

Unit Essential Question: Is nationalism the most powerful force in shaping the geopolitical world?

Aim: What role did nationalism play in unifications of Italy and Germany?



The Unification of Italy (1859-1919)

1. How many different Italian nations are shown in this map?
2. Why do you think the Italian nations would want to become unified during the late 19th century?
3. Do you think it is better to be a united country or small individual nations? Explain.

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Unification of Italy

Directions: Read the following factors hindering unity and promoting unity, based on these factors decide if it would be difficult to unite Italy completely or not.

Factors Hindering Unity

Political Division

- At the Congress of Vienna, Metternich insisted that Italy not be a united nation, but a “geographic expression.” The Congress divided the country as followed:
 - o Kingdom on Sardinia-Piedmont -under Italian control
 - o Provinces of Lombardy and Venetia - annexed to Austria
 - o The duchies of Parma, Modena, Tuscany, and the Kingdom of Two Sicilies (Naples) - under local rulers dominated by Austria
 - o Papal States - under Church control

Opposition of Austria

- The rulers of Austria fought Italian unification to
 - o Discourage nationalist uprisings within their empire
 - o Retain Lombardy and Venetia
 - o Maintain Austrian influence in the duchies and the Two Sicilies

Opposition of the Papacy

- Church leaders believed that a united Italy would end the pope’s temporal, or civil, rule over the Papal States

Discord Among Nationalists

- Leading Nationalists were in conflict on a type of government for a united Italy
 - o **Mazzini and Garibaldi** sought a democratic Italian republic
 - o **Gioberti** urged an Italian federation under the leadership of the Pope
 - o **Cavour** worked for a liberal Italian monarchy

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Factors Promoting Unity

Nationalist Feelings

- Beginning with the Napoleonic Era, the Italians became increasingly conscious of their nationality. They recalled the past glory of Italy during the Roman Empire and the Renaissance, resented their present subjugation to Austria, and desired unity and greatness

Patriotic Societies

- **The Carbonari**, a secret society of limited membership, conspired to establish a united Italian republic. It fomented uprisings in 1820, 1821, and 1831 – all suppressed by Austria.
- **Young Italy**, founded in 1831 by Mazzini, was a non-secret society. It openly and successfully propagandized democratic and nationalist ideas among the people.

Leadership of Sardinia-Piedmont

- **House of Savoy**, a patriotic Italian family, ruled Sardinia and aspired to unify Italy. In 1848 the king of Sardinia granted his people a liberal constitution and led his armies in support of an Italian uprising against Austria. The Sardinians were defeated, and Austria reestablished its control within Italy. Although unsuccessful in 1848, Sardinia-Piedmont won the loyalty of Italian nationalists.

Based on these factors, would it be very difficult to unite all of Italy?

Based on these factors and the different nationalistic leaders, what type of government do you think would be set up?

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THE UNIFICATION OF ITALY

Giuseppe Mazzini – The “Soul”



In the 1830's, the voice of a young nationalist leader began to be heard. Giuseppe Mazzini founded **Young Italy**. It was a secret society that called for the unification of Italy under a representative government. Mazzini opposed dictators and tyrants and came to symbolize the soul of Italian unification. Mazzini stirred up revolts in several cities especially in the kingdom of Sardinia-Piedmont; however, it was quickly put down by the Austrian authorities. Mazzini fled to France and continued to promote unification efforts with his writings from Switzerland and England.

“...Love your country. Your country is where your parents sleep. Where your language is spoken; it is the home that God has given you. It is your name, your sign, your glory. Give to it your thought, your counsels, your blood. Raise up Italy, great and beautiful as it was foretold by our greatest men and see that you leave it undivided. Let it be one...” – Giuseppe Mazzini

1. Based on the quote, why is Mazzini considered the “soul” of Italian unification?

Camillo Cavour – The “Brain”

In 1853, the unification movement gained new life. This dramatic period was called the **Risorgimento**, or reawakening, from the name of a newspaper founded by Camillo di Cavour. Through the newspaper, Cavour stirred up Anti-Austrian feelings and pushed for the northern Italian states to join together to overcome Austrian rule. In 1852, **King Emmanuel II** of Sardinia and Piedmont made Cavour the prime minister. Cavour believed in a **constitutional monarchy** and industrial growth. He strengthened the economy of Piedmont by encouraging the building of factories and railroads and by increasing trade with other countries. Piedmont had to be built up so that it could win Italian territory from Austria.



