought that Socialism was in the past and that populist nationalism was the future (Clark, 2014: 34). He himself was a man of the future (Clark, 2014: 34).

In 1928 the war was won by the Allies and Mussolini was happy about this. He was not injured too much in the war. He received respect and he was able to keep up his journalism and propaganda, even though he was injured. He had a good war (Clark, 2014: 35-36).

After the war, Mussolini did not matter to the powerful anymore. Even though he was still respected as a journalist and a former soldier, it was like he was no longer needed. He therefore had to make people in Italy hear him again. It was important that they knew that the message the 'interventionists' had had under the war, was still extremely relevant, even though the war was finally over (Clark, 2014: 38).

Mussolini was not happy about the politicians and he did not trust them. He called them charlatans and he wanted changes in Italy. In 1920 he said this: ““enough, you ridiculous Saviours of Mankind which cares nothing for your infallible devices for human happiness. Out of the way, and let basic individual strength prevail, for apart from the individual no other human force exists!”” (Clark, 2014: 41). Although he did not like the politicians, his real enemies were the Socialists (Clark, 2014: 41).

Mussolini was inspiring people with his patriotism, which was compelling to the people. His followers were mostly men who were resolute and tough and who, like Mussolini himself, did not trust the politicians who had the power in the country (Clark, 2014: 42). In 1919 Mussolini decided to start his own movement to undermine the Socialists. This movement attracted ex-servicemen and that was the general idea (Clark, 2014: 42). Martin Clark states that it is not known how many people attended the meetings in the beginning, but that Mussolini himself claimed there to be around hundred, and later there were only 52 (Clark, 2014: 42). Fascism had been founded a few years before this and Mussolini's movement did not seem of one to survive (Clark, 2014: 42).

Mussolini tried to make his movement relevant to Italy, but it was difficult, and when an election took place, the Fascist movement failed. The Fascists only received 4.657 votes, which was in total 1.7 percent of the votes. This was a disaster and their enemies, the Socialists, organised a funeral to mock Mussolini and his followers (Clark, 2014: 44). Mussolini had a feeling that the Socialist triumph would be short-lived, because:

The Socialists won 156 seats in the new Chamber, and the new (Catholic) Popular party 100, out of the total 508. The traditional ruling Liberals won only 216 seats, mostly in the

south, and lost control of parliament. In effect, the whole Liberal regime had collapsed, and no stable government could be formed. (Clark, 2014: 44).

In 1920 an economic conflict came upon Italy and people were angry at the government. The industrialists were let down by the government and they turned to the Fascists forgetting that Mussolini had supported some of the government's decisions in the economic conflict (Clark, 2014: 45). Earlier, if someone had supported Mussolini, it was those "who might help mobilise public enthusiasm for war (in 1914-15 and 1917-18) or public opposition to Socialism (in 1919-20)." (Clark, 2014: 46). Some people were beginning to consider the fact that Mussolini might be useful after all in opposing the government (Clark, 2014: 45).

In 1920 more and more people respected Mussolini and he had chosen to support the Government led by Giolitti, because he knew that they needed him. He was becoming a more serious politician and suddenly he received more followers, which came as a surprise to him (Clark, 2014: 46).

"By the summer of 1920 Fascist groups dominated the *piazza* and the streets of Trieste and of the other towns in Venezia Giulia." (Clark, 2014: 47). Mussolini visited Trieste in September and the people in the city had made sure that the city was bedecked with flags to welcome him. He then held a speech, where he told everyone "that Fascism was a fighting movement - *Fasci di Combattimento*." (Clark, 2014: 47).

At the local elections in 1920, the Socialists did well, but the country suffered. In some areas only Socialists would get jobs and "public work schemes would be carried out only by the appropriate cooperative, and land taxes would rise sharply." (Clark, 2014: 47). Those landowners and farmers, who had bought their land for almost nothing during the war, would now be bankrupted or something worse would happen to them (Clark, 2014: 47). The people got angry and they fought back. This became larger than anyone had expected, and several people died in this revolution (Clark, 2014: 48). Mussolini supported the locals and he tried to become their spokesman. They did not truly trust him, but they trusted each other less than him and they thought that he might be their best bet, because of "his brilliant journalism, his newspaper, his theatrical gifts, his talk of restoring Italy's greatness and above all his remoteness in Milan [...]" (Clark, 2014: 49).

Mussolini was an optimist. He meant that 'his' movement had won and he himself had won the propaganda war. He claimed that it was the Fascists who had defeated the Bolsheviks earlier

and it was him and the Fascists who would restore Italy's greatness at last. The Fascists were patriotic and victorious, but they were also youthful and dynamic (Clark, 2014: 50-51).

Mussolini had earlier had some problems with the Fascists, claiming that they were tyrants, but he needed them and in 1922, he became more and more respected. There were even rumours that he might become the next Prime Minister in Italy, while being the leader of the Fascists (Clark, 2014: 56). There would be no resistance to Fascism, because a strike had failed, and this gave Mussolini an opportunity. He could now say that the Socialist treachery and their cowardice in government had been vanquished by Fascism. This showed that "Once again, his men had proved the only patriotic heroes, keeping public services going despite violence and abuse. They had saved the country from insurrection, and only they could restore national discipline." (Clark, 2014: 56). After the failed strike, the Fascist takeover began. This was in 1922 (Clark, 2014: 57).

Late in 1922, the Fascists were taking over everything. They controlled the post offices and the railways, but also the prefectures and the barracks. They had support from both the elite and the middle-class and the King ended up summoning Mussolini, because he had trouble finding a new Prime Minister (Clark, 2014: 59). In October 1922, the Fascists gathered in Rome and participated in the March on Rome. They all thought that they were the reason that Mussolini afterwards became the Prime Minister. The king hoped that Mussolini would have better control over his followers (Clark, 2014: 59).

Clark says this about Mussolini's way to power: "The ambiguous nature of Mussolini's coming to power - both constitutional and revolutionary - tells us a great deal about the man, and indeed about power." (Clark, 2014: 60). Mussolini was a great speaker and he knew how to convince people to follow him and hate the authorities at the same time. All of this, and his love for his country, led him to the titles of leader of Fascism, Prime Minister of Italy and Dictator of Italy.

### Speeches

Benito Mussolini was a highly charismatic and charming man and he had a way with the people in Italy. He knew how to compel them with his intelligent and unique way of speaking. People listened to him when he spoke in smoke-filled halls and on his balcony. In this paragraph some of his speeches will be analysed to show how well-spoken he was and how he compelled people with his rhetoric.



Mussolini was a great speaker. He always managed to make his speeches sound spontaneous even though he had practised them for a while. "Before long, he had come to consider himself a man of destiny - the next Napoleon, perhaps, or Augustus Caesar." (Albright, 2018: 16).

Mussolini was a charismatic man and the public loved him and the way he spoke in front of them. Melodrama always had a special place within him and as much as he loved it, the melodrama also loved him (Clark, 2014: 1). Many people associate Mussolini with his true stage, which was a balcony a palazzo Venezia. "He appeared in public as an exuberant character, colourful and larger than life: fighting duels, racing around in fast cars, piloting dodgy aircraft, hyperactive sexually, a man contemptuous of convention and of lesser mortals." (Clark, 2014: 1).

To accomplish respect and likeability Mussolini played many roles in his life. In many ways he succeeded. He could switch his role instantly so he would always match the people he was around (Clark, 2014: 1). He played roles such as: "the Fiery Socialist, the Sensitive Intellectual, the Far-Sighted Statesman or even the Respectable Family Man." (Clark, 2014: 1). Mussolini had the ability to change his attitude to fit with others and those people ended up walking out of the room feeling that Mussolini agreed with them even though he did not and that he was similar to them in many ways even though he was not (Clark, 2014: 2). "For many years he put on a great show, and his public loved it. Indeed, he pioneered the modern concept of politics as show business, mixed adroitly with 'spin'." (Clark, 2014: 1-2).

Mussolini had many qualities that made him a great politician and his charm was one of them. He was gifted with caution and lack of conventional prejudices and he had ambiguity which is important for a politician. Mussolini was also imaginative and bold, and it helped him in his way to power (Clark, 2014: 2). Mussolini was a great speaker and he had the ability to compel the public. He knew how to keep it simple and clear, which he used both in his speeches and in his career as a journalist. Journalism was how he made his name and it was through this that he came to power (Clark, 2014: 3).

There are many people around the world that has tried to analyse Mussolini's speeches along the years and Isabelle Poggi is one of them. She has written a chapter in *Multimodal Argumentation and Rhetoric in Media Genres*, where she has picked some of his later speeches and analysed them. She argues that he was highly charismatic, and she gives some examples on how he was able to compel so many people. She puts his use of words into three different categories:

"nice-wordism," "strong-wordism," and "new-wordism." First, he uses a high number of words that mention or evoke positive emotions and positive evaluations; second, his words very frequently refer to the highest possible quantity or intensity of things and properties; third, his lexicon shows a high level of creativity: neologisms, rhetorical figures, and other creative uses of words. (Poggi, 2018: 271).

He knew how to talk to different people to get them on board to his ideas for the country that he loved as much as he did. He knew how to use positive emotions and he knew how to be intense at the right moments.

