

The Unification of Italy

While nationalism destroyed empires, it also built nations. Italy was one of the countries to form from the territory of crumbling empires. After the Congress of Vienna in 1815, Austria ruled the Italian provinces of Venetia and Lombardy in the north, and several small states. In the south, the Spanish Bourbon family ruled the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.

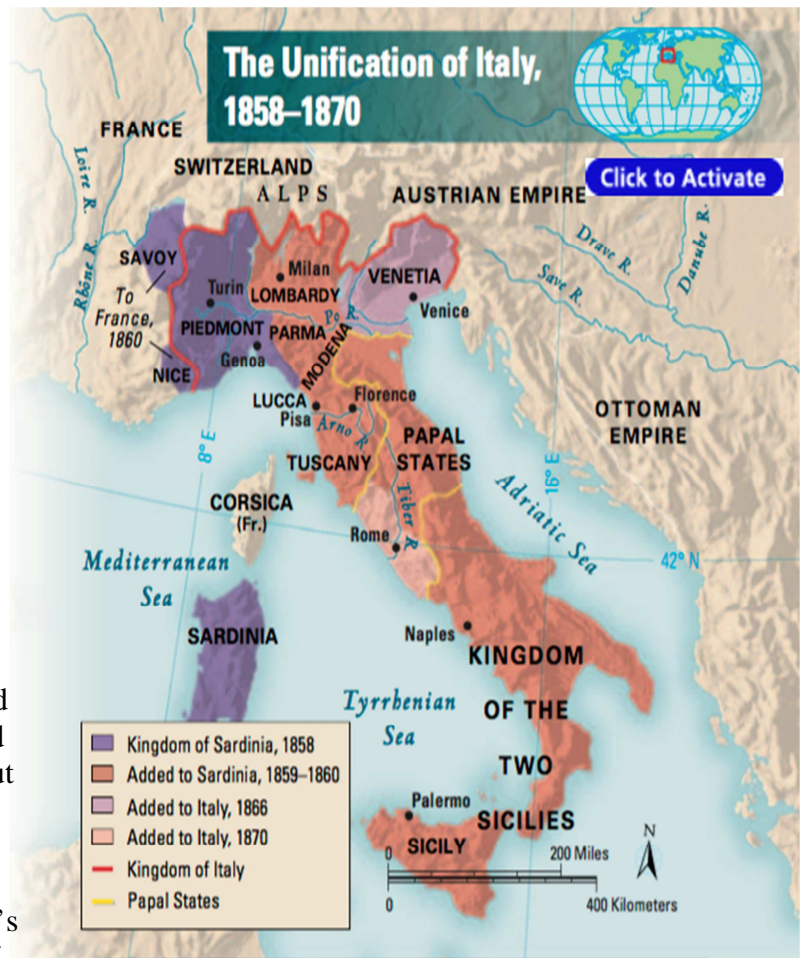
Nevertheless, between 1815 and 1848, increasing numbers of Italians were no longer content to live under foreign rulers. Amid growing discontent, three individuals contributed to the unification of Italy.

In 1832, an idealistic 26-year-old Italian named **Giuseppe Mazzini** organized a nationalist group called Young Italy. During the year of 1848, revolts broke out in eight states on the Italian peninsula. Mazzini was able to briefly gain control of the city of Rome, but it was short lived. The rebellion of 1848 failed and Mazzini was exiled because of his efforts but Mazzini's hope of an Italian nation-state was still in the hearts of other Italians.

After the failures experienced in 1848, Italians looked to the Kingdom of Piedmont-Sardinia for leadership. This kingdom was the largest and most powerful of the Italian states. The Kingdom preached the hopes of liberalism that the Italian nationalists believed in.

In 1852, **Count Camillo di Cavour** was named prime minister of Sardinia. Cavour utilized careful diplomacy and created alliances that achieved expansion of Sardinia and the unification of Italy, under the powers of the Kingdom.

At first, Cavour's goal of unification using diplomacy was successful. He ran into a roadblock when Austria stood in his way of gaining all of Northern Italy. Realizing war was unavoidable, Cavour used diplomatic efforts and was able to form an alliance with France to help rid Italy of Austrian control. The combined forces of Sardinia and France were victorious against the Austrians.



Following the brief war with Austria, Cavour began to seek control of Southern Italy. Cavour started this process by supporting Italian nationalist rebels led by **Giuseppe Garibaldi**. In 1860, Garibaldi captured Sicily using his army known as the Red Shirts. When Garibaldi crossed over to the mainland of Italy, he and the Red Shirts marched north to unite the south with Sardinia's united north.

Cavour arranged for Garibaldi to meet with the King of Piedmont-Sardinia, King Victor Emmanuel II. During this meeting Garibaldi stepped aside as ruler of the southern territories and gave control to the King. This action unified the Italian peninsula under King Victor Emmanuel II, creating the Italian nation-state.

How did each of the following help unify Italy?



Giuseppe Mazzini

Count Camillo di Cavour

Giuseppe Garibaldi

_____ (soul)- formed the Young Italy national movement, but was exiled for his views.

_____ (brain)-prime minister of the Italian state Sardinia, he formed alliances with France and later with Prussia.

_____ (sword)- was a soldier who led forces that won control of southern Italy and helped unite with the north.

Name:
Exit Ticket/Homework (Unification of Italy)
Date:



List the objects or people you see in the cartoon.

Locate a word used by the cartoonist to identify objects within the cartoon.

What do the objects in your list symbolize?

Describe the action taking place in the cartoon.

Explain the message of the cartoon.