Cavour also arranged a secret alliance with France and then provoked a war with Austria. (France was to receive the western part of Piedmont, Savoy, and Nice for help against Austria.) When Austrian troops invaded Piedmont, the French aided the Italians. The war ended with a treaty signed by France and Austria in July 1859. Piedmont received the northern Italian state of Lombardy, previously controlled by Austria.

The war with Austria increased nationalistic feelings in the Austrian-controlled areas of northern Italy. Rebellions broke out in Tuscany, Parma, and Modena demanding to be joined with Piedmont. In 1860, Austria agreed to this, and Piedmont controlled all of Italy except the Kingdom of Two Sicilies in the south, the Papal States in the center, and Venetia in the northeast. The foundation for an Italian nation had been built.

1. Based on this information, why is Cavour considered the “brain” of Italian unification?

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Giuseppe Garibaldi – The “Sword”



Giuseppe Garibaldi had worked with Mazzini in the revolts in the 1830's. He led troops in the states of northern Italy in their unsuccessful revolt against Austrian rule. He also led an effort to replace the pope's rule over Rome with a more liberal government, this attempt also failed and Garibaldi had to go into exile. During his retreat through central Italy, he gained many supporters.

In 1860, Garibaldi returned to Sicily with an army of about 1,000 soldiers called **Red Shirts**, from the color of the clothing. His nationalistic soldiers defeated the larger professional army of the island's Bourbon rulers. Then Garibaldi's troops crossed to the Italian mainland and captured southern Italy and the city of Naples. These victories gave Garibaldi control of the entire Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. Cavour sent the Piedmont army to aid Garibaldi's forces and capture the Papal States. Rome, however, was left untouched. The French army that occupied the city protected the Pope. Garibaldi then transferred control of the areas taken by his Red Shirts to the king of Piedmont. **Victor Emmanuel II** became the king of Italy in March 1861.

By 1871, the unification of the entire peninsula was complete.

1. Based on the information, why is Garibaldi considered the “sword” of Italian unification?

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2. Who do you think deserved the most credit for uniting Italy: “The Soul”, “The Brain” or “The Sword”? Explain your answer using specific evidence from the text.

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Problems Facing Italy After Unification

Government Weakness

- Italy's limited monarchy featured a king with few powers, an elected Chamber of Deputies, and a cabinet responsible to the Chamber of Deputies. Although modeled after Britain's parliamentary system, the Italian government operated far less successfully.
 - o The Italian masses, illiterate and impoverished, lacked democratic tradition and demonstrated little public responsibility
 - o Until 1904, when the pope relaxed the ban forbidding Catholics to take part in the Italian government, Catholics shunned government positions and did not vote
 - o Until 1912, when universal manhood suffrage(right to vote) was adopted, only the wealthier classes could vote
 - o The existence of many political parties caused a number of cabinet crises
 - o Bribery and corruption pervaded public life

Church Hostility

- The Italian government sought peace with the papacy. By the **Law of Papa Guarantees of 1871**, Italy acknowledged papal rule of an independent Vatican state within Rome and offered the papacy an annual indemnity.

Poor Economic Conditions

- Italy lacked coal, iron, and oil necessary for extensive industrialization; it also lacked sufficient fertile land to support an increasing population. Despite government efforts to improve economic conditions, living standards remained low. Many Italians migrates to South America and to the United States.

Ambitious Nationalism

- Italy also became weakened by trying to play the part of a great world power.
 - o **Militarism** – Italy adopted compulsory military service and maintained a large army and navy
 - o **Imperialism** – Italy acquired the African colonies of Eritrea, Italian Somaliland, and Libya
 - o **World War I** – By joining the Allies and fighting Austria, Italy gained most of its demands for further European territory.