Mussolini had different ways to connect with his audience and he was brilliant, when he spoke to them and made them feel like he was on their side. He expressed emotions to show everyone that he was a human being like themselves. He showed them that he felt the same thing that they did and that he was similar to them (Poggi, 2018: 277). "Empathy is a typical quality of a leader, but an effective leader must not (only) feel empathy towards his followers, he must also express it." (Poggi, 2018: 277). Mussolini knew how to show empathy even when he did not mean it. He wanted to make people believe that he was similar to them, because that made them trust him more and they wanted to follow him. Here is an example on one of his speeches, where he expresses his empathy to the people: "(Rural comrades, from Aprilia, Pontinia, Littoria and Sabaudia! You can count on my sympathy. The sympathy of a man who had the pride to tell you that the blood of true rural people flows in his veins)" (Poggi, 2018: 277). This is from his speech at Aprilia, October 29 in 1937 (Poggi, 2018: 277).

Mussolini used many emotions when he spoke to the Italian people. They trusted him, because they all thought that he was one of them. "Thus the charismatic leader enhances group cohesion: stating his closeness and similarity to each member of the group, he makes them feel close and similar to each other." (Poggi, 2018: 277). He enhances their pride and their enthusiasm and uses it to motivate them to follow him and he can make them do what he wants them to do (Poggi, 2018: 277).

Mussolini was admired by his people and he was able to get more followers over the years. He seduced his followers and in that way, he made them admire him and his cause. As Poggi states in her chapter: "Praising is an act of seduction. The subtle link between praising and charisma is mediated by the social emotion of admiration. A charismatic leader is admired by his followers; and admiration elicits a desire to be close to the admired person, possibly to take him as a model, to

learn his qualities, and to be appreciated by him [...].” (Poggi,2018: 277-278). By doing this he brings the followers closer to him and the way he speaks to them, he makes them feel proud such as him (Poggi, 2018: 278).

Mussolini was passionate when he spoke in front of people and they were drawn to him. While showing them that he was similar to them he also showed them that he was superior. That he showed by lifting both his head and his chin up. This also showed them that he was a proud man (Poggi, 2018: 278).

According to Poggi, there are several features that make an attractive leader and in the following some of these will be put on Mussolini. She has analysed some of his speeches and gives some examples to how these features are portrayed in his speeches and in his way of speaking to his followers. One of the features that she mentions is Narcissism, which she claims makes one a more attractive leader and more seductive (Poggi, 2018: 283). The category of narcissism “includes all those communicative and non-communicative behaviors that convey the leader’s high self-confidence, displayed by sentences that try to reassure the followers, but also *long rhetorical pauses* eliciting suspense or asking for attention [...]” (Poggi, 2018: 283). He nods and he uses sentences of self-praise such as making sure that he reminds his followers of all the good things he has done. He says: “[...](con due articoli non dimenticati... io affermai = with two unforgotten papers... I stated)[...]” (Poggi, 2018: 283). He gazes around and he nods and uses stressed syllables. All of these things are a way for him to highlight the importance in what he says and make it more believable (Poggi, 283). He also uses optimism, which can help his followers believe in his cause: [...]*dopo aglo inverni grigi possono venire anche le primavera del benessere e della Gloria* (after gray winters the springs of wellbeing and glory may come)[...] (Poggi, 2018: 284). To make people believe and be optimistic themselves, their leader has to sound optimistic. He does not have to be, but he has to make them believe.

Poggi also mentions pathos: “the capacity both to feel (or simulate feeling) emotions and to induce emotions in others.” (Poggi, 2018: 284), when she analyses Mussolini’s speeches. This is shown by the way he speaks and, in his gestures,, such as a dramatic handshape and his grasping gestures (Poggi, 2018: 284).

Emotion induction shows in his speeches as well. This is seen in the way he creates suspense. This he does by long pauses and rising intonation. His voice is also rendering a wide range of nuances; it can go from being violent to being tender (Poggi, 2018: 284).

Mussolini also makes sure to praise his followers. This he does with flatter and gratification. He praises his followers “by words celebrating the courage of the followers, and by addressing them with frequent *nods* of approval.” (Poggi, 2018: 284). As mentioned earlier, Mussolini has a way of making his followers feel like he is one of them, even though he feels superior to them. This he shows them in his speeches by using inclusivity. This is shown by his way of “*leaning forward towards the crowd [...]*” (Poggi, 2018: 285). It is not only his way of standing in front of his followers that says how he is similar to them. It is also shown in what he says to them in his speeches: “*so per averlo provato, che cosa vuol dire la casa deserta e il desco nudo*” (I know, **due to having felt it myself**, what a deserted house and an empty table mean). This “having felt it myself” states his being similar to the followers, and in a sense justifies his empathy with them (Poggi, 2018: 285).

These are a few of Poggi’s example on how Mussolini talked to his followers and how he made them listen to him. His way of speaking was magnificent, and his followers adored him.

### Comparison

It is normal to compare real people to fictional characters and Clark compares several fictional characters to Mussolini. This will be presented in the following paragraph.

Clark compares Mussolini to different fictional characters in his argument on who Mussolini was and what kind of leader he was for the Fascist regime. To begin with, Clark argues that one can compare Mussolini to the fictional character Don Quixote from the novel *Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes published in 1606 and 1615. "Mussolini, too, had read too many bad romances, was anxious to set the world to rights. He, too, tried to live his own myth, and to make his dreams real. What is Mussolini’s slogan ‘Believe, Obey, Fight’ if not a duller version of Quixote’s deluded demands?" (Clark, 2014: 6). Clark is not truly convinced that one can compare Mussolini to Don Quixote entirely, because he claims that Don Quixote is too attractive a character for this comparison. He is also too idealistic. They have some of the same traits, but Clark chooses another fictional character to compare to the Italian dictator. William Shakespeare wrote in 1602 a play called *Twelfth Night, or What You Will*, about the countess, Olivia and her suitors, where one of them is Malvolio, who Clark compares to Mussolini. Malvolio as a character is highly insecure who despises others and he is easily tricked by others into absurd posturing. It is not only their personalities that Clark compares. Both Mussolini and Malvolio wore spats and bowler, and Mussolini wore it even after the fashion had changed in Italy (Clark, 2014: 6-7). When Malvolio

feels he has been humiliated he cries out a sentence that fits Mussolini well: “Malvolio, when humiliated, cries out ‘I’ll be reveng’d on the whole pack of you’: Mussolini’s sentiments entirely, throughout his life.” (Clark, 2014: 6-7).

These characters are not inspired by Mussolini, since they were created before he was born, but one can easily get started in comparing fictional characters to real people and for some people it might be easier to know a person if they can compare them to someone fictional who they feel like they know.

## Analysis

In the following paragraph, there will be an introduction to J.K. Rowling, who has created Gellert Grindelwald, and to the two newer films in the Harry Potter franchise, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* and *Fantastic Beasts and the Crimes of Grindelwald*.

### J.K. Rowling

Joanne Rowling, better known as J.K. Rowling is the author of the bestselling and beloved Harry Potter books. The first book, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone*, was published in 1997 and the last book in the original series, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, was published in 2007, 10 years after the first one. Since, J.K. Rowling has published books from inside the universe, such as *Quidditch Through the Ages* and *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*, which are two of the books from the Hogwarts Library Collection. The Harry Potter franchise has a great fandom and there have been written fanfiction all over the world in different ways and with different outcomes. In 2016, Jack Thorne and John Tiffany wrote a script for a play called *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, which is now performed in several countries around the world. J.K. Rowling has written 13 books in the Harry Potter universe, where seven of them are fiction books, two of them are screenplays, two of them are nonfiction books, one play script, which she has not written alone and one a fairy-tale book (Writing).

J.K. Rowling has also written some other books that have nothing to do with Harry Potter. Some of these books, she has written under the pseudonym, Robert Galbraith. Under this name she has written crime fiction, such as *The Cuckoo’s Calling* and *The Silkworm* (Writing). At first, she kept her identity a secret, but later it came out who the real Galbraith was and today it is well-known. She still uses that name for her crime fiction (Writing).

### Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them

*Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* is a book from the Harry Potter Universe. It is written by Newt Scamander, who is an explorer and a Magizoologist. The book is a lexicon where Newt describes the different magical creatures that is known in the wizarding world. The book is used at Hogwarts School for Witchcraft and Wizardry. J.K. Rowling wrote this book in connection to the Harry Potter franchise and the fans can now own a book that their favourite witches and wizards read, when they were in school. In 2016 the screenplay, written by J.K. Rowling, and the film was released. The film is based in the non-fiction book from the universe and contains many new characters but also someone known from the franchise, even though the plot takes place around fifty years before the plot in the Harry Potter books.

One of the main characters are Newt Scamander who “has just completed a round-the-globe trip in search of the most rare and unusual magical creatures.” (Rowling, 2016: 1). He travels to New York for what is supposed to be a short visit, but his suitcase is misplaced and some of the creatures that he has inside of it, goes missing. He has to find them again or terrible things will happen to the citizens of New York, both muggles and people with magical abilities (Rowling, 2016: 1). It is not only creatures that the citizens have to be aware of. Gellert Grindelwald, who is a well-known villain from the universe, has gone undercover as an auror and is trying to fulfill his mission, by using an innocent boy to find the missing link in his plan (Rowling, 2016: 1). *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* is the first film out of a series of five.

