Reading

• Caprotti on Fascist new towns in Italy
• Italian fascism indulged in feats of imperialism
  – Seized and conquered Ethiopia, parts of Somalia
  – Deployed colonial cities and towns in the Horn of Africa
Caprotti

- On the new towns built by Mussolini’s fascists in Italy’s Pontine marshes
- Fascism has gone, but the towns are still there
- A feat of fascist colonizing
  - Related projects in Libya and Ethiopia
- Fascism keen to triumph over nature, history, decadence
Pontine Marshes

• Early-Mid 1930s aggressive drainage and colonization scheme
  – A fascist priority and showcase
  – 50,000 workers
  – 5 new towns
  – Fascist architecture and social engineering
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Caprotti

- The Pontine colonization allows us to read and decode the strategies of Fascism
  - Pontine new towns helped the Fascists re-plan Addis Ababa
- 1930s filled with grandiose schemes of authoritarian power
  - Hoover Dam
  - Stalin’s 5 year plans
  - Hitler’s Autobahn
Landscapes of Power

• Readings of Landscapes
  – can symbolise power
  – may project power
  – Powerful groups can generate their own landscapes
  – landscape can be shaped to control, exclude or even destroy the powerless