

# Italian Unification

## Romantic Republicans

- Romantic republicanism: secret republican societies that were founded throughout Italy.
- Giuseppe Mazzini became the leader of romantic republican nationalism.
- Garibaldi: known as one of the makers of Italy and known as the “brain of unification.”
- Mazzini and Garibaldi led insurrections in the 1830’s and 1840’s.
  - Both became involved in the Roman Republic of 1849.
- Republican nationalism: did not get the support from moderates and seemed too radical.
  - Most moderates looked to Pope Pius IX but that proved to be the wrong place.
- “Italy” did not receive its republic but was transformed into a nation state under Count Camillo Cavour who was a constitutional monarch who was prime minister of Piedmont.

## Cavour’s Policy

- Piedmont was the most independent state on the peninsula.
- King Charles Albert of Piedmont unsuccessfully fought Austria twice.
- After his second defeat he abdicated in favor of his son Victor Emmanuel II.
- In 1852, the new monarch chose Cavour as his prime minister.

## Cavour

- Was a cunning statesman who rejected republicanism.
- Believed that if Italians proved themselves to be efficient and economically progressive, the great powers might decide that Italy could govern itself.

## Cavour Promoted:

- Free trade.
- Railway construction.
- Expansion of credit.
- Agricultural improvement.



Cavour recognized the need to capture the loyalties of those Italians who believed in other varieties of nationalism.

He also fostered the Nationalist Society which established chapters in other Italian states to press for unification under the leadership of Piedmont.

Cavour believed that only French intervention could defeat Austria and unite Italy and the accession of Napoleon III opened the way for this.

- He used the Crimean War to bring Italy into European politics.

Cavour achieved international respectability for Piedmont.

- He represented a moderate liberal monarchist.

In January of 1858, Felice Orsini attempted to assassinate

Napoleon III.

- Heightened Napoleon's interest in the Italian issue.
- He saw Piedmont as a potential ally against Austria.



In July of 1858, Cavour and Napoleon met at

Plombières in hopes of starting a war in Italy that would permit them to defeat Austria.

### **War with Austria**

- In 1859, when Piedmont mobilized its armies, tensions grew with Austria.
- When Austria demanded them to demobilize, Piedmont claimed they were provoking war.
- On June 4th, and June 24th, the Austrians were defeated at Magenta and Solferino.
- Revolutions broke out in Tuscany, Modena, Parma, and Romagna.
- Napoleon III called peace with Austria and gave Piedmont Lombardy.
  - This drove Austria out of Northern Italy.
  - Cavour felt betrayed by France.

### **Garibaldi's Campaign**

- In May 1860, Garibaldi captured Palermo.
- By September he took control of Naples.
- On the way to confront Garibaldi, Piedmontese troops conquered the rest of the papal states.
- Garibaldi gave into Piedmont, and in late 1860 Naples and Sicily voted to join the Italian Kingdom.
- Piedmont then ceded Savoy and Nice to France because much of the population spoke French.

## The New Italian State

- March 1861, Victor Emmanuel II was proclaimed King of Italy
- After the death of Cavour, the new Italian state needed his skills more than ever

## The North and South Are Incompatible

- The South was rural, poor, and backwards
- The North was industrializing and becoming wealthy like the rest of Europe
- The South was dominated by peasants and large landholders
- The Urban working class was emerging in the North

## United Italy Faces Problems

- New constitution led to a conservative constitutional monarchy with a two housed legislature
- A trasformismo system emerged creating corruption with briberies and favors being accepted

## The Expanding State

- Through Italy's alliance with Prussia in the Austro Prussian War, Italy gained Venetia in 1866
- Italy then annexed Rome and made it the capital
- By 1870, only Trent and the city of Trieste remained to be ruled by Austria

The desire to liberate the unredeemed Italy or Italia irredenta was one reason for the Italian nationalist's support of the Allies against Austria and Germany during WWI