### Fantastic Beasts and the Crimes of Grindelwald

*Fantastic Beasts and the Crimes of Grindelwald* is the second film in the Fantastic Beasts series. It was released in 2018, two years after the first film. The third film is set to be released in 2021. The film takes place in 1927, where the first film took place the year before. The plot in this film takes the fans to New York, to Paris and to Hogwarts in Scotland, where the fans got to see some familiar faces from the Harry Potter franchise. In *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, Grindelwald was taken into custody, but in the beginning of this film, he escapes. He then begins to gather followers, but most of them do not know, what his true agenda is: “to raise pure-blood wizards to rule over non-magical beings.” (Rowling, 2016: 2). Albus Dumbledore, who fans know and love from the Harry Potter books, ask Newt Scamander to help him defeat Grindelwald, who was once his best friend. In this film loyalty and love is tested between good friends and family.

## Gellert Grindelwald

In this paragraph, the focus will lie on Gellert Grindelwald, his youth and his obsessions. The focus in this thesis is Grindelwald and Mussolini and how they are alike and therefore it is important to know their backgrounds and their missions in life. This following paragraph will be about Grindelwald and his life and later there will be a comparison on him and Mussolini, because there are interesting things that they have in common, which asks the question on whether or not Grindelwald is based on Mussolini and his search for power in Italy.

Gellert Grindelwald is a character created by J.K. Rowling. His character was mentioned in the books about Harry Potter and he was an important part of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* which was the last book in the series. The first information that is given about him in book seven, is on page 24, where a friend of Albus Dumbledore, writes a piece on Dumbledore upon his death. The friend, Elphias Doge, writes about Dumbledore's life and how he defeated Grindelwald in 1945 and how extraordinary the battle between those two wizards was (Rowling, 2007: 24). Grindelwald was a large part of Dumbledore's life and therefore he is mentioned several times in this book, because it is in this book that the readers get to read about Dumbledore's life.

Grindelwald was born around 1883, but it is a mystery where. When he was young, he attended Durmstrang Institute, which is one of the eleven wizarding schools in the universe created by J.K. Rowling (Grindelwald - Pottermore). Durmstrang is placed in Northern Europe and has a reputation for dark magic (Grindelwald – Pottermore). When Grindelwald was only 16 years old, he was expelled from Durmstrang Institute, because he experimented with magic and made some near-fatal attacks on some of his fellow students (Grindelwald - Pottermore).

Grindelwald was obsessed with power, even when he was a student. He was in particular obsessed with the Deathly Hallows; the Elder Wand, the Resurrection Stone and the Invisibility Cloak. Not everyone believed that these objects existed, but Grindelwald believed, and he wanted to possess them all. It was said that to “possess all three would make one the Master of Death.” (Grindelwald – Pottermore). The Deathly Hallows were a part of a fairy-tale for children in the magical world, but it ended up being true. The story is about three brothers who each receive an object from death: The oldest brother asked Death for a wand that was more powerful than any other wand in the world. The second brother wanted to humiliate Death and asked for an object that would bring people back from death. The youngest brother asked for a way to hide from Death, and he received Death' own invisibility cloak. The two older brothers died shortly after getting the objects, because Death cheated them. Death was not able to cheat the youngest brother, because he

could not find him. When the youngest brother grew old, he gave the cloak to his son and he then greeted Death as an equal (Rowling, 2007: 331-332). Grindelwald ended up tracking the Elder Wand down, but he was never able to become The Master of Death, because he never owned all three objects at the same time.

After being expelled from Durmstrang Institute, he went to Godric's Hollow in England, where he lived with his great aunt, Bathilda Bagshot, who was a well-known author (Grindelwald - Pottermore). Here he met Albus Dumbledore and those two became friends. They had a lot in common and they were both obsessed with the Deathly Hallows and power. Dumbledore was fascinated by Grindelwald's view on things and people around them saw how dangerous their friendship and their ideas were (Grindelwald - Pottermore). Dumbledore's brother, Aberforth, felt like he had to stop them and those three battled it out and it ended badly. The two brothers lost their younger sister, Ariana. She was hit by one of their spells, but no one knew who killed her. At the same time, Dumbledore and Grindelwald ended their friendship and Grindelwald vanished (Grindelwald - Pottermore).

Albus Dumbledore did well at Hogwarts and when he left the school, when he was 18 years old, he was about to go travel the world with his best friend, Elphias Doge. He never went, because right after he graduated Hogwarts, his mother was killed. This made him return to Godric's Hollow to take care of his younger brother and sister, Aberforth and Ariana (Rowling, 2007: 288-289). Grindelwald's aunt knew the Dumbledore family and when Grindelwald came to live with her, she introduced him to Albus and they soon became close (Rowling, 2007: 291). They were so close that even in the middle of the night, they would send each other letters by owl, if they just had an idea that the other one just had to know about right away (Rowling, 2007: 291). Admirers of Dumbledore always thought of him as a righteous man who fought for the rights of muggles, but there was so much more to him, when he was friends with Grindelwald, who is now known as one of the most dangerous dark wizards (Rowling, 2007: 290).

In one of the letters from Dumbledore to Grindelwald, it is clear that those two wanted to seek power and make sure that there was a wizard dominance in the world: "Yes, we have been given power and, yes, that power gives us the right to rule, but it also gives us responsibilities over the ruled." (Rowling, 2007: 291). Dumbledore and Grindelwald wanted the witches and wizards to rule the world, which came as a shock to those who had always admired Dumbledore. He did have a dark side, when he was younger and him and Grindelwald had ideas to seize power. It ended for



Dumbledore, when Ariana died, but Grindelwald kept going. He used their ideas to gather followers and he received more and more power every day.

Dumbledore changed his mind and he came to his senses. He then tried to stop Grindelwald, as can be seen in *Fantastic Beasts and the Crimes of Grindelwald* and probable will be shown in the next three films, as it is said that the last one takes place in 1945, where Dumbledore defeated Grindelwald.

Grindelwald travelled through Europe and he started to gather some followers and he ended up tracking down the Elder Wand. Grindelwald then continued “to follow his dreams of seizing power ‘for the greater good’.” (Grindelwald - Pottermore). One of Grindelwald’s missions was to expose the wizarding world to the muggles, who are the non-magic folk (Grindelwald - Pottermore). The story about Grindelwald’s mission to expose the magical society, is told in *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find them* and in *Fantastic Beasts and the Crimes of Grindelwald* and will be continued in the three upcoming film about Grindelwald and Dumbledore.

### Grindelwald and Mussolini

Many characters in literature and films can be compared to people from the real world. It is not uncommon that a character is based on a real person or that the author got inspiration from a real person, when they wrote their character. In this paragraph a comparison on Gellert Grindelwald and Benito Mussolini will be made and analysed. It is not known whether or not Grindelwald is based on Mussolini, but they have many things in common, both experiences from their childhood and the way they speak to their followers. There will also be commented on, why Rowling felt the need to create a character such as Grindelwald at the time. She created him in the 1990’s, but it was in 2016 he actually became the main focus from the universe.

Martin Clark compares Mussolini to both Don Quixote and Malvolio from respectively *Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes and *Twelfth Night, or What You Will* by William Shakespeare. One can easily compare great personalities to fictional characters, because many fictional characters are inspired from real people. One of those newer characters that can be compared to Mussolini is Gellert Grindelwald. He is mentioned in the books about Harry Potter and he is a large part of the last book, without appearing much. In 2016, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* was released and Grindelwald was one of the main characters. The second movie in that franchise was released two years after and it is called *Fantastic Beasts and the Crimes of Grindelwald* and in that film, he is not portrayed as someone else, as he is most of the time in the first film.

It is possible that J.K. Rowling did not base Grindelwald on Mussolini, but there are some similarities that are interesting to look at in this analysis. One can only about this, but they do have several things in common. For one thing, Mussolini was born in 1883. Grindelwald is said to be born around that one specific year, but the exact year of his birth is not known. Although it is 1883 that is written on several websites and on Pottermore, which is the author's own website. Even though it is not definite that Grindelwald was born that year, it is still interesting that it is the year that Mussolini was born that Rowling has announced on her website. This might be a small and insignificant detail but it does give readers a closer view on the rise of Fascism in the franchise.

Readers of Harry Potter does not know much about Grindelwald and his childhood, because it is mostly his school years and his adult life that is relevant for his character and his rise to power. He plays a great part in Dumbledore's life and both his lust for power and his visions, are relevant for this. The readers do get to read about small parts of his years at school and they get an idea of who he was. In his years in school, one can find another example on how he is similar to Mussolini.

Both Grindelwald and Mussolini were expelled from their schools, because they did not treat the other students well. Mussolini knifed a student where Grindelwald experimented with dark magic and some of the other students got hurt. They were approximately at the same age, when they hurt their schoolmates. Mussolini was 15 years old when he did it the second time, and Grindelwald was 16 years old. They both knew what they wanted, when they were teenagers and not anyone should get in the way of their dreams.

Both Mussolini and Grindelwald were outspoken and knew what they wanted in life. Mussolini wanted justice and he knew that he had to do things himself to get what he wanted. Mostly because he wanted justice for himself. Grindelwald wished for power and he would stop at nothing to get what he wanted. Not even getting arrested stopped him from trying to achieve his goal (Grindelwald – Pottermore). In *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, he was arrested at the end of the film and in the beginning of the second film, *Fantastic Beasts and the Crimes of Grindelwald*, he escaped. He is an intelligent and powerful man and he knew how to get away.

In the two films, the viewers do not get his life story, but they do get to see what it is he wants. There are hints of his relationship with Dumbledore, but the story begins almost 30 years after the death of Ariana Dumbledore, the sister of Albus Dumbledore. Even though the viewers do not know much about Grindelwald's youth and life, they do get to see how dangerous other people find him. That is made clear in the first film in the franchise.

In the first film, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, aurors, who are the magical law enforcement, are on a mission (Rowling, 2016: 1). “Five Aurors stand, wands aloft, tentative as they edge towards the chateau. A sudden explosion of pure white light sends them flying.” (Rowling, 2016, 1). The aurors lie motionless on the ground while Grindelwald stares out into the night. Afterwards there is a montage showing various newspapers and their headlines. Many of them are about Grindelwald and his attacks all over the world (Rowling, 2016: 1-2). “‘GRINDELWALD STRIKES AGAIN IN EUROPE’, ‘HOGWARTS SCHOOL INCREASES SECURITY’, ‘WHERE IS GRINDELWALD?’. He’s a serious threat to the magical community and he’s vanished. Moving photos detail destroyed buildings, fires, screaming victims and fast - the worldwide hunt for GRINDELWALD continues.” (Rowling, 2016: 2). This is an example on how dangerous Grindelwald is and how much damage he did in the 1920’s. This was also the time where Mussolini came through with his fascist thoughts in Italy. This is another thing that can make one speculate on whether Grindelwald is based on Mussolini or not. Both rose to power in the 1920’s. The second film takes place in 1927, but Grindelwald tried to gather followers way before that. So did Mussolini. They were both active at this time and tried to get as much influence as they could.

It can be difficult to get people to follow you, but there are things that one can do in these situations, which have worked for others, such as Mussolini. He had, as commented on in the theory, a mesmerising way of speaking to his followers and other people who listened to him. Looking at a character such as Grindelwald, it is obvious that he has the same gift, when it comes to speaking in front of a crowd. In *Fantastic Beasts and the Crimes of Grindelwald*, a meeting takes place in Paris. This meeting is for Grindelwald and his followers and anyone who wants to listen to him. In the following, there will be examples on how he speaks at this particular meeting and how people react to the things he says.

Grindelwald is popular in some crowds in the magical world and people love to hear him talk and he does it well: “We follow GRINDELWALD onstage as the audience explodes with delight. Their hysteria builds as he stands there, part demagogue, part rock star.” (Rowling, 2018: 243). In this scene, Grindelwald has gathered some of his followers and some other witches and wizards are there to hear what he has to say. When he starts talking, people listen and several times, the camera switch to one of the main characters to see how they react to his speech and his way of speaking to his followers. Grindelwald comes of as a humble man who cares about his followers and speaks their case: “My brother, my sisters, my friends: the great gift of your applause is not for me. No. It is for yourselves.” (Rowling, 2018: 244). Some of the characters, who does not follow

Grindelwald, are actually charmed by his way of speaking and his humbleness and that is shown when the camera points at them, such as Leta LeStrange, who was mentioned in the first film and introduced in the second film. She does not clap at the things he says, but she is mesmerised by his charisma and it is obvious, if one looks at her facial expression, that she is impressed by him (Rowling, 2018: 244). Leta has no intend to follow Grindelwald, but it is still clear that she can understand why others are drawn to him and his principles.

Grindelwald talks to his followers and they all get a glimpse on who he is and what it is that he wants. His mission is not completely clear, but he hints to it. He keeps his cards to himself and he only shows them if he has to. Grindelwald wants to change the world and he is sure that the reason why people are listening to him is because they want the same exact thing. “You came here today because of a craving and a knowledge that the old ways serve us no longer ... You come today because you crave something new, something different.” (Rowling, 2018: 245). There are many witches and wizards who do not care for those who cannot do magic and later, when the plot in the Harry Potter books takes place, Lord Voldemort wants to rule the world and get rid of muggleborns and non-magic folk. Grindelwald does not feel the same way. He has another agenda, but it seems like he has been misunderstood along the way and he tries to explain himself to his followers: “It is said that I hate Les Non-Magiques. The Muggles. The No-Maj. The Can’t Spells.” (Rowling, 2018: 245) and “I do not hate them. I do not.” (Rowling, 2018: 245). Grindelwald does not hate the muggles, but he does not say that he likes them either. He has another plan for them:

For I do not fight out of hatred. I say the Muggles are not lesser, but other. Not worthless, but of other value. Not disposable, but of a different disposition. (a beat) Magic blooms only in rare souls. It is granted to those who live for higher things. Oh, and what a world we could make, for all of humanity. We who live for freedom, for truth - *His eyes meet QUEENIE’S in the front row.* - and for love. *We pan across QUEENIE, now heart and souls his...* (Rowling, 2018: 245-246).

Even though he does not hate the muggles, he does not think that they are worth as much as witches and wizards. They are worth of something else. This is also a way for him to receive more followers. By sounding like muggles can be used in society he shows them all that he is a righteous man, who will not hurt people for no reason. Voldemort from Harry Potter did hurt people if they did not follow him, but Grindelwald is different. He makes people believe that he is not an evil

man. Voldemort was after his time, but it is still interesting to see the difference in Rowling's two main villains and how they acted.

Grindelwald knows what he has to say to get more people to follow him. Queenie is an example to the tricks he has up his sleeves. She listens intensely, when he mentions love and she believe that in a world where he rules, she can marry whomever she wants to.

Mussolini wanted Italians to work for Italy and though he felt like he was superior to his followers, he still made them believe that he was on their side and similar to them. Grindelwald wants the muggles to know about magic, but they are not worth as much as he and the rest of the people who knows magic are. They just have to do their part in society, so everyone can live in peace and Grindelwald and the witches and wizards can have the power. Both Mussolini and Grindelwald did a great job on convincing people to follow them and do whatever they wanted them to do. They were both charismatic and great speakers. As said earlier, Mussolini was highly passionate when he spoke to his followers and he held his chin and his head up to show that he was superior. Though he was, he also let them know, that he fought for them. Grindelwald was as well a great speaker. He also spoke with passion in his voice, but he was much calmer. He does not gesticulate as much as Mussolini did. Even though he was calm, no one was doubting his motives. He was passionate and humble, but it was clear to all that he was the one in charge.

“The moment has come to share my vision of the future that awaits if we do not rise up and take out rightful place in the world.” (Rowling, 2018: 249-250). After saying this to his followers, Grindelwald receives a skull-hookah from one of his followers. He has to suck in some smoke and them blow it out. In the smoke, several horrible images come to life: “Thousands of marching, booted feet... explosions, men running with guns...” (Rowling, 2018: 250). People in the room are clearly horrified with this image, which looks like images from World War II. The camera finds Jacob and he whispers: “Not another war.” (Rowling, 2018: 251). Grindelwald comments on the images and he understands why people are so afraid of this and he uses it to make them listen to him: “That is what we are fighting! That is the enemy - their arrogance, their power lust, their barbarity. How long will it take before they turn their weapons on us?” (Rowling, 2018: 251).

When Grindelwald walks to the center of the room, to meet his followers, the director has made sure to build the tension and it becomes clear to the audience how popular Grindelwald is.

At the meeting the viewers of the film see the back of Grindelwald's head while he walks from a hallway to the stage. He walks in slow motion and slowly one can see all of his followers coming closer, because he is closer to the stage. People clap and he clearly enjoys it. When he

comes to the stage, he starts to speak. The way he speaks is calm and he walks slowly around on stage and keeps his hands on his back (Yates, 2018: 01:45:30). His head is held high and so is his chin (Yates, 2018: 01:45:51). As commented on earlier in the thesis, it was the same way that Mussolini presented himself; head held high and chin up, which shows some similarities between them, when they spoke.

Grindelwald changes his voice, when he talks about the images of the coming war that he showed the people at the meeting. There is more passion in his voice and he is upset with this. His voice is also more powerful which can help him convince everyone who is there that this is serious and that they have to support him to prevent this problem.

As commented on earlier, Grindelwald does not like aurors and in the middle of his speech, the aurors come into the room because they want to capture him once again. He presents to his followers that the aurors have killed many of his followers earlier on and that they tortured him, when they captured him the first time in New York, which refers to the first film where they catch him in the end (Yates, 2018: 01:50:35). A follower tries to attack one of the aurors and it is clear that she is angry at the aurors because of what they have done to Grindelwald and others like him. Though she is too slow and the auror kills her to defend himself. Grindelwald is infuriated by this but is still calm. He tells his followers to leave the place and go tell other people that it is not them who are violent, but the aurors. This is in some ways similar to a tactic that Mussolini used, when he wanted to start a revolution in Italy. He wrote about massacres made by the police and made sure to sound like a hero when he said he was against it, when he in reality was not against it. He wanted there to be massacres, so he could sound like he was against it and get people on his side and against the police. This was the way to revolution in his opinion.

The aurors begin to move closer and when all the followers have left, Grindelwald cast a protection spell around him and only those who choose to follow him, can walk through it. That means that the aurors cannot get through and if they try, the fire around Grindelwald attacks them. Credence has spent most of the film trying to hide from Grindelwald, but he feels like he has to go with him to find out who he truly is. People try to stop him, but he needs answers (Rowling, 2018: 256). Queenie also goes to Grindelwald to support him and his mission and she screams at Jacob, because she wants him to walk with her, but without luck (Rowling, 2018: 257).

In the end of the film, the viewers are taken to Austria to the Nurmengard Castle, where Grindelwald stays. He has taken Queenie and Credence with him. He tries to convince Credence that he has a brother, even though Credence has never met him. Grindelwald tells him that this

brother wants to do everything that he can to destroy Credence (Yates, 2018: 02:03:48). Whether this is true or not, is not yet known as a fact. His brother is Albus Dumbledore, whom Grindelwald was once friends with. Now they are enemies. They cannot fight each other, because they once made a blood pact. Dumbledore is an extremely powerful wizard and Grindelwald needs to beat him if he himself wants to rule the world. He then needs Credence to fight Dumbledore for him and he does what he can to convince Credence that Grindelwald himself is the only person who cares about him.

Isabelle Poggi analysed Mussolini's speeches in her book, as mentioned earlier. Those theories on how Mussolini spoke and the theories on his body language, will be used on Grindelwald and his way of speaking, in the following paragraph. Both men had some characteristic ways of convincing people and seduce them.

Looking at Isabelle Poggi's theory on how Mussolini spoke, one can easily look at the same points and analyse the way Grindelwald speaks in the two films about him and his terrors. He is optimistic when he speaks and when he tries to gather followers. He knows, he has leverage when it comes to people and their feelings. He knows how to say the right things at the right time and people believe in him and his cause. Grindelwald is also narcissistic. He believes that the pure blood (the witches and wizards who does not have any muggles in their entire family bloodline) are worth more than others and he himself is worth more than others. He also makes sure to use emotion in his speech, which makes him likable. It is easier for people to follow a man that sounds like he cares about the people and Grindelwald does show them that he cares. He wants to help Credence and tell him who he is, which Credence have always wanted. It has always been difficult for Credence not to know who he is and who his family was. Grindelwald wants to help him, and he uses emotion when telling him this, so Credence will trust him. When Grindelwald begins to talk about how the aurors kill people and how they tortured him, he also uses emotion. The camera finds some of his followers who look angry when he tells them this and it is clear that they begin to hate the aurors. A woman even tries to attack one of them, because she gets so emotionally involved in the situation. This is also a way for Grindelwald to show them that he is similar to them. He was tortured by the aurors, so if anyone else has had any trouble with them, they now know that they are not alone. Mussolini did something like this in one of his speeches. He tells them that he has had a difficult life himself. He himself knew how it was like to have an empty table and a deserted house. This makes people feel for him and they know from this that he knows how it is to be poor like them.

Grindelwald also uses praise, when he speaks to his followers. When he first walks in on the stage everyone is clapping and it is clear that they adore him. He then tells them that it is not he who deserves the appraisal. It is them. This is a way for him to praise the audience and they feel like he really cares about them and wants what is best for them in the future.

Grindelwald does not just stand there looking at them. He sometimes smiles and let them all see that he is human. He is charismatic and they follow him because they trust him and sees him as someone human who can make the wizarding world a better place for everyone in it. Before Mussolini became Prime Minister and dictator, he spoke in small halls. Grindelwald is doing the same. He cannot just speak in the town square or on a balcony. He has to speak somewhere else.

### Credence and Queenie

Grindelwald was just like Mussolini when he talked in front of people. He was a smooth speaker. The focus in this paragraph will be how well he did when he tried to convince people to follow him, even though they never thought they would. There are a few characters in the films that Grindelwald tries to convince and where he actually succeeds in trying. The fans get to see how he does it and how patient he is, because he knows that this cannot be rushed, if he wants them on his side.

He could convince people to come to his side, even though they knew from the beginning that he was not a good guy. They knew about the bad things that he had done all around the world, because they had read the newspapers with the terrible headlines as mentioned earlier in the thesis. Queenie, who is one of the main characters in both films, is on the good side, but when she hears Grindelwald talk around the end of the second film, she becomes one of his followers. Queenie is in love with a muggle, also called a no-maj in the United States of America, named Jacob Kowalski. In America it was at that time in the magical world, forbidden to have that kind of relationship with someone that cannot do magic or someone who did not grow up with it. Some people grew up with magical parents, without getting magical powers for themselves. These people are called squibs. Grindelwald wants muggles to know about the magical world and he wants people to be able to marry whomever they want to. This is a soft spot for Queenie, who really wants to marry Jacob. She thinks that it is unfair that she cannot marry the man that she loves with all of her heart. Grindelwald believes that witches and wizards are better than muggles, but people should be able to decide for themselves.



Grindelwald tries to show empathy towards his followers, as well as Mussolini did to his. He knows how Queenie feels about a muggle and he shows empathy towards her. This is a great strategy for him, because he knows that he can get more followers if he plays the right cards. It is not only Queenie he manages to get on his side. He shows a lot of empathy towards Credence Barebone and that began in the first film.

In the first film, Grindelwald portrays himself as Percival Graves, who is an auror in the American Ministry of Magic, The Magical Congress of the United States of America, shortened MACUSA. He knows about a child who had special abilities, whom he can use in his mission to let the muggles know about magic and to have power over them. He convinces Credence that he needs him to find this child. Credence does not have a good life and his adoptive mother beats him, because he is different, but Grindelwald, as Graves, convinces him that he is special. Credence starts to believe him, and he gets a little more confident, even though he still has a hard time accepting himself and his life so far (Yates, 2016: 01:15:30). When Grindelwald thinks he finds the child that he is looking for, he shows Credence that he does not need him for anything anymore and that sets off Credence. Once again, he has been cast aside (Yates, 2016: 01:34:56). It is at that time that Grindelwald figures out that he had the wrong child to begin with. All this time it was Credence he was looking for and he tries to smooth things over with him, but without luck. The main character in the film, Newt, and his new friend, Tina, are the ones who talk to Credence and tries to convince him to calm down and not hurt anyone (Yates, 2016: 01:42:40). They also help MACUSA lock Graves up and they finally figure out that he is Grindelwald and not an auror in the Ministry (Yates, 2016: 01:49:43) Grindelwald goes to prison and a few years later, when the second film begins, he escapes.

Earlier in the film, Queenie meets Grindelwald for the first time. One of his followers lures her to his place so he can talk to Queenie. He is calm and he speaks with a whisper. Queenie wishes not to listen to him, and she threatens him with her wand. This does not make him back down and he is still calm, and he wants her on his side. Grindelwald talks to her like she is a child, but he also makes sure to talk to her like an equal. Like Mussolini did with his followers, Grindelwald wants to show her that he is similar to her. He does not like aurors, but he will not hurt Queenie just because her sister is an auror (Yates, 2018: 01:13:01). He wants Queenie to work for him. He can use her abilities to read minds: "I wish you were working with me now towards a world where we wizards were free to live openly, and to love freely." (Yates, 2018: 01:13:38 - 01:13:49).

Grindelwald was great at convincing people, and he often had something to convince them with. With Credence, he had the knowledge of the boy's family, and with Queenie, it was her love for a muggle.

### The Fear of Fascism

Brian Fogarty, as brought up earlier in the thesis, wrote the book, *Fascism Why Not Here?* which was first published in 2009, when Barack Obama had just been elected for his first term as president in the United States of America. He claimed that: "American culture contains many of the traits that made National Socialism possible in Germany - was meant as a warning to Americans that while we were in no immediate danger of becoming a fascist society, the potential was there, waiting for the right crisis to throw us into a panic." (Fogarty, 2018: vi). This he wrote in the book where he talked about how the United States of America might be on their way to a fascist regime, but as he said, there was no immediate danger. In 2018 he published the book again and wrote a preface where he comments on what he had said earlier. He was not entirely worried back then, because America then elected Barack Obama, who was very different from George W. Bush, but "Then the election of 2016 happened. More than just the surprise selection of an unconventional outsider, the election was the culmination of a decade or more of growing distrust of American institutions - not just the government but also the press, the school, the scientific community, and elites of all sorts." (Fogarty, 2018: vi). Fogarty has warned Americans of many things in his book in 2009 and these things suddenly came to pass. As he says in the preface: "A bitter broth of populism, racism, jingoistic nationalism, and romantic recklessness was giving rise to a growing tolerance of authoritarian leadership." (Fogarty, 2018: vi).

Trump was elected in 2016 and suddenly it spread some fear around the world that America would suddenly have a fascist leader. The same year, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* was released, where Grindelwald makes an appearance. There is a fear of fascism in the world and J.K. Rowling released this kind of villain at the right time. She created Grindelwald while Bill Clinton was president, though the plot in Harry Potter takes place before he became president in the real world. Grindelwald was not a large part of the Harry Potter series, but he became a large part of the universe when Trump rose to power in America.

Grindelwald was mentioned in the first book, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, where Ron and Harry read on the back of a wizarding card that Dumbledore defeated Grindelwald in 1945 (Rowling, 1997: 109). Grindelwald was therefore created in the 1990's where Clinton was

president. Grindelwald is not mentioned again before the last book, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, which was published in 2007. Grindelwald was a large part of the last book, because he was in possession of the Elder Wand, which Voldemort wanted, and he was mentioned so the main characters knew who Dumbledore was. Grindelwald became a larger part of the series, when George W. Bush was president in America and when Donald Trump became president, a film about Grindelwald was made.

Diana C. Mutz, who has a PhD and who is a professor in Political Science and Communication at the University of Pennsylvania, has written an article where she compares Donald Trump to Lord Voldemort from the Harry Potter series. She has chosen to call the article *Harry Potter and the Deathly Donald*, which refers to the last book in the series, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. When Donald Trump was a candidate to becoming president of The United States of America, people actually thought that he was like Lord Voldemort in some ways and "even Trump supporters seem to be buying into the analogy, purchasing Trump posters featuring their candidate in front of an American flag as backdrop, with a quote from the Dark Lord himself: "There is no good and evil, there is only power, and those too weak to seek it" (Rowling 1997, 211; see also Farah 2016; Isaac 2016). (Mutz, 2016: 722).

Donald Trump do have things in common with Lord Voldemort, according to Mutz. Lord Voldemort was willing to kill people so he could split his soul into seven pieces, and he did not mind torturing people if it got him to where he wanted to be (Mutz, 2016: 723). Donald Trump said that if he was to be elected for president, he would bring back waterboarding, which he called a ""mini-formal form of torture."" (Mutz, 2016: 723). Trump also suggested that the families of terrorists should be killed to scare others who might try terrorism (Mutz, 2016: 723).

Rowling herself has admitted that there are some similarities between Hitler and Lord Voldemort, which readers have also noticed. When Trump became a candidate, people started to notice his fascist way of looking at things: "Consisting with authoritarian principles, he promises order as well as dominance over all potential threats." (Mutz, 2016: 724).

When this article was written, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, was not yet released in the theatres. The discussion on the similarities between Lord Voldemort and Donald Trump is relevant, but there is a difference between Lord Voldemort and Grindelwald. Now that the two films about him are released, it is relevant to look at him and consider why he is an important villain to have in literature and films in the society today. While Trump has already been compared to Lord Voldemort, there are still some differences. Lord Voldemort, as will be discussed in the

discussion, can easily be compared to Adolf Hitler, as many fans have done, since the books came out. By comparing Lord Voldemort to Hitler and Trump, Mutz is also comparing Trump to Hitler in some ways and that is frightening. Trump has some fascist ideas, as commented in earlier in this paragraph, and that puts him in the same box as Grindelwald. Some Americans are afraid of Trump and his way of thinking, and that makes Grindelwald an important character to portray now.

Mutz argues that several studies "argues that Potter fans are more tolerant than non-fans; further, Potter fans are systematically more positive in their attitudes toward outgroups such as Muslims and gays, and significantly more supportive of government efforts to promote equality." (Mutz, 2016: 724). This is an important factor in this argument. There are many Potter fans out there and it is likely that more will come, because of the fans that are already there. Many people will watch the new films and see a character such as Grindelwald and maybe fear his ideologies. This could make them wonder about the president of The United States of America. There are many similarities in their fascist ideologies, even if Trump would ever take it further, such as Lord Voldemort and Hitler. Creating a character such as Grindelwald could be a warning for everyone in the world that Fascism is dangerous and everyone has to consider every possibility, before they support anyone.

Mutz has examined how Potter fans and non-Potter fans look at Donald Trump. According to her study, it is mostly Democrats and Independents who have read the books and watched the films. It was also the Potter fans who lowered their evaluation on Trump afterwards: "Each book that a person has read lowers their evaluation of Donald Trump by roughly 2-3 points." (Mutz, 2016: 725). Trump has said some violent things and he does not seem like a man that is supportive of people who are different than him. The same goes for Lord Voldemort. If it is easier for Potter fans to accept homosexuals and Muslims, then it might be possible that they can be warned with these books and films and look at Trump and vote something different.

"It may simply be too difficult for Harry Potter readers to ignore the similarities between Trump and the power-hungry Voldemort." (Mutz, 2016: 726). Now there is a new villain in the franchise who are similar to Mussolini, who is one of the first people that people think of, when someone mentions Fascism.

There are many differences between Grindelwald and Trump, but both of them show signs of Fascism and Trump could be one of the reasons why Grindelwald is an important villain to show people.

In the Harry Potter universe, there are many issues shown. There are many things that people in the modern world can relate to and Rowling has touched some larger topics that are highly relevant to the society. "The underlying message is that love is stronger than death, thus loyalty and courage are required to resist the temptation to respond to aggressive tactics with still more aggression. If half-bloods, werewolves and others should be treated with respect and fairness as the Potter stories teach, so too should all human beings." (Mutz, 2016: 728). Trump does not share these values, and he is sometimes hateful in his speeches. Grindelwald claims that he does not hate the muggles and the muggleborns even though they are different from him. He does not want them to leave the country or die, but he looks down on them. They are not like him and not worth as much as him, which can also be said about Trump and his way of looking at people who are not Americans or patriotic enough.

The United States of America is not the only country in the world that makes people afraid that a Fascist regime will return to the world. There are several examples on countries like this, and Russia is one of them. Timothy Snyder, who is a professor in History at Yale University, wrote an article about Ivan Ilyin and how Vladimir Putin, the current leader in Russia, sometimes uses Ilyin's quotes and ways of thinking in his political ideologies.

Ivan Ilyin was born in 1883 and he was a "philosopher who confronted Russian problems with German thinkers." (Snyder, 2018). He went to Italy in 1922, because he admired Benito Mussolini and he had wished for something such as the March on Rome. He wrote several articles where he wrote how admiring Mussolini was. "Ilyin was convinced that bold gestures by bold men could begin to undo the flawed character of existence." (Snyder, 2018). Ilyin was a Christian and he listened to the words of God and these words were the words of God, according to him: "a righteous man did not reflect upon his own deeds or attempt to see the perspective of another; he contemplated, recognized absolute good and evil, and named the enemies to be destroyed." (Snyder, 2018). Ilyin himself determined who these enemies were, and his theology became politics. Ilyin thought that the middle-class in the society should be crushed and they had to bow down for national submission (Snyder, 2018).

Ilyin believed that Fascism was the true way of living and that the enemy had to be sacrificed. He was actually annoyed by the fact that it was the Italians who founded Fascism and not Russia. It bothered him that they had failed in this manner (Snyder, 2018). Ilyin later went to Germany where he praised Hitler and the Nazis. He thought that they did right by blaming the Jews and to boycott their businesses (Snyder, 2018).

Russia did not turn out the way that Ilyin wanted it too. He wanted it to be a religious totalitarian country, but it is not. Vladimir Putin, who is the leader of Russia, did get some of his ideas from Ilyin. Ilyin has often been cited by some of the party leaders and by the head of the constitutional court (Snyder, 2018). Putin also often cited Ilyin and thought about the things that he has said and done: "Elections had become a ritual, and those who thought otherwise were portrayed by a formidable state media as traitors." (Snyder, 2018). After the Soviet Union fell, Putin even thought about how Ilyin would have handled the situation and what he would have said to the country (Snyder, 2018).

There might be plenty of reasons why Rowling decided to create a character such as Grindelwald and why she chose to focus on him at this particular moment. But there are several people in the world that other people are afraid of because of their ideologies and their opinions and therefore he is a relevant villain to portray.

### British Fascism

J.K. Rowling is from England and the Harry Potter books takes place in Britain. Harry lives with his aunt and uncle in England and Hogwarts is placed in Scotland. Mussolini is one of the people that one would look at when talking about Fascism and to analyse Grindelwald as a person and as a Fascist, one can look at the society that he is originally from, even though he spends most of his time in other European countries and in the United States of America in the films about him.

According to Keith Hodgson, The British are often left out, when talking about Fascism. There are many analyses on Germany, Italy, Spain and France, but "it is all too often assumed that the Labour Party, the organisations of its left wing, the Trades Union Congress (TUC) and British Marxists of various hues lacked valid ideas and strategies when compared with their European counterparts." (Hodgson, 2010: 1). The ideas of the left, when it comes to Fascism, are often just dismissed because they seemed outdated and invalid. Hodgson tries to prove the myths otherwise in this book (Hodgson, 2010: 1).

There were many anti-fascists in Britain and they were afraid of the Fascism in both Italy and Germany, because they might actually become a threat to their global trading interests and some feared that they could become a threat to the Empire itself (Hodgson, 2018: 1).

Britain did not suffer in so many ways as for example Italy did after the First World War and therefore it seemed that Fascism was not needed. Many did not fear Fascism at that point, but it came to Britain (Hodgson, 2010: 97-98). "That no British crisis deepened to the point where

significant sections of the population turned to fascism is often taken as proof of immunity, though that did not stop British fascists hoping for such a situation." (Hodgson, 2010: 98). According to Hodgson, it seemed that the British Fascists was not that effective, but some researchers have found that they actually "have had a much higher membership and a larger branch structure than was formerly assumed." (Hodgson, 2010: 98).

The British left was aware of how fast the Fascism in Italy had grown after the war and what it had done to the country and the workers. The socialists and the communists in Britain tried to pay attention to the signs of Fascism in Britain because of Italy and Mussolini (Hodgson, 2010: 99). The Fascism was not highly popular in Britain, but there was a group formed in 1923. Socialists and communists were aware that it did not take more than a few years for the Fascism to grow in Italy, so they made sure to keep an eye on the Fascists, because even though they were not a large group, it could still end as it did in Italy (Hodgson, 2010: 100).

Should one compare this era in British history to that of Rowling's universe, one could look at the two films about Grindelwald. Even though he is not in Britain at the time, the British Ministry of Magic is still worried about what he might do and who might follow him. They know he is a danger to people, even though he might not have as many followers at the time. As seen in the films, people can easily change their minds, if they are given a good reason. Queenie knew from the beginning that Grindelwald was a bad guy, but he still convinced her in the end, using the right tricks. This could happen to many more people and that is why the Ministry had to keep an eye on the situation at all times.

According to both Fogarty and Albright, there are some people now that fear Fascism in The United States of America, because Donald Trump was elected for president in 2016. This could be a reason for Rowling to focus on America in *Fantastic Beasts and where to Find Them* and *Fantastic Beasts and the Crimes of Grindelwald*. Fascism was not as widespread in Britain as it was in Italy, Spain and France and if Rowling and the other writers of these films wanted to focus on Fascism and the fear that is spreading around the world, then America is the obvious choice for these films. The second film also takes place in France, where Fascism was also an ideology that was taken seriously.

Grindelwald had connections to Britain, because his aunt lived in England. This is a way of connecting the villain and possibly the Fascist, to England and still show that there was a hint of Fascism in Britain back in the 1920's. Fascism is feared today by many, but England and The United Kingdom are not mentioned in this discussion. Both Fogarty and Albright talks about

America and the threat of Fascism that lies under the surface. It is not certain that America will become a fascist country, but the fear is there.

Grindelwald and Mussolini have a lot in common and Grindelwald has many ideas that can be compared to the fascist ideology and if he is truly based on Mussolini, then there is a chance that Rowling and the writers of the two films wanted the fans to understand the terror of Fascism at that time. As fans know today, Grindelwald did not become a leader in the country, as Mussolini did in Italy. Grindelwald was defeated in 1945 by Dumbledore and therefore he never got to rule the world like he and Dumbledore had intended when they were younger. Britain never became a Fascist country, even though there were those who wanted it to become exactly that. France was Fascist for a time and there is a fear in the world today that America might have a Fascist leader, as mentioned earlier. For Rowling to have the second film in the franchise focus on France and America, might not be a coincidence, looking at their history. This is a way of showing that Britain did not have Fascism like Italy did, but America could come close with the president that they have today.

There can be many reasons why Rowling chose a character such as Grindelwald, but she is known as an author who thinks things through, when she creates a universe. She has created many different spells and given them latin names and made sure that they were given a name that fit what they do. The same went for many of the characters. She had a character who was a werewolf, and she called him Lupin, which is the latin word for wolf. Rowling created a whole universe and she put her thoughts and her creativity into the names, the spells, the characters and the stories in the story, and that is why there might be a chance that some of her characters are actually based on real people.

## Discussion

Gellert Grindelwald is not the only character in the universe created by J.K. Rowling that might have been inspired by a person from real life. There are some similarities between Lord Voldemort, formerly known as Tom Marvolo Riddle, and Adolf Hitler. In this discussion, Lord Voldemort from J.K. Rowling's magical universe and Adolf Hitler will be compared. It is not certain that J.K. Rowling has drawn inspiration from Hitler and Mussolini, but her characters have some of the same traits and believes and it is therefore interesting to look at both a Fascist and a Nazi from the world history and compare them to two great villains from literature.



## Adolf Hitler

In this paragraph Adolf Hitler will be introduced so a comparison on him and Tom Riddle, also called Lord Voldemort, can be made. A book written by William L. Shirer will be used to show who Hitler was and what his vision for Germany was.

William L. Shirer was an American journalist and novelist and he wrote several books upon Germany and its history. One of his most famous books are *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich: A History of Nazi Germany* which was published in 1960. He also wrote a book about Hitler named *The Rise and Fall of Adolf Hitler* where he tells the story about Adolf Hitler and his way to power and to his fall in 1945 (Shirer, 1960).

Adolf Hitler was born in Austria across the border from Germany (Shirer, 1960: 8). At this time, "Austria was a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which was ruled by the ancient and autocratic House of Hapsburgs, the oldest ruling family in Europe." (Shirer, 1960: 8). This empire was destroyed at the end of the first world war, but when Hitler was born, this empire was one of the most important in Europe (Shirer, 1960: 8). Even though Hitler was born in Austria, he considered himself as much a German as the people who actually lived in Germany. "The Austrians, though outnumbered by the other nationalities, dominated the empire. They were a branch of the Germanic people and spoke German. Many, like Hitler, thought of themselves as German." (Shirer, 1960: 8). Hitler believed that all 'Germans' should eventually be united into one country and that he actually achieved for a short amount of time (Shirer, 1960: 8).

Hitler had a tough relationship with his father. His father was a short-tempered man, whom Hitler respected, but they did not get along. Hitler loved his mother. She was gentle and kind and she was devoted to both her children and her husband (Shirer, 1960: 8). He often had conflicts with his father, and he blamed this for his lack of interest in school (Shirer, 1960: 8). Hitler has once said that the three years after his quit going to school was the best years of his life. His father had died, and his mother had to take care of him and his younger sister Paula (Shirer, 1960: 9). He dreamed of becoming an artist, even though his father had almost forbidden him to pursue that career (Shirer, 1960: 9). The only steady job that Hitler actually had in his life was when he became a dictator of Germany (Shirer, 1960: 9). One of Hitler's old friends described him this way: "'Hitler was always up against something and at odds with the world. I never saw him taking anything lightly.'" (Shirer, 1960: 9). He also describes him as: "a pale, sickly, lanky youth who was usually shy and reticent. But he could also fly into sudden bursts of hysterical anger against those who disagreed with him." (Shirer, 1960: 9).

Hitler did learn many things when he lived in Vienna and he got some new believes: “First, Hitler learned to glorify war and conquest. The finest thing men could do, he concluded, was to go to war and conquer foreign peoples. Peace, he decided, was a bad thing for mankind. It corrupted men and made them soft.” (Spirer, 1960: 12). He did not care much for men who were killed in wars while they were young, and he did not care about young men who were crippled for life. That was life and life was cruel and hard (Spirer, 1960: 12). It was when he lived in Vienna that he started to believe that Germans were superior to the rest of the people in the world (Spirer, 1960: 12). He did not think much of other countries: “In fact to him the Germans were the Master Race. Other people were fit only to be their slaves.” (Spirer, 1960: 12).

Hitler started to think about politics, and he believed that if a political party should be successful they had to lie to people. They had to master the arts of propaganda if they wanted to attract millions of followers. Hitler believed that it was easier to make people believe in a bigger lie than a small one. He also believed that they had to use terror to make people follow then. This could be done by “bashing in the heads of political opponents, or sometimes even killing them.” (Spirer, 1960: 12). Hitler started to practice, and he ended up becoming the greatest orator of his time. Spirer, who wrote this book, heard him speak several times and he state that the only one that actually came close to becoming his equal on this point, was Winston Churchill in England. He knew how to enchant his followers (Spirer, 1960: 13). It was also in Vienna that he began to hate Jews. He wrote in his book, *My Struggle*, which is called *Mein Kampf* in German, about his first encounter with a jew and it made an impression on him: ““Is this a Jew?” he says was his first thought. “But the longer I stared at this foreign face the more my first question assumed a new form: ‘Is this a German?’” (Spirer, 1960: 13). Hitler began to see Jews wherever he went and began to hate them. They made him sick to his stomach and he became a anti-Semite (Spirer, 1960: 13). Hitler had these believes for the rest of his life and it ended up controlling his dictatorship. “The prejudice against the Jews became with Hitler a terrible disease which led to the massacre of millions of innocent Jewish men, women and children.” (Spirer, 1960: 13). This resulted in Hitler killing half of the Jews in Europe in his time as dictator in Germany (Spirer, 1960: 13).

### Lord Voldemort

Tom Marvolo Riddle, also known as Lord Voldemort or He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named, was born on 31 December in 1926 in an orphanage and he died on 2 May in 1998 on the ground of Hogwarts School for Witchcraft and Wizardry (Pottermore - Tom Riddle). His father was Tom

Riddle Sr. and a muggle whereas his mother was Merope Gaunt, a witch (Pottermore - Tom Riddle). Riddle was ashamed of his name, when he found out that his father was a muggle “You think I was going to use my filthy Muggle father’s name for ever? I, in whose veins runs the blood of Salazar Slytherin himself, through my mother’s side? I, keep the name of a foul, common Muggle, who abandoned me even before I was born, just because he found out his wife was a witch?” (Rowling, 1998: 231). He then changed his name to Lord Voldemort, which he already used among his closest friends. He knew that name would create fear, when he became the greatest sorcerer in the world (Rowling, 1998: 231). Lord Voldemort did not like muggles and one of the reasons was his father. He could not stand to have the same name as a common muggle and he was proud of his heritage on his mother’s side and that made him the true heir of Salazar Slytherin and he could open the chamber (Rowling, 1998: 230). The goal of the Chamber of Secrets is to kill muggleborns. Salazar Slytherin did not want them at the school and Lord Voldemort is there to finish what he started (Rowling, 1998: 230). Lord Voldemort was drawn to power and Dumbledore comments on how he changed from being Tom Riddle to Lord Voldemort: “He disappeared after leaving the school ... travelled far and wide ... sank so deeply into the Dark Arts, consorted with the very worst of our kind, underwent so many dangerous, magical transformations, that when he resurfaced as Lord Voldemort, he was barely recognisable.” (Rowling, 1998: 242). Lord Voldemort had his own beliefs in how he wanted the wizarding world to be like. He did not want muggleborns to learn magic. They were not worthy.

Lord Voldemort got his ideologies from Salazar, who was one of the four founders of Hogwarts. When the Chamber of Secrets, which was Slytherin’s hidden chamber, opens in the second book about Harry Potter and his adventures, the students are curious about what is happening on their school, where they normally feel safe. They ask one of their professors to tell them about the chamber and he tries, even though it is only rumours that turn out to be true in the end of the book (Rowling, 1998: 114). The four founders of Hogwarts were: Godric Gryffindor, Helga Hufflepuff, Rowena Ravenclaw and Salazar Slytherin. They built the castle together and they worked together in harmony for a couple of years, before they started to disagree on one particular subject. The castle was built far away from muggles, because it was a time where regular people feared magic and the witches and wizards were persecuted. The four founders sought young people who showed sign on magical abilities, who could be trained and educated in the school, but Slytherin wanted to be more selective, when it came to the students admitted to Hogwarts. He thought that it should only be students from all-magic families. He did not trust those with muggle

parentage. The others did not agree with him and when him and Gryffindor had an argument, he left the school (Rowling, 1998: 114).

The professor tells them that it is said that Slytherin did not leave the school without a legacy. He had built a chamber and he made sure that no one would be able to open it, until his true heir would arrive to the school (Rowling, 1998: 114). He sealed the chamber and only a witch or a wizard with the ability to talk to snakes, would be able to open it, which Lord Voldemort could do, which made him the heir of Slytherin. Inside he had hidden a monster, which turn out to be a basilisk (Rowling, 1998: 234). The purpose with the chamber was to make sure that muggleborns would not come to Hogwarts. Slytherin wanted his basilisk to kill the muggleborns at the school, which Lord Voldemort tried to do at Harry's second year at Hogwarts and fifty years before, when he himself was a student.

The purpose of the chamber was to get rid of those who are not worthy in the wizarding world, which can in some ways be compared to the way Adolf Hitler killed jews in World War II. He also had places where he got rid of jews, because he did not think them worthy to live in his world. Here is the difference between Lord Voldemort and Gellert Grindelwald. Grindelwald did not kill those that did not agree with him and he did not kill those who he thought was less than him in society.

Lord Voldemort thought, as Slytherin before him, that muggleborns should not be allowed at Hogwarts and he did not care about their lives. Lord Voldemort wanted to have all the power and to rule the wizarding world and as Hitler, he did not care how he got the power. Hitler thought that one had to use terror in order to be successful as a politician, so he believed that it was fine to kill one's opponents. Lord Voldemort thought the same thing. He had several opponents in his life and two of them were Harry Potter and Albus Dumbledore. Both strong wizards whom he had to kill before he could rule the world and get rid of all the muggleborns who did not belong in his world. Lord Voldemort tried for years to kill those two, but he was not capable of it, because they were too strong and too clever. In the end of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, which is book number six, he was able to kill Dumbledore through one of his followers and he took over Hogwarts (Rowling, 2005: 556). Not long after that, he died, killed by Harry Potter and Harry's friends. While Mussolini and Grindelwald were born the same year, this is not the case with Hitler and Lord Voldemort. Grindelwald was defeated in 1945 and Lord Voldemort finished Hogwarts after his seventh year and began his mission to receive power, when World War II ended, and Hitler

committed suicide. Both Grindelwald and Lord Voldemort died in 1998, before and during the Battle of Hogwarts.

Both Hitler and Lord Voldemort were great speakers. Hitler could enchant many people in his time and even people who did not follow him, could understand why others were so mesmerised by him and therefore under his spell. Lord Voldemort had many followers in his time and even after his time, there were still those that thought his beliefs were the way to go. Lord Voldemort spread fear. Even within his followers. Several of his followers were afraid of him and they were afraid to say something wrong (Rowling, 2007: 15). He spread so much fear that people did not dare say his name. He was known as Lord Voldemort, but also as He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named and You-Know-Who. Not everyone called him by these names.

In the last book of Harry Potter, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, Lord Voldemort and his followers fight all the brave people who came to Hogwarts to try and defeat him. Many of the good guys died in that fight, but before that, Lord Voldemort gives them an out. Lord Voldemort casts a spell that gives him the possibility to talk to everyone at the school without even being in the same room at them. They can all hear him whisper loudly. He whispers to them. “It was high, cold and clear: there was no telling from where it came; it seemed to issue from the walls themselves.” (Rowling, 2007: 490). Many of them does not care about what he has to say, but there are some of them that listens and actually wants to do what he says. He has a compelling whisper and he says things that makes people want to listen to him (Rowling, 2007: 490). “‘I know that you are preparing to fight.’ There were screams amongst the students, some of whom clutched each other, looking around in terror for the source of the sound. ‘Your efforts are futile. You cannot fight me. I do not want to kill you. I have great respect for the teachers of Hogwarts. I do not want to spill magical blood.’” (Rowling, 2007: 490). When Lord Voldemort whispers, everyone stays silent to listen to what he has to say. Lord Voldemort says that the only thing he actually wants, is Harry Potter and if they just give Harry to him, they will all be spared. He does not want to spill magical blood. Those who gives him Harry, will be rewarded: “‘Give me Harry Potter,’ said Voldemort’s voice, ‘and none shall be harmed. Give me Harry Potter, and I shall leave the school untouched. Give me Harry Potter, and you will be rewarded. ‘You have until midnight.’” (Rowling, 2007, 490). Some of the people in the hall listen to him and actually tries to convince the others to grab Harry, so they can all escape without a scratch.

Those who wanted to take Harry, were afraid of Lord Voldemort and he did whisper to them with a compelling voice. He was convincing and passionate, and some people believed him when

he said that he would not harm them even though he has murdered several people in his life, including Hogwarts teacher, whom he in this situation claimed he had the utmost respect for. Both Lord Voldemort and Adolf Hitler knew how to speak to people to make them believe in them and follow them. Hitler could convince many people and those, who did not support him, still thought of him as a great speaker.

There are differences between Hitler and Voldemort, even though they are alike in some areas. They both had a difficult time with their fathers, though Hitler actually respected his father. Voldemort was disgusted with his own father, even though he had never met him. Hitler and his father had a lot of conflicts and his father did not accept his passion for art and therefore he did not accept Hitler for who he was. Voldemort's father, Tom Riddle Sr., did not accept Voldemort's mother for being a witch and therefore he would never have accepted Voldemort for being a wizard.

Both Voldemort and Hitler did not approve when someone disagreed with them. One of Hitler's old friend once said that he could burst into hysterical anger, when someone did not agree with him. Voldemort took it a little bit further. Voldemort murdered a Hogwarts teacher, because she thought it was okay for muggles and wizards to get married. She herself was a witch and the professor in Muggle Studies on Hogwarts. Voldemort murders her in front of his followers and they all finds her disgusting, because of her believes and her values (Rowling, 2007: 18). Hitler did not care for jews and he banned their businesses and murdered them. Hitler was a racist and a nazi and in Harry Potter, there is also many signs of racism. As mentioned earlier, Lord Voldemort and his supporters did not like the muggles and the muggleborns and they wanted the world to be rid of them.

## Conclusion

There are many characters from both literature and films that are based on people from the real world and in this project a comparison on Benito Mussolini and Gellert Grindelwald has been made. There are many similarities between them, and it is therefore likely that J.K. Rowling, who created Grindelwald, has looked at Mussolini and created Grindelwald in his image. Both men were born in the same year and they were both expelled from their schools, when they were young. Rowling does not usually create something in her books without thinking it over and there are too many similarities between the two men that there is a great possibility that Grindelwald is the literary version of Mussolini.

They were both great speaker who could enchant those who were listening to them. They did not speak in the same way, but they were both charismatic and used some of the same tactics to make people support them. They both thought that they were worth more than those below them, but when they spoke, they made it seem like this was not the truth. They made people believe that they were all the same and that they all suffered together. This was something that really tuck with some of the people in the audiences. A woman such as Queenie Goldstein in *Fantastic Beasts and the Crimes of Grindelwald*, really took it to her heart and she ended up abandoning her friends, to follow Grindelwald, because she thought that he could actually help her with what she wanted in life. Italians also thought that Mussolini could help them get back on track after the war, where they did not do great. He spoke for the ex-servicemen and he spoke with a passion about the love for his country.

Mussolini was a patriot and it was clear to all around him. Grindelwald did not love a country, such as Mussolini did, but he loved witches and wizards. He was a patriot towards people, who were like him. Everyone had a role in society, but no one had the same role. People had to work for Italy and for the wizarding world and both Mussolini and Grindelwald had to rule those worlds with their power and visions.

Many people today are afraid of Fascism and it comes closer every day, because there are leaders around the world, who are patriotic, but to the extreme. Several people have written books about Fascism. Some have written about the beginning of Fascism, where others have written books about the fear of Fascism today.

Grindelwald do have many of the traits that made Mussolini such a charismatic leader and when Harry Potter fans watches the films, they get to see how a Fascist leader convinces people to support him and they can therefore consider if they see the same things in some of the leaders around the world. These films can be a warning from the author and the producers that even though Fascism seem like an ideology that ended a long time ago, it is still here under the surface. Some people still support Fascism and one day it might become a threat, as it was back when Mussolini was a powerful politician and dictator in Italy.

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